

# WATERLOO PARKS COMMISSION - *Minutes*

AUGUST 21, 2012 – MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 136 NORTH MONROE STREET

- 1) **Roll Call And Call To Order.** Seidl called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30. Commissioners present: Seidl, Schultz, Quimby and Springer with Cotting and Strobel arriving late. Absent: one vacancy. Others attending – Public Works Director Yerges and Clerk/Treasurer Hansen.
- 2) **Approval Of The Past Unapproved Meeting Minutes. Motion:** Moved by Quimby, seconded by Seidl to approve the October 18, 2011 meeting minutes as presented. **Voice Vote:** Motion carried.
- 3) **Citizen Input.** None.
- 4) **Garman/Knowlton Trailhead Facility Volunteer Coordinator Update (recurring item). Discussion:** Cotting provided an update saying over 120% of the original goal had been achieved through fundraising. She said press releases announcing private donations would be forthcoming. In response to a Springer question on going out to bid, Cotting said completed construction plans would be needed first and then a Request For Proposal for construction services would be made public. She said a goal would be to have construction documents ready by December. The Commissioners were briefed on improvements to Fox Lane. Seidl commented that he would like to take a leave of absence from the Parks Commission to eliminate any perception of a conflict of interest. Hansen commented on Trek's process for naming the trailhead facility saying Chris Schalow was passing along the names "Trek Park" or "Trek Bicycle Park". It was noted that the Mayor is responsible for appointing Implementation Team members.
- 5) **Unfinished Business**
  - a) **Dog Park. Discussion:** Seidl said Lynn Sullivan and Destiny Brown were involved in submitting a grant application to a Watertown foundation; the process was moving forward; and he hoped that a park would be opened in 2013. In reply to a Springer question Seidl said 42 inch woven wire fence had been donated; that it is commonly buried to prevent dog escapes. He said a "wish-list" of items were still to be obtained such as signage, entry enhancements and possibly water access. Seidl said matching funds were not needed. Springer asked if dog fees would be increased or if a donation box would be installed. Seidl replied that a combined license was being looked at with an enhanced fee. Seidl referenced an informal survey by Hansen on added fees. No action taken.
  - b) **Commission Vacancy. Discussion:** Seidl said Terri Kohl is included on the email distribution list said Hansen would have further information. No action taken.
- 6) **New Business**
  - a) **Youth Center Director Position: Discussion:** Quimby led a discussion of why the Youth Center Director resigned with a focus on how parents and children interacted with the youth program at the Library. Quimby complemented Silha on her work as Youth Center Director. Quimby advocated for disposing of the Youth Center building either by selling it or demolishing it. Cotting and Seidl commented on the value of converting the former daycare facility on North Monroe to a Youth Center. Quimby said no money has been dedicated to date to fill the position. Cotting spoke in opposition to abandoning the program saying it had enrollment success. Springer suggested using the Trailhead Facility as a Youth Center. Hansen suggested selling the Youth Center to Dan Knapton. Seidl spoke against giving up on a community youth center. Yerges said the facility was built for ice skating, calling it a money pit. Springer suggested looking a charging a fee for a youth center program. Seidl raised the issue of doing a joint after school program with the School District. Schultz said a program already exists. Springer suggested looking into the youth group that meets on Wednesdays. Schultz and Quimby said the schools program was academic. Seidl spoke highly of the summer school program and thought of partnering with other existing programs. Cotting suggested renting the Youth Center to youth-based groups. Quimby said she didn't see it going. Springer said a Youth Center Director should come first. Seidl suggested meeting with the Library Director to partner. Quimby suggested keeping it close to the public schools saying parochial school attendance was little to none. Hansen said he has not done a survey of area communities. An old school in Cambridge was

referenced. Funding was provided by Dane County. Hansen summarized by saying he would prompt Wiltzius to have a discussion Thursday. Springer said the position should be opened up and applicants sought.

**7) Future Agenda Items, Announcements And Next Meeting Date.** Strobel spoke of interest in renewing the Firemen's Park management agreement saying interested parties were already inquiring about 2014. Quimby asked for an update on Trustees' plans and progress be made. Quimby said the next meeting date could be September 18<sup>th</sup>.

**8) Adjourn.** By consensus the body adjourned.

Attest:

Mo Hansen, Clerk/Treasurer