

Park Committee Meeting Minutes **August 31st, 2017**

The Park Committee meeting was called to order on Thursday, August 31, 2017 by Chairman, Sandy Thompson at 4:00 pm at the Town of Onalaska Town Hall. Members present; Chris O'Hearn, Jerry Monti, Annette Winchell, and Sandy Thompson. Members absent: Josh Storandt

Motion to approve the agenda. Motion and second, Motion passed unanimously (MPU).

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2017 meeting. Motion and second, MPU.

Discussion, and Review the Town of Onalaska Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan dated February 2011.

The plan was provided to committee members, Supervisor Thompson suggested assigning committee members to tour parks. Possible additions to parks including soccer fields, or nets. The guide is dated, but still contains information pertinent to present equipment and possible needs in parks.

Discussion, Status update and possible action on Maple Shade Addition Playground - tax parcel 10-1511-0

Thompson met with the School District of Holmen Superintendent. The school district is interested in acquiring the parcel, the town would ask the district to cover expenses associated with the transfer. Town Corporation Council advises as the land is currently designated for playground use, circuit court petition would be required to vacate, and would require approval of the town electorate. Attorney anticipated minimal expense. The school district also expects they would need an annual meeting level meeting to approve the acquisition. It was also noted the school septic system appears to use the land. Motion by Monti, second by Winchell to advise Town Board to take necessary action to proceed. MPU.

Discussion and possible action on possible grants and sponsorships available for park equipment and trees

Thompson has viewed some websites, no time to thoroughly inspect. Monti reports many equipment vendors have matching grant programs. Thompson is also aware of some local grant options from foundations, Rinehart also suggests hospital auxiliary, or the La Crosse area foundations baseball and other matching grants. It was suggested opinion may be needed from attorney regarding sponsorships, both re: the effect on the levy, and if allowed. Monti also recommended checking if surrounding communities may have surplus equipment that had been replaced.

Discussion and possible action on addition of interested residents to Parks Committee

Thompson reports the potential interested person was no longer available. Committee is to keep their eyes open for additional members.

Discussion and possible action on long term and short term plans for Apple Valley Park

Thompson recommends tree replacement as a priority, and to seek answers from local experts for best practice, re: Type, size, etc. With citizens present with interest in this topic, Monti made a motion to open floor for discussion. Seconded, MPU. Al DeBauche, Park Dr. Onalaska, states he's spoken to residents surrounding the park, and while not endorsing any particular suggestion, wanted to pass them all on. Dog park, tennis courts do get lots of use, in spite of "unacceptable" condition of courts. Thompson inquired if a survey would be appropriate, Al thinks so, and volunteers to deliver. When he moved in, the park was a draw to the neighborhood. He notes concerns with ground heaving, not limited to the park, re: stability of surfaces, including driveways. Al notes the Sand Lake Road roundabout has a sponsor for the landscaping, wonders if that would work at the parks, perhaps willing to donate labor. Al suggests starting trees soon, Thompson to examine budget. Other concerns he's collected, baseball bleachers need shade, tree removal cleanup is not complete. Thompson thanked Al for his input, and suggested possible interest in committee membership. Motion to close floor by O'Hearn, second by Monti, MPU.

Discussion and possible action on tree planting resources for all Town parks.

Thompson will check with surrounding municipalities, Monti believes recent purchases were made by the cities of La Crosse and Onalaska.

Possible Sept. meeting at Apple Valley.

There was a motion to adjourn by Monti, second by Winchell. MPU. Meeting adjourned at 4:46 PM

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