

WATERLOO PARKS COMMISSION – MINUTES

August 2, 2023

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER. Parks Coordinator Haberkorn called the Parks Commission meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the Municipal Building Council Chambers. ROLL CALL: Voting members present: Setz, Vieth, Weihert & Kegler. Absent: Crave. Ex-officio members present: Parks Coordinator Gabe Haberkorn, Public Works Director Chad Yerges Absent: Friends of Firemen's Park President Jessica Pickel & WYSO Representative Otto Degler. Others present: Brian Henning, Darren Schaumann.
2. MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL: JUNE 7, 2023. MOTION: Moved by Setz, seconded by Vieth. VOICE VOTE: Motion Carried 3-0-1 with Weihert Abstain
3. CITIZEN INPUT: Park Commission member Kegler spoke on the "Green Wall" behind the Skalitzky Field and the Mauneshia Riverbank and possibly looking into cutting it back down again. Discussion.
4. REPORTS/UPDATES:
 - a. Coordinator's Report: Haberkorn spoke on the summer concerts going well and the River Rats finishing on some high notes. Haberkorn also stated that they will be back for the 2024 season. Haberkorn talked about July 4 and having a decent turnout for the event even with a few rain showers. Haberkorn talked about the lower bathroom painting and Lower Pavilion Renovations in the Fall of 2024. Haberkorn spoke on the TRP Play Space project to start in at end of August is ready to go and the completed Capital Projects for 2023. Carousel Works will be coming in late September to repair the 1911 C.W. Parker Carousel. Haberkorn spoke on the \$3,000 raised for the Dog Park to this date.
 - b. Parks Financial Report: June 2023 through July 2023. Haberkorn spoke on the Parks Department still being in a negative balance for 2023 at this point, but those numbers will be rectified in August of 2023 as the Capital Projects have been completed, but Computer Aid has not been received yet. Setz asked about how this happens in the City of Waterloo budget. Haberkorn explained that Waterloo Parks is not on the General Fund with most of the other City of Waterloo departments. Haberkorn also spoke on the TRP Play Space Grant has just been received and not in the budget as of this report. Haberkorn spoke on the Capital Projects and the Priority List for Firemen's Park. Haberkorn showed the moving parts and trying to fit things into the specific budget parameters and moving projects to also fit into the budget for coming years.
 - c. 2023/2024 Capital Projects: Haberkorn spoke on the Capital Projects and the Priority List for Firemen's Park. Haberkorn showed the moving parts and trying to fit things into the specific budget parameters and moving projects to also fit into the budget for coming years. Haberkorn spoke on the Upper Pavilion Doors now on the Capital Projects. Haberkorn also stated that the Pavilion siding is now on the Capital Projects as well and is just a place holder and the amount listed is just an estimated amount based on 2023 calculations. Setz spoke on Disc Golf and moving it out and trying to get Pickleball/Basketball Courts moved up on the list. Weihert asked if there could be an order of priorities for each year and Haberkorn stated that it is next to the year on each Capital Project. Kegler asked about the quality of the Disc Golf Course. Setz asked to keep Pickleball/Basketball Court high on the priority list as he would like to see it in 2024. Kegler stated he wanted to keep the Reunion Hall Renovation on the Capital Project as a high priority.
