

Parks Committee Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2015
9:00 a.m. Courthouse Conference Room A231

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., by Chairperson Eggebrecht.

The meeting was properly announced.

Roll Call: Committee Members: Bob Eggebrecht– Chairperson, Lori Djumadi, Jake Roseberry, Robin Skala, and Orin Nigh. Others Present: Fred Nickel – Parks Director, Darren Tolley – Petenwell Park Manager, Mark Miller – Castle Rock Park Manager, Rita Kolstad – Administrative Clerk, Paul Pisellini and Dave Repinski – County Board Members, Thad Kubisiak – Administrative Coordinator/General Manager, and Darcy Beckman – Times Reporter.

Approve the Agenda: Motion by Nigh/Skala to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve Previous Meeting(s) Minutes: Motion by Nigh to approve the October 6, 2015 Parks Committee minutes, the November 19, 2015 Joint meeting w/Admin. /Finance Committee minutes, and the November 19, 2015 Parks Committee minutes. Motion seconded by Djumadi with discussion. Motion by Djumadi/Nigh to remove “possible” from agenda item #3 from the October 6, 2015 minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Public Participation on Agenda Items: Will speak when agenda item(s) come up.

Committee to Discuss and/or Take Action on the Following Agenda Items:

1. **Correspondence/Park Special User Requests:** Eggebrecht read letter from State Representative Scott Krug regarding the Parks Director’s position. Eggebrecht also read a letter from WPRA commending the Director for his years of service in the Parks/Recreation field and the WPRA will be awarding him with a Lifetime Service Award at the next WPRA Conference.
2. **Strategic Planning:** No discussion.
3. **Set 2016 User Fees:** Motion by Skala/Djumadi to increase the April 15 – October 15 monthly camping fee to \$255.00, and the October 15 – April 15 monthly camping fee to \$ 125.00 effective April 15, 2016. Motion to include setting a \$5.00 camping non-refundable reservation fee effective January 1, 2016. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
4. **Elimination of County Tourism Program:** Motion by Eggebrecht/Nigh to continue the Adams County Tourism promotion if volunteers can be found by the end of this week. If volunteers cannot be found by the end of this week, the Tourism program will be eliminated for 2016. Discussion followed. Director offered his services as a volunteer after January 1, 2016. Motion to include the new County Administrative Coordinator/General Manager review the Tourism program by the end of this week and provide his recommendation on the Tourism program. Voice vote: Djumadi – no, Roseberry – no, Nigh – yes, Skala – yes, Eggebrecht – yes. Motion carried by majority vote. Pisellini stated he does not want the Tourism program to end as the County needs it economically. Repinski reminded the Committee of the report showing the increased amount of tourists that came to Adams County once the Tourism program had started and it showed they were coming from areas where the Tourism shows were attended.
5. **Petenwell Park Retaining Wall Update:** Committee discussed concerns on the safety of the retaining wall in the harbor. Repair estimates are needed as well as the looking into the possibility of any available grants for the repairs. Director to provide the change order if any for the project to be reviewed for possible errors. The Army Corps of Engineers will need to be involved in the repair project as well.

6. **Update on Current Department Grants Received & To Be Received:** Director distributed copies of the grant list and reviewed with Committee. Beckman left meeting at this time. Discussion on the snowmobile bridge project.
7. **Trails Reports, Improvements & Grants:** Discussion on snowmobile club reimbursements after January 1, 2016. A new Trails Coordinator will need to be appointed and a new Resolution will need to be in effect before any reimbursement checks will be able to be processed beginning January 1, 2016. Pisellini left meeting at this time.
8. **Revenue Report, Expense Check Summary Report, & Expenditure Report:** Distributed to Committee. Cindy Phillippi joined meeting at this time.
9. **Future Agenda Items:** Petenwell Park Retaining Wall Update, Strategic Planning, Tourism Program, Trails Report, Grants and Grant Resolution(s), Resolution to Appoint Trails Coordinator.
10. **Set Next Meeting Date:** December 22, 2015, 9:00 a.m., Courthouse Conference Room A260.
11. **Adjournment:** Motion by Nigh/Skala to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Submitted by,

Lori Djumadi
Secretary

*Minutes prepared by Rita Kolstad, Parks Administrative Clerk.
These minutes have not been approved by the Parks Committee.*



SCOTT KRUG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 72nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is my understanding that there is an effort to eliminate the position of Director of Parks & Recreation and County Trails Coordinator. I have been petitioned by several interested individuals and groups alike to become involved in the situation. Five years in office and I have only three times prior to this dealt specifically on county board issues. I find this issue compelling in more than enough ways that I feel I should let my thoughts be known.

After hearing from so many in Adams County with an interest in this position I tasked myself with doing quite a bit of background research to help me determine how to best petition for a position that most in Adams County would agree with, having been presented the same facts of which I was able to gather.

First, in a time when tourism is becoming a top economic driving force of Adams County I disagree wholeheartedly that now is the time to remove the Director position. Projects like Sand Valley in my home town of Rome are keeping a very close eye on the happenings of local, county and state government in relation to their interests. This fight, at this time, is not worth the trouble it may cause.

Next, it is apparent to me that this approach without a succession plan in place for the public to understand, looks to be a centralization of government, in my book that isn't a good plan either.

Finally, economically, the position, when fully utilized and done well can be a driver of activity in Adams County.

That leads me to the next point, I fully support maintaining the position, but I can't in good conscience support the current director in continuing on in this position. It has become abundantly plain to me that this movement isn't so much about the position but the current occupant of the position. Whether this is a personality conflict or a job performance dynamic does not matter in the end. To me, it is not worth sacrificing this position to save an individual's job. I firmly believe that many at the county board intended this as an answer but may have felt there was no good way of achieving that goal.

I propose to the county board that the position should be saved but in the end a new director should be chosen to restore the goodwill between the position and the county board. However uncomfortable that may be.



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Hard choices are why we are looked to as leaders in our communities, counties, and state, we should not avoid tough choices to save face, and we should not look at extraordinary measures to be an end around on the most direct approach just because it is easier.

I recommend that the County Board make the tough choice to fund the position but look for a new director.

Thank you all,

Scott Krug
Wisconsin State Assembly, Representative to the 72nd District

Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association

6737 W. Washington St.-Ste. 1300 Milwaukee WI 53214 414.423.1210

"We Create Community Through People, Parks & Programs"

December 3, 2015

Attn: Fred Nickel

Dear Fred:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association's Board of Directors and our over 1800 members, I would like to congratulate you on an outstanding career in the parks and leisure educational arena.

You have been the consummate professional--not only providing a high quality of service to the Adams County throughout your career, but to our State Association where you have provided countless hours and years of leadership and commitment by serving on the WPRFA Foundation Board of Directors.

Please note that while the park and leisure services industry will sorely miss your expertise and organizational skills following your retirement at the end of 2015, we sincerely hope you will keep your involvement in our State Association as an Emeritus Member.

We look forward to honoring you with a "Lifetime Service Recognition Award" at our 2016 Annual Awards Banquet at the Chula Vista Conference Center on Thursday, November 3rd at 6:30 pm. **Please confirm** if you are going to attend the 2016 November Awards Banquet. If you are able to attend, we will be asking you for a brief professional background summary, as well as answering several questions for use by the Awards Committee.

The members of the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association wish you and your family the best of health and fortunes in your next "career" and in your leisure time pursuits. Don't forget--"Take Time For Fun!"

Sincerely,

Steve

Steven J. Thompson, CPRP, CEO

cc: Craig Hoepfner, CPRP, 2016 President
Kelly Valentino, CPRP, 2016 Chairperson-Awards Committee