Neenah WISCONSIN Parks & Recreation

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – March 20, 2025

Members Present

X	Jim Wise		Kate Hancock - Cooke		Gary Lawell
X	Peter Kelly	X	Eric Maggio		Ted Galloway
X	Lee Hillstrom (arrived @ 4:15p)	X	Ashley Ondresky	X	Scott Weber

Staff Present

X	Michael T. Kading, Director of Parks & Recreation
X	Jim Kluge, Superintendent of Recreation (arrived @ 4:33p)
X	Trevor Fink, Superintendent of Parks
X	Megan Thompson, Recreation Supervisor (arrived @4:33p)

Others Present: Frank Cuthbert, Scott Becker, DPW Kaiser, PW Engineer Kumrow, Jane Bahlman, Mayor Lang

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Commissioner Kelly at 3:45 P.M. at Douglas Park, 121 Douglas Street. Commissioners reviewed the newly built pond, the current location of the play equipment, and park shelter and had the opportunity to ask questions.

Commissioner Kelly thanked everyone for coming out to the park and asked Commissioners to proceed to City Hall to reconvene for the Commission Meeting.

Commissioners arrived at City Hall and reconvened the meeting at 4:15 P.M.

Commissioner Kelly requested the adjustment of the meeting to address Douglas Park discussion first and then complete the balance of the agenda as published.

Correspondence
None

Appearances
S. Becker – Grew up around Douglas Park, has spoken to residents, and recommends demolishing the shelter and putting in new play equipment where the shelter currently is, as well as doing as much as possible to provide a safe environment.

Minutes
MSC Weber/Maggio to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2025 Commission Meeting. Motion carried by voice vote 6-0.

Bill Vouchers
Commissioner Kelly reviewed the vouchers for February and found them to be in order.

Financial Report
Director Kading provided a brief summary, indicating that the department finished in a good position with $45,000 more in revenues than projected and $83,000 under budget in expenses.

MSC Wise/Weber to accept the unaudited 2024 end of the year financial report. Motion Carried by voice vote 6-0.

Mission Action Report
The report was distributed earlier. The following items were discussed:

Director Kading highlighted the following:

- The summer registration process was successful.
- $3,800 has been received from Rent.Fun for kayak rentals.
- There is a docent opening at the Doty Cabin.
- The Doty Park Shoreline project is expected to be out to bid March 24 with bid opening May 6 and awarding at the Common Council meeting June 4. Construction is not expected to begin until late summer/early fall.

Superintend Fink reviewed the play equipment placement location at Cook Park. Several factors were taken into consideration, including the cottonwood tree and drainage. Fink also referred to the tree plan related to the Doty Park Shoreline project. Several trees will be removed in anticipation of the project, and several trees will need to be protected throughout the project.

Superintendent Kluge indicated that recreation staff has an upcoming presentation to 6th graders and that staff for the summer is in a very good place.

BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1: Discussion of Douglas Park

- Commissioner Kelly opened the floor to discussion, hoping to hear from the entire balance of the Commission, and started it by stating that he was amazed by the size of the pond and that it impacts the overall look and feel of the park.
- Commissioner Wise questioned that it if remains a park site, parking should be considered.
- Commissioner Maggio stated that he would not feel comfortable bringing his children to walk the path, as the size and grade of the pond is daunting.
- Commissioner Ondresky agreed that she, too, would not want to bring her kids there but felt that the pond was a nice amenity.
- Commissioner Weber stated there are more important areas to invest in.
- Commissioner Hillstrom apologized for not being to meet the Commission at the park but had walked it recently and in felt that we should not maintain the shelter or play equipment there.

Action: No Action was taken. This item will be placed on the April agenda.

BUSINESS ITEM #2: Recommendation – Purchase of Cemetery Backhoe
Superintendent Fink reviewed the information found in the notes, further noting that the perceived lower price encompassed the trade-in value of the current backhoe.

Action: MSC Weber/Wise to recommend to Council the purchase of the Case 580 SN in the amount of $106,275.66 from Service Motors Company. Motion carried by voice vote 6-0.

BUSINESS ITEM #3: Appointment of Nomination Committee
Commission President Kelly asked for volunteers to head up the Nomination Committee. Director Kading indicated that Commissioner Lawell had expressed interest via phone conversation earlier in the day.

Action: MSC Kelly/Maggio nominated Commissioner Lawell to the Nomination Committee. Motion carried by voice vote 6-0.

BUSINESS ITEM #4: 2025 CIP Update
The 2025 CIP was reviewed.

BUSINESS ITEM #5: Announcements and Future Agenda Items
Douglas Park Recommendation to Staff
Neenah Baseball – Additional Batting Cages
Carpenter Preserve Update
Lakeshore Ave. Property

Liaison Reports
Arrowhead Development:
- Soil boring has been approved by the DNR.

Plans Commission: Hancock-Cooke
- No report

Harbor Committee: Galloway reported the following:
- Weed harvesting permit has been secured.
- Contractor has been hired.
- NNYC will install buoys in April.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 P.M.

Recorded for the Commission by Michael T. Kading, CPRP