

**CITY OF OCONOMOWOC
PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – JULY 20, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

- A. The meeting was called to order by President, Joe Moroni at 6:30pm in the Community Center – Community Center Upper Hall. Confirmation of appropriate meeting notice was made by Staff.
- B. Members Present: Joe Moroni, Scott Antonneau, Jimi Hall, Katie Miller, Matt Mulder and Charles Schellpeper. Quorum present.
- C. Members Excused: Dan Gotzler and Lauren Wittnebel
- D. Staff Present: Craig Hoepfner – Director and Jennifer Clayton – Administrative Assistant
- E. Audience Attendees (who signed in): Linda Franzblau, Elaine Rogers, Nancy Showers, Susan & Tim Young, Christine & Adam Doleshal, Karin Sundelius, Jeff & Kelly Joerres, Scott Jensen, Steve Danen, Anne Kelley, Sarah Irvine, Buff Danen, Terry Holahan, Lou Kowieski, Brad & Margaret Hayes, Thomas Peters, Peter Dornbach, Nancy Vogel and Chad VandeZande

II. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

III. CONSIDER/ACT ON MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 2020 MEETING

M.Mulder moved to approve the minutes of the June 2020 meeting; second by K.Miller. No opposition. Motion carried.

IV. CONSIDER/ACT ON PARK STREET, WOODLAND LANE AND BENDER BEACHES

C.Hoepfner spoke to the board about the high attendance at all the beaches in Oconomowoc this summer due to the extra warm weather this summer and many of the other area pools and attractions being closed due to COVID-19. Our department and the police have received many calls this summer especially about the Park St, Woodland Ln and Bender Beaches.

Jeff Joerres, Park St Beach resident, thanked the department and the police for the 164+ visits to the beach, in an attempt to help. Jeff prepared a presentation to share with some of the issues there. A few highlights were a needed clarification between is it a Park or a Beach? Should there be a fee? Clarification on allowing alcohol/smoking/swearing? Volume of swimmers/traffic? Is the intent for Park St Beach to be for residents, nonresidents or a neighborhood? The volume of traffic delivering watercraft during busy season has been up to 220 per week.

The Young's agreed with all the issues brought up by Joerres. Also added that they voiced concern regarding cars launching and picking up carry in watercraft. They believe it is not a question of IF but WHEN a serious accident is going to happen as a result of the car traffic.

Many commented that it is a public beach and it should remain a public beach. Nice to have others come in and enjoy the lake, if we don't allow others, we are becoming elitist. Outsiders are good for the local economy. Some feel it's not as busy as others are saying. Don't believe there should be a fee unless lifeguards and other services are offered. If you live next to a public beach you should just know you will have others there. Nice to be able to launch watercraft there. How many times was there actually an incident when the police were called? Some suggestions were to put a sign saying not to drive down to beach to launch watercraft, watercraft must be carried in. Maybe we could send lifeguards when we can just to get a little more order there. Maybe a sign saying nor drinking on road/sand/within buoys. Need same rules at all three or if we tighten up one it will push people to the next one so the problems would just move to the next. Updated signage would be a good place to start. Random checks by officers and clear rules are needed. Neighbors shouldn't have to

police it all the time. The signage is old, outdated and confusing (beach or park?). No launching of the huge floaties should be on a sign.

Kowieski, Alderman for area, has had several conversations with neighbors. He says each beach is unique. The signage needs to be updated with additional policies and they need to be enforced. Uniform policies/enforcement/maybe a lifeguard/video surveillance/more police to enforce. Bender Beach neighbors, Danen, With the pandemic this summer there has been more beach use. The swim area/beach has many watercrafts that are there when not being used. More buoys are needed. Previous years Bender has had lifeguards, none this year. If we aren't going to charge at Bender then why at City Beach? The neighbors to the beach are respectful but the outsiders are not. Years ago, when there were problems at Woodland Ln the mayor did not want to shut the beach down so a Task Force Committee was formed to figure out what to do. The Task Force created the policies on the boat mooring/lake access/and the City Beach and Bender Beach. Park and Rec Board comments were that there are rules for these beaches, but they need to have someone enforce those rules whether it be a lifeguard, CSO, police, we will need to figure something out. Maybe it's time to form another Task Force. Signage should be updated. More consistency with the rules. Park Board was clear that access should remain open to the public. An occasional lifeguard might help get rules enforced. Budget issues due to COVID is why we decided to not staff Bender Beach this year, but we should try to have a lifeguard there at least on the weekends. C.Hoepfner stated that lifeguards are hard to find because of certifications, so they would not be the answer.

Captain Pfister stated that patrols are there quite a bit, either for calls or for random checks. They are only able to enforce issues when they see them, can't enforce what they don't see. The police do need to know the exact rules to enforce. For example, beach or park, different rules for each. J.Hall moved to implement temporary signage immediately, with permanent signage to follow stating "No alcohol and No smoking on park property (grass/beach/within swim area) and Be respectful of Neighbors"; second by M.Mulder. No opposition. Motion carried.

V. CONSIDER/ACT ON BLAIN STREET PARK TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS

C.Hoepfner discussed Blain Street Tennis Court progress with the board. Everything is going well and on schedule. Some neighbors to Blain Street Park came to the meeting and voiced their opinions on having Pickleball lines painted on the Tennis Courts. One neighbor said because of the distinct sound that the pickleball game makes that at least 20 residents, a list was handed out to the board, do not want to have the Pickleball lines painted on these courts. Parking is also an issue. Tennis is not a problem, Basketball wasn't that bad, but the Pickleball noise is too much. "If you stripe it, they will come, it's a brand-new court". Please don't stripe it. C.Hoepfner stated there are 20ish people that play at Westover and they are happy there. The parking is better, and they have restrooms there.

Board comments were if they are happy at Westover, we don't need to paint them at Blain; if there is a need later, we can revisit; we shouldn't ban it, people can still play we just aren't painting lines. C.Schellpeper moved to paint zero Pickleball lines on Blain Tennis Courts; second by S.Antonneau. No opposition. Motion carried.

VI. DISCUSS CITY BEACH STAFFING FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

C.Hoepfner updated the board on the Lifeguard staffing. Right now, we are ok, but we have had some staff not be able to work due to possible Covid exposures or going on vacation and having to quarantine when coming back. We are doing the best we can with limited staff. Many of the lifeguards are moving to college and some sports are starting up like usual but with the added Covid issues we will continue to do the best we can.

VII. DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR JUNE 2020

A. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – CRAIG HOEPPNER

The fireworks went very well, and we had opened some extra viewing areas to help with social distancing.

Skate Park – waiting to see how the Town of Delafield decides on keeping open or selling.

Roosevelt Shelter bids are due Friday.

We are hoping to do another Park Tour for the Board in September.

B. PARKS AND FORESTRY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Written report included in packet.

C. RECREATION MANAGER'S REPORT

Written report included in packet.

D. COMMUNITY CENTER RENTAL REPORT

Written report included in packet.

VIII. CONSIDER/ACT ON JUNE 2020 VOUCHERS

J.Hall moved to approve vouchers from June 2020; second by K.Miller. No opposition. Motion carried.

IX. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBER

None

X. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THIS BODY

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

S.Antonneau moved to adjourn; second by K.Miller. No opposition. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 9:04p.m.