

October 26, 2022

City of Washburn Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

5:30 PM

Washburn City Hall and Virtual

Members Present:

Angel Croll, Jamie Cook (late), Jeremy Oswald,
Erika Lang, Jennifer Maziasz (Council rep)

Municipal Personnel Present:

Mayor Mary Motiff, Scott Kluver, City Administrator,
Tony Janisch, Assistant City Administrator

Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM. Four (4) of Five (5) members are present; quorum is recognized. Cook arrived late.

Approval of September 20, 2022 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve minutes by Oswald, second by Lang. Minutes approved unanimously.

Motion by Oswald made to change to the order of Meeting Agenda, second by Lang. Change to the order of Meeting agenda approved unanimously.

Update & Presentation of Invasive Species Control along the Lakeshore Parkway by Bay Area Environmental Consulting, LLC- Michael Sinclair & Nile Merton - Control of invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle via mechanical and chemical means is working well. 80-90% reduction in buckthorn observed. Moneywort located in research area has increased dramatically. Advise on tree planting along lakeshore should include shrubs for bird habitat and long-lived trees species such as white pine and sugar maple to replace ash trees.

Discussion & Action of Public Input Meeting for Proposed Expansion of West End Park Campground - Maziasz summarized public outreach opportunities and public responses. She also raised the question: "What is the goal of the campground expansion?" Response is revenue for the City. The idea of yurts was investigated as an option to RVs. Janisch provided a "Yurt Proposal" handout illustrating costs (upfront and recurring), income (variables for # nights/yr and fee/night) and payback for 1-4 yurts. And handout on "Campground Fee Revenues" for 2013-2022. Motion made by Oswald to open floor for public input/comment with 3-minute limit per person for a 15 minute total, second by Croll. Motion carried unanimously.

Tom Neimes, 605 W 4th St. Generally, in support of yurts as part of campground expansion. He is concerned about illegal activities that have occurred at other yurt locations within Bayfield County. He is also in support of the "T" fishing dock placed back at West End Park.

Roth Edwards, 221 W 6th St. Edwards is not supportive of development on Holman Lakeview Drive. He is concerned with smoke created by campfires. He expressed displeasure at preferential treatment of condo and business owners along the shoreline trail. Additionally,

Edwards submitted a written comment on the proposed Motorhome/RV or Yurts development on Holman Lakeview Drive.

Bill Scripps, 228 W 4th St. While not supportive of a “permanent” improvement, he is okay with the use of the overflow area. He encourages City Council to seek other revenue sources. He expressed that green space is more valuable to the City of Washburn in the long term than if improved.

John R. Hopkins, 631 W Bayfield St. Public green space is a quality-of-life issue. Young professionals have more flexibility regarding where they live based on quality of life. Those individuals are a potential economic driver for the City of Washburn.

Nile Merton, 216 W 4th St. Recognizing the walking trail is still recovering from its industrial days, he urges the City to plan for future as a “wilderness” space. To balance improvements and environmental issues; use green infrastructure/ low impact infrastructure. Based on that criteria, yurts are okay.

Joe Groshek, 30650 Sky Rd. Washburn. The Lakeshore Trail is a major draw for the City of Washburn. People are moving for a lifestyle, and they create economic opportunities. He is supportive of developing the overflow area.

Motion by Oswald to close the floor to additional public comment, second by Cook. Approved unanimously. Mayor Mary Motiff asks the Committee to consider these items: Washburn is a city not a national park. The City needs money. City Council is taking into consideration 2015 Thompson West End Plan priorities of increasing campsites, adding shower/bath house, playground improvement, and glamping. Yurts are not permanent. Washburn City Administrator Scott Kluver commented that the City needs money or operations will have to be cut. Motion made by Oswald to recommend to Council to delay Campground Expansion plans and consider Yurts for generating revenue along with potential locations, second by Lang. Motion passes four (4) to one (1); Oswald, Croll, Lang, Maziasz voting in favor, Cook voting against. Oswald added that Yurts could be considered in the current camping area.

Updates from Public Works Department - Public Works Director Gerry Schuette absent; Asst. Administrator Tony Janisch provided the following updates:

- Athletic Fields projects completed: Ball park dug outs installed; lighting at skate rink and walk upgraded. Pending: patch blacktop where utilities were moved.
- Campgrounds projects completed: Memorial waterline upgrade 800’ and 8 spigots; stumps ground and damaged trees removed; lift stations serviced.
- Campgrounds closed for season; Red Cliff donated used ice skates to the City; City Council approved to relocate utility easement and walking trail extension at the Athletic Fields.

Update on Implementation of the Walking Trail Land Management Plan & Coastal Management Grant - City awarded Coastal grant for 2021; not applying for 2022.

Discussion & Action of Mowing Procedures & Locations Outlined in the Walking Trail Land Management Plan - Motion by Oswald to table discussion to November meeting, second by Croll. Motion approved unanimously.

Discussion In-person vs Virtual Meetings - Kluver commented on the legal liability of virtual meetings. He encourages everyone to participate in-person; emphasized in-person is preferred. The Mayor commented of improved rapport when in person.

Discussion & Recommendations of 2023 Parks & Recreation Budgets - Packet handouts provided for informational purposes. Discussion/overview illustrates proposed income and expenditures for the Parks & Recreation. No action taken by Parks Committee.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37PM.

Angel Croll
Secretary, Parks Committee