5. NEW BUSINESS:
 - a. Firemen's Park Softball Fields: Mr. Brian Henning, Superintendent of Waterloo School District spoke on meetings the school district has had with the Parks Department, DPW Director Chad Yerges, and a Representative from Midwest Athletic Fields. Henning also spoke on the Title IX regulations that the school district must abide by and the partnership that the Waterloo School District and Waterloo Parks Department has with the school district use of the facilities. Haberkorn asked for specifics for the Title IX complaint and Mr. Henning couldn't give any specifics and stated that the Parks Department most likely has received more information on that than he has. Kegler stated that there is a definite need for the Waterloo Parks and School District to work together as it would make no sense to have two softball fields there and two softball fields here. Haberkorn asked to look at pictures in the packet. Haberkorn spoke on the two complaints that came from the HS Softball program, one being more sand on Field A and one being that the ground is becoming powdery during games. Haberkorn stated that at the beginning of each year he sends out an email to all the organizations using the fields to take care of the fields. Haberkorn spoke on field conditions the HS team has left the fields in bad conditions after using the fields and that has caused these field conditions. Kegler said that as a coach he shouldn't be expected to take care of fields after using them as he has put in enough work coaching. Yerges spoke that the Parks Department does take care of fields and drags them every day, but it is up to the groups using the fields to take care of them when done using them. Setz asked about what we can do about fortifying those areas of large use, such as clay. Haberkorn spoke on the different types of fortification mats, such as: Jox Box Turf, Fortification Boxes, Rubber Mats, etc. Haberkorn spoke on what he believes are the reasons for the powdery conditions. One being drought and no rain and the fact that the fields were not being taken care of properly. Haberkorn stated he has questions if we did go with fortification mats. Haberkorn stated he met with Waterloo AD Thurston Schuster and Waterloo HS Principal Bartelt on possible policy changes going into 2024. This policy would have each group/organization that uses the field have to meet with the Parks Coordinator and go over proper field maintenance before they are able to use the field(s). Vieth asked how someone would know how to do proper field maintenance on softball/baseball fields.

Setz asked if we expected kids to go up there and play around, are we expecting them to do the same. Haberkorn stated that this would be an exception as we wouldn't expect them to do that as it still is a public park. Kegler then asked how much the Waterloo School District pays each year to use the facilities at which Haberkorn replied \$500. Mr. Henning agreed with Haberkorn about taking better care of the fields but knows the park does get a lot of use and that there are bigger issues here. Henning feels that the school district may feel like they are being backed into a corner. Haberkorn stated that the other issues he feels is the fact they have been given an answer on the field conditions, but his answer isn't the one they want to hear. Mr. Darren Schaumann said that he and his wife have brought the issues to the school district. Mr. Schaumann gave some background on him and his wife and coming to Waterloo. Mr. Schaumann spoke about bringing his 3 kids to Waterloo this coming year and his wife has been asked to be the Varsity Assistant Coach for 2024. Mr. Schaumann spoke about his daughter Ally working with the JV team this past season. Mr. Schaumann spoke after Parks Coordinator Haberkorn's email that he started raking the JV Field for his wife. Haberkorn stated that he had told Mr. Schuster that the Parks Department looked great after the JV team had used it. Mr. Schaumann stated that he would continue to do that if his wife and daughter are with the HS Softball Team. Mr. Schaumann stated that the HS Softball team is expected to go to State again in 2024 and he is putting a lot of pressure on his daughter to carry the team next year as their starting pitcher. Mr. Schaumann believes this could be a destination spot for teams to come and play against Waterloo HS Softball. Kegler stated that the school district uses the fields for \$12.50/hour and where else can you rent a field for that amount. Mr. Henning stated that you drive into the park, and you see Skalitzky Field in the valley, but then drive up to the softball diamonds and can see the difference. Haberkorn stated that he understands that and but when someone gives you a large donation that it is named Skalitzky Field for a reason. Haberkorn also stated that if someone were to give a large donation to the softball fields, he would not turn them down. Haberkorn spoke on the quote the City of Waterloo asked for to correct the elevation changes on Field A and the Coach Pitch Diamond areas. Haberkorn spoke on condition of the quote that it would be a complete demolition of the fields, dugouts, retaining wall and filling out to the right field corner of the softball field bringing the area level with the concrete pad of the concession stand. Haberkorn stated that this cost is approximately \$147,000. Mr. Henning stated that they do not expect something on that level but believes that the fields do need to be resurfaced. Henning also spoke on