

Rib Mountain Park Commission
June 12, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman Brad Conklin, Bill Bursaw, Jerry Muehlbauer, Dana Lahar, Andrea Larson, Marne' Bruner and Chad Grundemann, Street/Park Superintendent Scott Turner, Town Administrator Gaylene Rhoden and Clerk Michelle Peter.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Bursaw/Larson to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2018. Questioned and carried.

STREET & PARK REPORT – Street/Park Superintendent Turner provided an update on park activities. Doepke Park has been extremely busy this season. The Town received a \$1500 donation for a memorial concrete bench for Doepke Park. The soccer nets have been taken down due to their appearance. The Town has received complaints about extracurricular activities taking place at Chellis Park during the night. Scott stated the sheriff's department has been contacted to monitor the area more. Turner is again working with the company who will be addressing the cracks on the tennis courts. Together they will re-evaluate the proper means to address the issues. Park Superintendent Turner reported the grills are being used at both parks. The Kocourek shelter has been completed. Scott will be working on a maintenance agreement with them.

PARK COMMISSION MEMBER TERMS – Scott Turner stated the terms of Bill Bursaw and Brad Conklin will expire in July. Both members have agreed to stay on the Commission for another term.

PARKING CONCERNS AT DOEPKE PARK – Street/Park Superintendent Turner has received a complaint about parking issues at Doepke Park during baseball games. He spoke with a Wausau Youth Baseball & Softball representative about a conceptual parking plan. The hockey area would be used for excessive parking. The WYB&S member stated he would strip the area using baseball chalk to create parking stalls, in addition, Scott will rope off the area.

FUTURE PARK DISCUSSION – Chairman Conklin asked the members to think about sites for future park developments. He noted a parcel of land was for sale by Dogwood Road. Discussion expanded on funding source for land acquisition and if the north side of mountain should a focus of a future park.

CHELLIS AND LIBERTY PARK IMPROVEMENTS DISCUSSION – Turner reported the playground equipment at Chellis Park is about 25 years old. He could envision this park being a potential destination park. He also suggested contacting Lee Recreation to view the sight and submit a proposed plan upgrade.

Street/Park Superintendent Turner purposed the thought of updating existing parks. He identified Liberty Park as a diamond in the rough. Members discussed some unique ideas for the park such as: pickle ball on the tennis courts or life size games. Turner proposed the possibility of reaching out to WYB&S and creating a working partnership on enhancing the ball diamond at Liberty Park. The enhancement might serve as a practice field and eliminate some of the congestion at Doepke Park. Members were asked to brainstorm enhancements for the parks which would be discussed at the next meeting and added to project list.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dog Park Planning – Street/Park Superintendent Turner briefed members that construction of the trail should begin in July. The Town has received three quotes for fencing and two asphalt quotes. A drinking fountain will also be added to the sight. He stated there are still many details to be determined.

Urban Forestry Grant – Tree Planting – Tree planting will begin this Friday. The Town has received thirty trees which will be planted at Doepke, Rookery and the new Dog Parks. The trees are 1” to 1 ½” in diameter in size.

Emerald Ash Borer Planning – No updates.

PARK PROJECT LIST – Chairman Conklin stated he has not updated the list recently.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – Scott reported there were no concerns.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS – Bill Bursaw said the Friend of Rib Mountain had received a 50/50 grant which will be put towards new playground equipment. He asked members if they would be interested or would know someone who like to join the Friends to see the project through. Chairman Conklin reported he noticed three homes recently went up for sale along the Trillium Trail. Scott Turner thank him for the notification. The sales could play a part with the current signed easements. Turner also thanked Marne’ and her daughter for planting additional flowers in the area.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Grundemann/ Bursaw to adjourn at 6:11 p.m. Questioned and carried.

Submitted by
Michelle Peter, Clerk