**PARK COMMISSION MINUTES**

**MARCH 7, 2022**

Meeting called to order at 6:37 p.m.

Commission members in attendance: Fred Belay, Jennifer Meyer, Tom Roach, Sarah Titera, Barb Kleist and Dean Kallenbach

Adopt Agenda: motion made by Jennifer/sec Barb and passed

Approval of Feb. 2 minutes: motion made by Dean/sec Sarah and passed

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Ball Field Proposal**

Subcommittee of six individuals has been formed to explore, and on March 16 will meet for the first time. Barb and Jennifer are on the committee representing the commission.

**Visit Eau Claire**

Jennifer will check with Beverly to get an accounting of the Destination Development Funds and the tax funds and will report back to the group.

**Sherman Creek Park and Conservancy**

Maintenance

* Jennifer’s son Jase is willing to work for the commission this summer
* Someone used a four-wheeler to clear space near the Veteran’s trail coming right off Crescent at the Conservancy
  + Not sure who – don’t really want to encourage parking or entrance to the conservancy from that location.
* Lumberman’s Trail (the new one) at the Conservancy
  + Fred checked with a carpenter, Patrick Linden, to see if a flight of stairs could be built down to the river from the Lumberman’s Trail, the new trail at the end of White Pine Drive, and he’s expected to provide a quote for such work by the commission’s next meeting. Such a stairway would allow access to the river from the trail system. Commission will need to consider what risk factors are involved, and if any additional safety measures would need to be included by providing such river access from the trail system.

Development

* Cameras are working fine – Barb and Fred plan to go there once a week. Fred reported a guy dumping garbage at the fire pit to the sheriff’s office.
* No new progress on the pavilion construction. Fred is exploring alternatives to the contractor who said he would do that job. That contractor still has in his possession $1,500 worth of lumber for the ceiling of the pavilion that the commission bought with the Menard’s rebate
* Internet – should go in at the conservancy once the ground thaws.
* Cache Boxes – still some activity at the Lumberman’s trail.
* Picnic Tables for Shelter – three out there now, Tom has another one that will be ready to go after about 90 minutes work, and he’ll start working on the other one when needed

Events

* Snowshoe hike – those who attended thought it was good. Very cold day, but not bad once you got hiking. Joe Knight was pleased to see that his work on the County Board to get the Kiwanis Forest into the Conservancy was going well. There was some disappointment that the event was limited to 15 participants – there was a general consensus that we should be more assertive when planning events at the conservancy to include more people.
* There was a brief discussion about developing an ongoing paid internship for event planning – UWEC has a event planning emphasis within its Department of Communication and Journalism. Pay for such an intern could be an effective and appropriate use of the Visit Eau Claire funding.
* Sesquicentennial Events were discussed. Jennifer shared ideas for a couple celebrations – maybe one at the Conservancy with a food truck. Fred volunteers to work on that. Maybe another event at the Town Hall focused more on the history. The group thought that the history event at the Town Hall should be timed for May or June, with September for the Conservancy Event (assuming the Pavilion is done by then). Jennifer with check with Benny at Visit Eau Claire to get ideas.

Foundation

* Fred suggested Joe Knight could be a member, and John Hibbard (the town’s attorney) would be willing to be on the board and to draw up the papers – cost of incorporation would be $30. The remaining three members of the Foundation board should be Commission members. Fred and Dean will put together a draft presentation that Fred will present to the town board April 12.

Tower at the Conservancy

* Township fire department will be putting a tower in the parking lot

2022 Commission Work

* Fred developed a list of 23 items that are part of the work or possible work in this year. Toilet and Cameras at Sherman Creek Park was discussed, and the group had consensus that we should not plan to develop such things for Sherman Creek Park due to the history and potential of vandalism.

Next meeting set for April 6, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.