

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF OAK CREEK PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION
JULY 25, 2019
6:00 P.M.**

1. Present members

Leah Schreiber-Johnson; Adam Thiel, Heather Ryan, Mike Theys, and Steve Bautch (was not present at the start of the meeting). Also present: Mayor Bukiewicz, Mary Jane Trate, Recreation Department Manager; Ted Johnson, Director of Public Works; and Laurie Miller, Zoning Administrator.

2. Review of Existing Business and Goals with new Zoning Administrator/Planner

The Commission gave a history of Abendschein Park's master plan. Discussion ensued on possible improvements to Abendschein Park. An overview of the improvements to the baseball diamond was provided. The MOUs between the School District and the City were briefly covered. Laurie Miller asked for the Commission's permission to search for and apply for available grants. The pool is believed to be the most difficult part of the master plan for Abendschein Park. A discussion about estimates and obstacles for the pool were discussed by the Commission.

Ted Johnson, Director of Public Works, gave a history of the steps that have been taken so far for the skate park. He also gave a description of the different types of ramps that have been looked at. He explained the City switched skate park companies due to the installation and quality and type of ramps that were installed by the previous company at another location in the state. The new company has an experienced professional skateboarder on staff that provides a lot of insight and has developed skateparks scattered around the country.

Laurie Miller, Zoning Administrator, announced there would be a workshop on August 28 regarding potential elements to be used in the skate park. She provided details of the workshop. Different days, times, and dates were suggested to help reach more residents. It was also suggested to set up at the food truck in Drexel Town Square to reach even more people. The discussion continued regarding the budget and possibilities.

Leah Schreiber-Johnson began a conversation regarding feedback from the Fourth of July fireworks by the lakefront. Concerns were raised by many citizens regarding the litter, buses, traffic, and restrooms. Another concern was raised regarding the contractor leaving behind a lot of litter and debris.

Mayor Bukiewicz suggested that a Parks employee be available during the event. He continued to explain that there should be portable restrooms spread more throughout the park. It is believed that overall the celebration was a success.

Ms. Schreiber-Johnson suggested hiring a company that would manage this event.

Ted Johnson, Director of Public Works, explained the pavilion was not open because nothing was going on in there for the event and there was a rental in the pavilion the next day. He agreed there should be a full-time City employee at the event. There was discussion of potentially allowing the lower shelters to be rented and allowing fundraisers in the pavilion in the future.

Discussion ensued regarding some of the shortcomings of the celebration. The Commission is optimistic that the City will learn from this event and it will be even better in the future.

Mayor Bukiewicz provided details and history for the CAFÉ event that will be held in Drexel Town Square during the Farmer's Market on August 3, 2019. Mayor Bukiewicz continued that he is hopeful this event will continue.

Mayor Bukiewicz started a conversation regarding beer gardens and having Explorium become the sole sponsor to take some pressure off the City. Zoning Administrator Miller provided some information about a beer garden called Eagle Park. Eagle Park currently has one location in the Third Ward, but will be expanding to Muskego. Discussion continued about the future of beer gardens in Oak Creek and possible locations. Zoning Administrator Miller gave a description of Hartland's Beer Garden to provide more ideas. Mayor Bukiewicz also provided information about Konkell Park in Greenfield.

Mayor Bukiewicz explained he was brainstorming with South Milwaukee and Cudahy to create a Tri-City Triathlon.

Leah Schreiber-Johnson covered some of the rules of the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission.

Commissioner Steve Bautch explained the right outfield of Abendschein Park has a serious problem with drainage and this should be addressed quickly. The baseball team was not able to play games at Abendschein Park due to rain, but were able to play at other fields.

Director of Public Works Johnson explained a company was supposed to come look at and adjust the grade of the field, but when the referendum went through the school district no longer wanted to put money towards that.

Zoning Administrator Miller asked if the Commission has done any outreach to get other groups or residents involved to help fund or maintain the parks. Director of Public Works Johnson mentioned the group, The Bleacher Bunch, that has done some fundraising and helped with projects in the past.

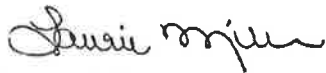
Mayor Bukiewicz provided a little background of the July 4th Celebrations and the budget that goes into it. Leah Schreiber-Johnson suggested adding a school district sponsored float contest for the parade. A discussion followed regarding floats in past parades.

Director of Public Works Johnson announced there would be a lighted drone show at National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6.

Commissioner Leah Schreiber-Johnson explained that if the park tour is going to be an official meeting, no official business can be discussed unless it is recorded. Leah Schreiber-Johnson gave an overview of the park tour last year and how business was handled.

Discussion ensued about future meeting topics and dates.

Prepared By:



Laurie Miller
Zoning Administrator/Planner

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael Theys
OCPRF Secretary