



CITY OF BURLINGTON**Department of Public Works**

Street & Park and Water Departments
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CITY OF BURLINGTON PARK BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017 6:30PM
2200 S. Pine Street, Burlington, WI 53105

Chairman Darrel Eisenhardt, Commissioners Jennifer Amborn, Clay Brandt, Lori Hintz, Jeff Schopp, Lisa Wasik, Ald. Ruth Dawidziak, Jim Bergles, Director of Public Works, Student Rep. Alexis Meyers
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Chairman Darrel Eisenhardt called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call: Present: Commissioners Jennifer Amborn, Clay Brandt, Lisa Wasik, Alderman Ruth Dawidziak, Student Rep Alexis Meyers and Chairman Darrel Eisenhardt. Excused: Commissioners Lori Hintz and Jeff Schopp. Also excused: Jim Bergles, Director of Public Works

Approval of February 16, 2017 Park Board Minutes: Chairman Eisenhardt entertained a motion to approve the February 16, 2017 Minutes. Motion to approve made by Ald. Dawidziak. Seconded By Commissioner Brandt. All voted aye, motion carried.

Citizens Comments: None

Aldermanic Report: Ruth Dawidziak: None

DPW Report: Jim Bergles, Director of Public Works: None

New Business:

Arbor Day – Deb Rintamaki./DPW: Deb Rintamaki presented the proposed Arbor Day Celebration for Wehmhoff-Square on Friday, April 28, 2017 at 10:00AM. After some discussion it was determined that perhaps Echo Park would be a better location, but the date and time were acceptable. Deb Rintamaki will notify Jim Bergles, Director of Public Works the Park Boards decision.

Congress Bathrooms Task Order: Deb Rintamaki/DPW: Jim Bergles, Director of Public Works had the resolution and task order for Kapur and Associates to proceed with the restroom facility replacement at Congress Street Ball Diamond for the not-to-exceed amount of \$15,118. This item informational of previous approval for work to be done to replace the bathrooms.

Little League Toilet Replacement – Nick Hancock: Mr. Hancock came before the Park Board to request additional funds for two toilets that needed replacing because they were cracked. After some discussion, Chairman Eisenhardt asked Mr. Hancock to come back to the April Park Board meeting, when at that time they will know better the balance of the Park Development Funds, and what money they actually have.

Old Business:

Dogs in Parks: Ordinances from other Communities – Deb Rintamaki: The Park Board had received and reviewed the Ordinances from other communities regarding dogs in parks. Ald. Dawidziak read a statement from Mayor Hefty.

“I was planning on attending tonight's meeting by now I am unable.

I would like this put in the Park Board minutes under communications, because I was supposed to bring this forth.

I have heard from more individuals that feel they are the ones being punished by the abusers.

They enjoy our beautiful parks and respect them. Many also travel with their dogs so they know the other cities allow this. Needless to say higher population than we have.

They are strong about this, and want to be the police on this issue. Everyone has smartphones, and they have the ability to possibly turn in the abusers. Many carry additional bags in their pockets.

They know a 5' leash is appropriate and also gives control of their dog.

They enjoy the exercise they receive and also for their dogs.

They feel that this is not going along with what they are seeing in fun and enjoyable activities that are happening now in our city.

Needless to say, is it the City's fault that created this no regard for our parks. I didn't even know I shouldn't be walking in the parks with my dog. It wasn't being enforced.

I believe why not give a trial period of allowance with on leash, and get the word out you are being watched and photoed for abuse in our parks. Fines will be given!

Please consider more discussion on this topic.”

Chairman Eisenhardt stated the Commissioner Schopp had sent him an email stating he was in favor of allowing dogs with leashes, but not at all at Wehmhoff-Square.

The Park Board reviewed the various ordinances from other communities and all were in agreement that dogs did not belong where children are running around and playing, even if a dog is leashed.

Several of the Commissioners stated they were responsible dog owners themselves, but did not feel comfortable having dogs in parks, even if leashed. They also felt that people can walk their dogs by going on the sidewalks, to the Dog Park, or on the Bike Trails.

During discussion the members stated that dogs can be unpredictable, even though they may have never before displayed any type of aggressiveness, they are dogs, not people. Parks should be for children to enjoy. You would not take your child to a bike trail just to play, likewise dogs should not be allowed where children are playing. There are also people who are allergic to dogs and cannot be in the immediate area of where they are, and there are other people who are just afraid of dogs.

Bob Prailles was present and asked to comment on dogs being allowed in Parks. Mr. Prailles stated he was against dogs in parks and that he believed parks should remain for children to enjoy. He stated he

does not like going to events when people have their dogs there, with the dogs going up to people and licking them, even when the dog is leashed.

Mr. Prailles also stated that even if every person picked up their dog excrements, they can't pick it up when the dogs urinate, in the grass, where people sit and children play. He personally knows of someone who had a dog that was thought to be friendly. One time the dog got loose, and bit eight children. Something no one thought was possible of the dog. He didn't want to see something like this happen again.

The issue of liability was brought up if a dog owner did not have their own insurance, the City would then be liable. After a lengthy discussion, all members felt the best thing for the Parks in the City of Burlington and for the majority of the residents would be to leave the ordinance as is, and the signs up. They thought the Police Dept. should start enforcing the ordinance, and instead of giving a \$500.00 ticket immediately, they could possibly give out a warning ticket first.

Chairman Eisenhardt entertained a motion to leave the ordinance for no dogs allowed in parks to remain as it currently states. Motion to leave the ordinance for no dogs allowed in Parks made by Commissioner Wasik. Seconded by Commissioner Brandt. All voted aye, motion carried. Deb Rintamaki, will ask Jim Bergles, Director of Public Works to contact the Police Dept. regarding enforcing the no dogs in park ordinance.

Other Items: Eric Goslawski came before the Park Board requesting the fees be waived for the September 16th Park Reservation for Echo Park. They will be holding a Fundraiser for Nora Lawton, a four year old that is living with Barder-Biedl syndrome. They plan on having family friendly events such as possibly bouncy houses in addition to craft beers and music. Chairman Eisenhardt explained he felt all would agree to waive the fees, they could not do so at this evenings meeting since it was not on the Agenda. Mr. Goslawski was also instructed to contact City Hall for a Special Event Permit. Mr. Goslawski will come back to the April Park Board Meeting, and Deb Rintamaki will place him on the Agenda.

There being no further items for discussion, Chairman Eisenhardt entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Brandt. Seconded by Ald. Dawidziak. All voted aye, and Chairman Eisenhardt adjourned the meeting at 7:26 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

Deb Rintamaki
Department of Public Works