other smaller items that they have with outfield lip work, high and low bases, etc. Haberkorn spoke on the bases and that 1st base is a low-profile base and it looks like it is buried. Haberkorn stated that he did not order the base, but if they wanted a different 1st base, he would not be against ordering a new one. Mr. Henning asked if he could bring a list to the Parks Department and matching it up with what projects we have upcoming if the Parks Department would be okay with that. Haberkorn stated that he would be okay with that. Mr. Henning asked if Parks Coordinator Haberkorn would be okay with the mats and Haberkorn stated that he would not be okay with that. Haberkorn said that he spoke with other Park and Rec Representatives and that they also did not like the idea of the fortification mats and that those that did, took them out after 5 years. Henning asked if Haberkorn's stance was that the Waterloo HS Softball program take better care of the fields this coming year. Haberkorn stated that would be his recommendation and follow up with the new policy in place. Haberkorn also stated that he needs to do a better job of making sure water is available to the HS program. Haberkorn stated that they did put a Watering Can in the concession stand closet. Weihert spoke on the numbers given by the project proposed for the future takes up 5 years of Capital Projects. Haberkorn spoke on the usage of the field and what he was doing for his coach pitch field and taking his personal time to go and sprinkle the Coach Pitch Field. Haberkorn stated again that his recommendation is to take care of the field properly and see if that makes a difference. Henning stated that what they believe the solution is, what he is hearing is what the school would pay for, as the Parks Coordinator wouldn't recommend it. Haberkorn stated in all fairness, as the Parks Coordinator that he has given an answer and that his answer isn't good enough for some reason. Weihert said that he would like the Parks Coordinator to do what he thinks is best for the softball fields. Veith asked if there was a list of wants and needs. Henning said that they have only spoken and that he could get one. Henning also stated that when they met with Josh Veith from Midwest Athletic Fields that he said that Veith said the fortification mats could be a solution. Henning stated that what he is asking is that if the school district comes to the Parks Commission and asks for us to fix something, if they say no then the school district is out of luck and looking more into building their own field as they believe they have no control of the fields themselves. Henning said that a Title IX inequity is the fact that we have spent \$200,000 on the baseball field and \$0 on the softball field. Haberkorn then stated that Waterloo can't be the only community where something like this has happened to which Henning replied that oh yes it has and because the reason you don't hear about is the fact that people choose to get along and figure it out. Haberkorn stated that he feels like that is an accusation, that himself and the Parks Department are the problem. Haberkorn said he feels like the Parks Department is getting along but not getting it back in return. Haberkorn said that he has given them the answer to their requests on multiple occasions including attending 3 different meetings on the subject where he has given them the same answers, but feels it is never good enough for them. Haberkorn stated that if an organization does not like what his answer is, then they have every right to come in front of the Parks Commission as they are the authority over the Parks Department and himself. Haberkorn said if they want him to do something different, he has no problem going with what the Parks Commission would like him to do. Weihert asked what has Parks Coordinator Haberkorn requested? Haberkorn said his requests were on what Title IX requests they have, the need for more sand, and the powdery conditions of the field. Haberkorn stated that he has told them multiple times what the solution is and why the conditions are like that including sending multiple emails, talking with the HS Athletic Director with taking care of the field properly. Haberkorn also stated that what Mr. Henning is not telling you when

they met with the professional from Midwest Athletic Fields, that if you do not take care of the field after every use, it was going to be like that and that even after that, it still wasn't a good enough answer. Weihert asked who isn't good enough for? Haberkorn said that he did not know. Haberkorn then stated that the Parks Department takes more time each day taking care of the softball fields than the baseball field, because teams that use that field know if they do not take care of it after use, they will be kicked off it for a week. Haberkorn stated that the softball each night is being left with holes in the major areas (pitching area and home plate area) and that the holes are 4 inches deep. Haberkorn stated that the answer of the HS Softball Program not taking care of the fields properly is the problem and that his answer is not good enough. Haberkorn said that is why he told them if he doesn't like his answer that they can come to the Waterloo Parks Commission meeting. Yerges asked if the fortification mats would suffice the Title IX complaint? Haberkorn stated to Mr. Henning, from what he is saying, that even if they added the mats, it still wouldn't stop the Title IX complaint and that is why Haberkorn