

CITY OF VERONA

MINUTES

PARK, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017

1. The meeting was called to order by chairperson Jon Turke at 7:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Present: Jon Turke, Heather Reekie, Brad Stiner, Paul Schmidt, Mark Giesfeldt. Also present: Dave Walker, Parks Director; Casey Dudley, Recreation Director.
3. Moved by Reekie, seconded by Stiner, to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2016 meeting of the Park, Recreation, and Forestry Commission. Motion carried 5-0.
4. The Park Commission discussed the Park and Navigable Water chapter of ordinances. The Commission had recommended changes to the language concerning watercraft at their October meeting and at that time Dave Walker suggested reviewing the entire chapter before taking the amendments to the Common Council for final approval.

After reviewing the entire chapter, there were no additional changes recommended.

5. The Commission considered a new chapter of municipal ordinances pertaining to the administration and operation of municipal cemeteries. With the impending transfer of the Verona Cemetery to the City, Stafford Rosenbaum had researched and compiled a set of draft ordinances which would govern the cemetery. The 18 page document was very comprehensive but did not change current policies and procedures and left broad authority to a newly created Cemetery Board which would oversee the budget and operations once the city took ownership of the property.

After reviewing several sections of the draft ordinance, Commissioner Schmidt had discovered a few instances where clearer definitions might avoid future confusion. Mr. Schmidt has vast experience dealing with these types of legal issues in his career as an estate attorney. He graciously offered to review the entire ordinance and offer his comments prior to adoption by the Common Council.

6. Moved by Reekie, seconded by Turke, to approve the Cemetery Ordinances as presented contingent upon review and comment by Commissioner Schmidt. Motion carried 5-0.
7. The Commission considered the hiring process and timeline for a new Park Maintenance position approved in the 2017 budget. Dave Walker presented a timeline that began with internal posting of the position in early February, candidate interviews in mid-March, and a tentative start date in early April. Alder Reekie and Chairman Turke both expressed interest in participating in candidate interviews so it was agreed that the hiring committee would consist of those two in addition to Dave Walker and Casey Dudley.

8. The Commission considered a special event request for ‘Market Day’ at Harriet Park on Saturday September 23. The event is a one day art and craft fair with approximately 20 vendors and proceeds are used to benefit alzheimers disease research. This is the third consecutive year of the event and staff reported no conflicts or issues with prior year events.
9. Moved by Reekie, seconded by Giesfeldt, to approve Market Day at Harriet Park on Saturday September 23. Motion carried 5-0.
10. Moved by Schmidt, seconded by Turke, to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. Time 8:15 p.m.

Jon Turke
Chairperson