

The Parks and Recreation Commission, Berlin, WI is Called to Order 4:33, November 6, 2019, by Charlie Beard.

Roll Call:

Present: Glenn Hameister, Felicia Page, Charlie Beard, Victoria Hill, and David Secora.

Absent: Jerry Bella, Kimberly Nicolai

Also Present: Sara Nighbor, Scott Zabel, City Counsel Representative Joel Bruessel

General Public Comments:

Jean Dretske spoke for Friends of the Parks. Volunteers, 14. Effort to work on Longcroft park. City provided mulch. 605 1/2 hours of work put in.

Bobbie Erdmann: Historical Society of Berlin. Bobbie sat on the Park and Recreation board in the 1980's. She believes that the gift of the park ends at Cumberland, but that the city owned the rest of the property due to the sewage treatment plant being present and because of its planned expansion. In 1954, Cranes and Blackburn presented that the parcel had already been owned by the city.

Jeff Walker: His father donated the land. The land was to be used for roadways, public parks and public buildings. He presented a deed from 1949. He objects to the parcel being used for anything other than for what it was gifted. Once the road came in, the lots became non-comforming for residential use.

Phillip Pik: Citizen of Berlin and business owner who opposes the sale of the parcel as he feels it was a gift for parks. Reports that a current resident near the parks has lost the appetite to donate his land due to what he feels is the city going back on its word. He offered several suggestions for use of the land. He specified a program called "America in Bloom."

Catrina Burgess: Resides at 236 N. Capron St. Opposes sale of the parcel in question. Disappointed that the city has already voted to lift the restrictions on the sale of the parcel. Offered park options. Wishes to preserve the green space.

Ronald Hark: 206 N. Washington Street and Alderperson for the section of town in which the parcel rests. He wishes to see development in the city move forward. Recommends leaving it as R2 zoning.

Daniel Hoppa: Resident of Berlin. Does not approve of any of the recent actions taken. Does not feel the speed issues should be related to the use of the park. Feels the city blindsided Park and Recreation Commission by voting to take action without the Commission's input.

Approval of the minutes:

A motion is made by to Felicia Page approve the minutes of the October meeting. David Secora seconded. The motion passed.

Review and Approval of P&R Monthly Expenditure Accounts:

A motion is made by Victoria Hill to approve the 2019 Parks and Rec expenditure accounts, seconded by Glenn Hameister. The motion passed.

Review and Approval of P&R Monthly Revenue Accounts:

A motion is made by Victoria Hill to approve the 2019 Parks and Rec revenue accounts, seconded by Felicia Page. The motion passed.

Public Appearances: Jean Dretske, Bobbie Erdmann, Jeff Walker, Phillip Pik, Catrina Burgess, Ronald Harke, and Daniel Hoppa all reserved their comments for New Business (A).

New Business:

A) Review and discuss whether parcel 206-01031-0000 is no longer needed for park purposes and make recommendation as to the sale or disposition of land to Common Council.

Discussion centered around discovery of the donated parcel, and possible uses for Park and Recreation projects. Felicia Page expressed a desire to allow it for development for homes. David Secora cited another (historical anecdote) donation that allowed for land to be used for park purposes, but then used as the city wished as an example of a possible disposition to this property. Charlie Beard commented on the need for Berlin business expansion, as well as the City keeping it's word on its promise to land donors. Victoria Hill commented that the parcel, being non-conforming, could not in and of itself, greatly affect the growth of Berlin, and spoke of keeping the parcel as originally intended - for park use. She cited the several requests that have come to the Parks and Recreation Commission but have been unfulfilled due to "lack of free-use donated land."

Victoria Hill makes a motion to recommend to the Common Council that Parcel 206-01031-0000 be retained for Park purposes. Glen Hameister seconded. The motion passes with four Ayes (Charlie Beard, Victoria Hill, David Secora, Glenn Hameister) and one Nay (Felicia Page).

Old Business:

A) Review of Ball Field Use Request Form Update

Sara Nighbor presented the new consolidated form.

Victoria Hill makes a motion to allow the use of the new form pending the approval of the fee structure from Common Council. Felicia Page seconds. The motion passes.

Adjourn:

A motion is made by Victoria Hill 5:27P.M. to adjourn. Seconded by David Secora. The motion passes.

Next Meeting Date - Wednesday, December 4th, 2019