

Rib Mountain Park Commission

April 11, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman Brad Conklin, Bill Bursaw, Jerry Muehlbauer, Dana Laher, Chad Grundemann, Marne' Bruner and Andrea Larson. Town Administrator Gaylene Rhoden and Deputy Clerk Michelle Peter were also present.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Bruner/Bursaw to approve the, minutes of the March 17, 2017 meeting

STREET & PARK REPORT – Street/Park Superintendent Turner provided a written staff report. Chairman Conklin spoke about a local website featuring parks in the area, which gave high praises on Doepke Park. Bill Bursaw expressed concern about the woodchip costs, questioned where the Town acquires its chips and the possibility of invasive species with the woodchips.

GHIDORZI GREEN AND CLEAN DISCUSSION – TOWN OF RIB MOUNTAIN

INVOLVEMENT – The event will be held April 22nd and runs from 8 – 11. Marne' noted people should gather at One Corporate Drive, t-shirts and food will be provided.

WELCOME TO RIB MOUNTAIN SIGNS – LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE –

Marne' and Scott are working together in the design shape of three local landscape welcome sites. The improvements will feature new berms, more natural settings incorporating perennials and larger stones.

OLD BUSINESS –

- A. Dog Park Planning – Gaylene Rhoden updated the Commission on the future dog park progress. The Town is still working with the County on finalizing the land transfer. The Town is working with the Rib Mountain Community Foundation for donation purposes since it is a 501 c 3 group. Quality Foods for the month of May will donate \$.05 for each bag that is brought in by a customer. Ms. Rhoden has been contacted by a private citizen who is interested in donating a larger gift of money to the project. The Town is currently working a brochure and will promote the park at the upcoming Wausau Chamber Business Expo next week.

Supervisor Klein has developed four different levels for contributions with clever donation titles. Gaylene has applied for a Stewardship Grant. It is a 50/50 grant and she will be asking for \$53,000. Commission members spoke about naming rights should a private donor or a business contribute, they asked what the Town's policy is. The Commission also expressed concerns about the project moving forward without their group having any form of discussion on the project, extra required maintenance, staff time and taxpayers' dollars being applied to the project. **Motion by Grundemann/Bruner to move forward with dog park project contingent on grants and private funding being used to fund the park and the prevention of the Town not using Parkland or Town funds. Questioned and carried.**

- B. Doepke Nature Trail Signs – No updates.
- C. Potential Eagle Scout Projects – Possible ideas, fencing at the dog park, new bench at Rookery View Park and Dana spoke about a community garden. Church Mutual is developing a community garden at their Merrill site for the members. She said they could discuss it at a future meeting.
- D. Domtar Disc Golf – Chairman Conklin stated that talks have started again about the possibility of the course, details forthcoming.
- E. Kayak Launch – Grant Application – No updates.
- F. Rookery Park Kiosk Map – Mapping is in the final stages. Jerry stated he spoke with the Bird Group who is interested in the possibility of installing a camera by the rookery.
- G. Emerald Ash Borer Planning – Spring 2017 – No updates.

PARK PROJECT LIST – REVIEW AND DISCUSSION – Chairman Conklin noted the list has been updated. Scott Turner had requested a year end summary of projects completed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – Reviewed.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS – Chairman Conklin recently attended a MPO and County meeting regarding bike and pedestrian facilities and Rib Mountain received many kudos. Marne' will get some recent pictures taken at Rookery View Park. She will also put together information on a golden egg Easter hunt for 2018 or event similar. Andrea Larson spoke with the representative on the 3rd annual Advantage Race.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Bursaw/Conklin to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. Questioned and carried.

Submitted by
Michelle Peter, Deputy Clerk