

**DRAFT**

Park Committee Meeting Minutes  
**February 28th, 2018**

The Park Committee meeting was called to order on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 by Chairwoman Sandy Thompson at 4:00 pm at the Onalaska Town Hall, N5589 Commerce Rd., Onalaska, WI 54650.

Members present: Supervisor Sandy Thompson, Supervisor Jerry Monti, Chris O'Hearn, Al DeBauch, Annette Winchell. Members absent: Josh Storandt, Ben Bockenbauer.

Motion by Jerry Monti to approve the agenda, second by Annette Winchell, Motion passed unanimously (MPU).

Motion to approve the Jan 2018 minutes, with with any necessary corrections by Jerry, second by Sandy Thompson.

Correspondence from Clerk, requesting minutes to be corrected, Re: Discussion and possible action on information in regards to possible tree purchase from Green Tree Nursery in Plover, WI. Minutes report "Unable to discuss without Mary present". Clerk reminds committee her only role is to provide requested information, any research is up to the committee. Committee is free to discuss freely, Clerk has no role. Minutes corrected to remove "Unable to discuss without Mary Present". M.P.U.

Status report on any available grants, sponsorships or donations for parks equipment, trees or facilities

No action. No action towards La Crosse Foundation Grant, would start over next year if desired. Public comments from residents noted desire to fundraise if necessary. Has not been solicited by the committee / town, but it is noted. Committee to keep their ears open re: possible grants/ sponsorships.

Discussion and possible action on development of long term schedule for tree maintenance/replacement, and review of proposals from possible vendors.

Sandy spoke with Christianson Farm Nursery, owners out of town, but are working on a proposal for a long term (3 year relationship?) standing order for 12 trees per year, as noted by committee. Other vendors not contacted yet, and may be a few weeks until Christianson proposal expected. Also noted, Town Crew will remove Sobkowiak Trees. Unknown schedule status.

Detailed review of Cemetery income and expenses for 2017 and Park income and expenses in 2017 /

Review of Park budget for 2018 and Cemetery budget of 2018

Sandy has reports from Mary, shows primarily Town Crew labor w/ names, etc., some vendors. 2017 budget \$2500, spent \$1687, leaving \$813. \$1500 was Asbury Cemetery tree removal. Remainder \$187 mowing / maintenance. 2018 budget \$1200. Gramlings also offered to contribute \$300 towards cost of tree removal, Sandy has been in contact to request remittance. Noted internments still happen in some town cemeteries, all lots are believed sold. If income realized from new lot sales (or park shelter reservations), all income (into cemetery and/or park operations budgets) goes into general fund. If fundraising was conducted, special action from board would be necessary to designate those funds for a purpose. Would be noted in budget income, able to be tracked. Re: Park "Operations" Budget, 2017 \$39,000, is \$25,000. \$37383.07 spent in 2017 (~\$1600 unspent). Approximately \$15,000 was non-recurring expense, including \$1500 bleacher repair, \$3517 Moe Fencing for damage repair. Sandy will inquire re: insurance, Gramling cemetery tree reimbursement, etc., as that should probably go back into budget replenishment to offset the expense. \$2900 to Trees Today for Apple Valley tree removal, \$534 for gutters at Marvin Garden Bridge, more Moe fencing for repair of a Brice Prairie park fence, \$3,000 to Trees Today for Swarthout Tree Removal, town mower repair. Remainder of \$23967 was repair, maintenance, fuel, etc. to town crew expenses. With the 2018 Budget of \$25,000 very little remains, with a need for chips. Non recurring expenses can be covered via board action. Improvements would come out of "Park Outlay" budget, not funded in 2018, but Board action can reallocate/ transfer. Noted pending tree removal at Sobkowiak will require some replacement, board will need to find available funds to cover. Jerry notes not all trees will need replacement. Town has levy restrictions, parks are at the bottom. Hope is future budgets can contain Outlay funding.

Discussion and possible action on possible creation of a dog park on Brice Prairie

Public comments initially supported idea, online discussion morphed into "If money exists, spend on equipment, not a new dog park". Re-examine late 2018 if any funds become available.

Discussion and possible action on ordering of park playground chips for 2018

Previous vendor was Crescent \_\_\_\_\_. 2016 order was 120 yards, 2015 370 yards, 2017 no order. \$2000 for a semi-load. We'll likely need a full load, plus fluffing from crew. Holland has already ordered for the year. \$17/ yard from Crescent. Jerry provided information about mats to go under swings and slides to keep chips in place. 2" thick material. \$142. Process is lay chips, then clear to provide area for mat. Non anchored, weight holds in place. Jerry will research further. Other materials (instead of chips) have fallen out of favor, chips most economical option. Motion by Jerry to order a semi load of chips for \$2000 from previous vendor. Second by Al, M.P.U.

Discussion and possible action on current shelter rental agreement, including possible creation of new agreement and reserved signs for open air shelters

Any new agreements will require legal review, further action. Existing agreement has served Town well, Mary will update the existing shelter agreement to include open air shelters.

Discussion and possible action on land acquisition offer in regards to County SN reconstruction

Construction slated for 2019 for bike / pedestrian trail. Will take land and fence from Sandy Knolls. Offer from County was \$11,600. .15 acres = \$4500; temporary easement for access during construction, \$163; Fencing allowance of \$6,120 for 360' of chain link fence; \$750 for resurvey fee. Noted previous board action directs this into Park Outlay budget. Noted fence allowance was an allowance, up to committee discretion & recommendation / board action to decide fence needs (if at all). Motion by Chris to recommend board accept offer, second by Jerry. M.P.U.

Discussion and possible action on summer baseball park reservation requests

Jerry motioned to recommend board approve, second by Annette. M.P.U. Holmen Baseball would like project ideas for them to do improvements, will be discussed at future agenda. Annette will check with Baseball to inquire the scope of their abilities/ offer.

Motion by Jerry to Adjourn, 2nd by Annette. M.P.U. @ 5:01pm.

Respectfully submitted by Chris O'Hearn, Secy. Parks Committee