



City of Racine

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Meeting Minutes - Final Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services

Chairman Terry McCarthy
Kristen Kaprelian
Amy Schaal
Keith Hemmig
Ben Lehner
Joey LeGath
Krystyna Sarrazin
Christina Mueller
Pamala Handrow
Kiana Johnson
Melissa Lemke

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

5:15 PM

City Hall Annex, Room 130

Call To Order

Chair McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

Staff Present: Tom Molbeck, Mike Willis, Jason Mars, Matt Koepnick & Jena Kohlman

Guests: Ald. Sandy Weidner, Richard Christensen, Scott Schuit & John H. Feiner

PRESENT: 8 - Keith Hemmig, Ben Lehner, Kiana Johnson, Pamala Handrow, Christina Mueller, Terry McCarthy, Kristen Kaprelian and Amy Schaal

EXCUSED: 3 - Joey LeGath, Krystyna Sarrazin and Melissa Lemke

[14-10632](#)

Subject: Approval of the Wednesday, September 10, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [September 10, 2014 PRCS Board Meeting Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Pam Handrow and seconded by Kristen Kaprelian to Approve the Minutes. The motion PASSED by Voice Vote. Unanimous.

Public Input

No Public Input.

[14-10633](#)

Subject: Director's Report

Attachments: [Director's Report October](#)

The report was distributed.

A motion was made by Kristen Kaprelian and seconded by Pam Handrow to Receive and File the Report. The motion PASSED by Voice Vote. Unanimous.

[14-10634](#)

Subject: Approval of the Cemetery Commissioner's September 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes September 15, 2014](#)

A motion was made by Pam Handrow and seconded by Kristen Kaprelian to Approve the Minutes. The motion PASSED by Voice Vote. Unanimous.

[14-10635](#)

Subject: Approval of the Golf Course Liaison Committee's September 23, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [Golf Course Liaison Committee Minutes of September 23, 2014](#)

A motion was made by Kristen Kaprelian and seconded by Amy Schaal to Approve the Minutes. The motion PASSED by Voice Vote. Unanimous.

[14-10483](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderperson of the 6th District submitting on behalf of Richard Christensen requesting a change of rules and regulations concerning weekend tee times at Johnson Park Golf Course.

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services on 9-10-14: To request PRCS staff to work with Johnson Golf Course staff on drafting a written policy in relation to weekend tee times at Johnson Park Golf Course to be reviewed by the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services.

Further recommend this item be referred to the Golf Course Liaison Committee.

Recommendation of the Golf Course Liaison Committee on 9-25-14: To Receive and File Item 14-10483.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services on 10-9-14: Staff to review the policy and to consider the suggestions and concerns discussed.

Attachments: [Communication from the Alderperson of the 6th District on Behalf of Richard](#)

John H. Feiner read the current Johnson Park Tee Time Policies to the board and Scott Schuit followed up explaining the weekend seasonal tee time scheduling process and how they try to accommodate call in's.

Christensen argued other golf courses allow threesome's to play 9 holes and provided examples. He may receive a time close to his requested time at Johnson's, however he has a right to play when he wants to play at a public golf course. He indicated this should not be about money and a tee time should not be held by the same person year after year.

Feiner explained the examples Christensen provided were not main golf courses. For example, Christensen mentioned Brown's Lake. Ives Grove is the main course and Brown's Lake is their secondary course. Ives Grove, also as an example, has 27 holes to allow the back 9 holes to be played. Johnson Park is the main course and only has 18 holes.

Weidner commented she is hoping the board will recommend a lottery system be put into place as she feels this public course has turned into a private course. She indicated it is the responsibility of those managing the course to hold a public lottery for new players. The current policy limits City of Racine tax payer's and the course should be an amenity to those tax payer's not just solely for revenue.

Schuit passed around the 2014 Weekend Season Tee Time schedule, which showed the number of times available for call in's. He also stated Milwaukee has 15 golf courses; 4 of which are similar to Johnson's. These 4 follow the same procedure Johnson's does. He also indicated should they change to a lottery, it would only be fair to change to a lottery for all; including all leagues. It was noted Christensen plays in leagues. Christensen suggested most people want to play on weekends.

McCarthy asked the board to express their opinions or suggested changes to the current policy. Majority of the members indicated they did not feel they could make a recommendation due to lack of experience or knowledge of golf management. Kaprelian was concerned having a lottery could deter golfers and cause a significant loss of revenue. Hemmig commented it is reasonable to suggest there be some accessibility to tee times for threesomes and those wishing to play 9-holes. He understands both sides though the idea is to have accessibility to bring in more golfers. McCarthy commented a lottery would not address the concern of only playing 9 holes.

Pam Handrow moved to have staff work on the current policy while taking in considerations and suggestions discussed at this meeting. This motion was seconded by Kristen Kaprelian. The motion PASSED by Voice Vote. Unanimous.

Deferred

[14-10296](#)

Subject: (Direct Referral) Communication from the Alderman of the 6th District requesting referral to the PRCS Commission of a revision to amend Sec. 102.76 of the Municipal Code to include language granting authority to the City Forester to issue orders on private property within the city that constitute a hazard to life and property. (Res No. 14-0387)

Recommendation from the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services on 7-9-14: To Defer the communication from District 6 Alderman Sandy Weidner to revise and amend Sec. 102.76 of the Municipal Code to include language granting authority to the City Forester to issue orders on private property within the city that constitute a hazard to life and property.

Recommendation from the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services on 8-13-14: To Defer.

Recommendation from the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural

Services on 9-10-14: To have language drafted by the City Attorney's office to revise and amend Sec. 102.76 of the Municipal Code. Further recommend the drafted amended ordinance then be provided to the PRCS Board for review.

Recommendation from the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services on 10-8-14: To receive and file.

Fiscal: N/A

Attachments: [Communication from Alderman Weidner RE Amendment to Muni Code 102.7](#)

Matt Koepnick referred the board to the information provided by the City Attorney's office in their packets. Koepnick provided a synopsis of the information provided, including the review of ordinances of other municipalities. He also advised the board he had conducted an informal survey and obtained responses from arborists throughout the country. Majority of the responses suggested the City not become involved with private vs. private tree matters. He also indicated the City Attorney's office does not support the proposed changes to the ordinance.

McCarthy inquired how these proposed changes would impact Koepnick's current work. Koepnick noted he does not wish to become involved in private vs. private tree matters, whatsoever, as recommended by the City Attorney's office. Furthermore, he visits thousands of public tree sites per year, some of which are visited 2 to 3 times per year depending upon the work that needs to be performed. Calls and requests will significantly increase should this pass and this would have a negative impact on his current work.

A brief discussion regarding legal actions and civil disputes pertaining to private vs. private trees matters was had. Mueller commented whether a lawyer decides to take on a private tree dispute or not, it is still a civil matter.

Weidner indicated she has seen the tree Don Kirt is concerned with and though she understands his concern, she also does not wish to put the City at risk of liability.

A motion was made by Pam Handrow and seconded by Christina Mueller to follow the recommendation of the City Attorney's Office to not act on the proposal, therefore the communication is Received and Filed. The motion PASSED by Voice Vote. Unanimous.

Miscellaneous Business

Molbeck provided information to the board pertaining to a boy scout working in collaboration with the DNR wishing to place a poly-lingual fishing regulation kiosk near the Steelhead facility within Lincoln Park. Photos of the proposed placement of the kiosk had been provided to the board. This project is the final requirement for this young gentleman to earn his Eagle Scout rank. Molbeck stated the department is in favor of the kiosk and will be working with him should there not be any rejections or concerns from the board. There were no rejections or concerns.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

