



## PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

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REGULAR MEETING – February 20, 2025

### Members Present

	Jim Wise	X	Kate Hancock - Cooke		Gary Lawell
X	Peter Kelly		Eric Maggio	X	Ted Galloway
	Lee Hillstrom	X	Ashley Ondresky	X	Scott Weber

### Staff Present

X	Michael T. Kading, Director of Parks & Recreation
X	Jim Kluge, Superintendent of Recreation
X	Trevor Fink, Superintendent of Parks
X	Megan Thompson, Recreation Supervisor

Others Present: Frank Cuthbert, Gerry Andrews, Patty Britzke, Roxie Emunson, Codie Emunson, Maxwell Sheppard, and Flo Bruno

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Commissioner Kelly at 4:30 P.M.

### Correspondence

None.

### Appearances

None.

### Minutes

MSC Hancock-Cooke/Weber to approve the minutes as corrected of the January 30, 2025, Special Commission Meeting. Motion carried by voice vote 5-0.

### Bill Vouchers

Commission President Kelly reviewed the vouchers for February and found them to be in order.

### Mission Action Report

The report was distributed earlier. The following items were discussed:

Superintendent of Recreation Kluge introduced new Recreation Supervisor Megan Thompson and gave a brief overview of her background and qualifications.

Kluge shared that Tom Jensen, long-time Parks & Recreation Department proponent and founder of the popular Neenah Summer Fun Run series, passed away on Sunday. The visitation and funeral will be held Wednesday, February 26.

Commissioner Weber requested that a Carpenter Preserve report be given to the Council. Director Kading is working on getting the mapping updated to match the 5-year implementation plan that has been included.

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Kelly thanked Gerry Andrews for establishing a fund supporting Carpenter Preserve with Fox Cities Greenways.

Superintendent of Parks Fink indicated that he has been discussing batting cage expansion with Neenah Baseball at Southview and will bring forth a plan and recommendation for Commission discussion and approval. Fink will also be asking the Commission to review the Cook Park play equipment placement and tree removal as part of the Doty Park shoreline stabilization and improvement project.

Commissioner Galloway asked about the condition of the Rec Park boat launch parking lot after the water project. Kading stated that he has been speaking to the Public Works folks regularly about the condition of the lot.

## **BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1: Approval of Agreement - Sail Neenah**

Director Kading reminded the Commission of the discussion from August 2024 and further stated that Mr. Sheppard has secured a sailboat with the intentions of opening the business this spring.

Mr. Sheppard indicated that he will likely operate Thursday-Sunday for mostly 2-hour sunset tours on Lake Winnebago. Some concern was expressed over the fees that have been stated in the agreement.

Commissioner Galloway stated that private businesses working with in the public realm need to have fees applied.

**Action:** MSC Galloway/Hancock-Cooke to accept and approve the 3-year agreement with Sail Neenah to operate out of the Neenah Harbor. Motion carried by voice vote 5-0.

### **BUSINESS ITEM # 2: Approval of Memorandum of Understanding – Est. of Abendschein Trust Fund**

Director Kading provided a brief overview of Phil Abendschein and the development of the MOU with the Rhoades Sanford Foundation to establish a trust fund in memory of Mr. Abendschein.

Commissioner Galloway further commented on the Rhoades Sanford Foundation and Mr. Abendschein's involvement in the Neenah community.

**Action:** MSC Ondresky/Weber to approve the MOU establishing a trust fund in memory of Phil Abendschein supporting the Neenah Community Band. Motion carried by voice vote 5-0.

### **BUSINESS ITEM # 3: Recommendation - Purchase Mower**

Superintendent Fink gave a brief overview of the recommendation to purchase the 16' Toro mower. The reason for the sole bid is that only two manufacturers have a 16' mower option. Currently, the City owns a Jacobson 16' mower. The quality and durability of this mower is in question, as we have spent significant amounts of money to maintain and fix the mower and is therefore recommending the purchase of the Toro in the amount of \$154,060.14.

**Action:** MSC Galloway/Ondresky to recommend the purchase of the Toro Groundmaster 5910 16' mower in the amount of \$154,060.14. Motion carried by voice vote 5-0.

**BUSINESS ITEM # 4: Approval of Agreement – Wooly Green Grazers**

Director Kading reviewed the attached agreement to hire Wooly Green Grazers to bring sheep to a 6-acre portion of Carpenter Preserve to address invasives species. Staff plus Gerry Andrews and Frank Cuthbert meet with Roxie to determine the effectiveness of such a program.

Commissioner Kelly asked Roxie to introduce herself and give a brief synopsis of her experience.

Commissioner Galloway inquired about the efficacy of seeds eaten by sheep. Roxie indicated that studies show that only 7-10% of the seeds eaten remain viable.

Commissioner Hancock-Cooke expressed excitement pertaining to this project and its ability to shine a light on Carpenter Preserve.

**Action:** MSC Galloway/Ondresky to approve the agreement to hire Wooly Green Grazers to conduct a grazing program over approximately 6 acres at Carpenter Preserve. Motion carried by voice vote 5-0.

**BUSINESS ITEM # 5: 2025 CIP Update**

The 2025 CIP was reviewed.

**BUSINESS ITEM # 6: Announcements and Future Agenda Items**

Southview Park – Additional batting cages

Cook Park – Play equipment location

Doty Park – Tree protection/removal related to shoreline project

Douglas Park - Site visit on March 20

Doty Park - Play equipment visioning

**Liaison Reports**

Arrowhead Development: Commission was informed that a draft development plan has been developed.

Plans Commission: Commissioner Hancock-Cooke reported that the City housing study has been completed and can be reviewed online.

Harbor Committee: Commissioner Galloway inquired about a spring meeting. Director Kading will reach out to confirm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:17 pm.

Recorded for the Commission by Michael T. Kading, CPRP