would like to go with his recommendation. Mr. Henning stated that it very well could be. Weihert asked what his plan is? Yerges stated that the \$800,000 project would be it. Haberkorn said that is his wish in the end, but at this time it is not feasible. Haberkorn stated his recommendation of taking care of the fields for a year. Setz stated what the Waterloo School District is asking is to make the field conditions better to play. Haberkorn stated, that is what he is saying, to make the conditions better for play, you need to take care of it better after you use it. Haberkorn then explained how the Limestone Field system works and the proper ways to take care of it. Haberkorn stated that if a field is used and not properly maintained after use, when the Parks Department comes back in the next day, the field conditions will be powdery, as it is to late for the Parks Department to add enough water and allow proper drying time to harden the areas. Haberkorn stated that is not the Parks Departments job to clean up after a team that uses the field as the Parks Department does not clean up the garbage from a party in the Pavilion. Weihert stated that Mr. Henning has a list that we haven't seen yet and that we need to see that list to do what we can with the City of Waterloo and Parks Department. Weihert stated that what he is hearing from Parks Coordinator Haberkorn is that the partners using the facility are not maintaining the field after they practice or play. Weihert stated that he would like to see the list from Henning so financially we can look at what we can do and Haberkorn needs to put together a plan on how to maintain the field after use. Mr. Schaumann stated that taking it a step further is to implement the same punishment for the softball field as you do with the baseball field. Haberkorn stated that if he were to do that, the phone calls, and emails he would receive the next day would be astronomical. Mr. Schaumann stated that now that his wife is one of the coaches that he would have a conversation with her about proper maintenance of the field after usage. Mr. Henning stated that he understands that the HS program has not done everything that needs to be done, but if we do everything that needs to be done and all the things that Mr. Haberkorn has asked, will we still have the same problems. Henning also stated that we must remember that it is a public park and that kids can come in after they are done and the next day the HS softball team is left with a hole for the next game or practice. Haberkorn stated that the pictures taken are 15 minutes after the softball team used the field. Mr. Henning stated that he understands that, but at some point, that will happen. Veith stated that if it came down to it, pictures could be taken by the team to prove that they did do the work. Weihert stated that coming up with the written policy is on Mr. Haberkorn to come up with it. Haberkorn stated that he only knows what Coach Braatz and the other Coaches tell him what the problems are. Haberkorn stated the different stations on each field that are buried in each pitching area. Haberkorn asked Mr. Henning if they can get together a list for him to go over and see what the Parks Department can address. Kegler stated that then the coaches are responsible for taking care of it after use. Haberkorn stated that is the conversation we have next year after the policy is set in place. Weihert stated that it should be included in the rental agreement. Mr. Henning asked about what is going to be done about the lip in both fields. Yerges stated that it will be taken care of this fall in all 3 fields. Mr. Henning then asked about bases being too high or low and what the plan was for those? Haberkorn stated that he believes they are talking about 1st base and that is a low-profile base and that if they wanted to get rid of it and place a new base there that would not be a problem. Mr. Henning stated that 3rd base is an inch higher at times than the sand on the playing surface. Haberkorn stated that he did not know about that and that and that could be sand in the anchor. Mr. Henning then stated about home plate on Field B is crooked. Haberkorn said that he did know about that and was going to fix it next Spring as it was in line with the pitching rubber and 2nd place, just rotated 3-5 degrees left. Weihert asked if it was rotated or off center. Yerges stated that it is on center but rotated to the 3rd base side. Mr. Henning asked if the school district wanted to put in the mat systems, so that for the following year those would be off the table and to see if proper field maintenance fixes the problem? Haberkorn stated that if it was up to him, that would be his recommendation, but if the Parks Commission had a different opinion on this than him, he would follow their recommendation. Setz asked if he could see at a future meeting the different types of mat systems. Weihert asked if we could get recommendations from only Parks Department in the state of Wisconsin and Haberkorn stated that the WPRA forum is just for State of Wisconsin Parks Departments. Vieth stated that this would not change maintenance on the fields. Haberkorn stated that the Jox Box type system is one he would not recommend as it tears easily, and metal spikes would not be allowed on it. Weihert asked for Mr. Henning to come back with a list and samples and possibly even Mr. Haberkorn to do his research on them as well. Yerges asked if the Softball Program had a preference in which mat system they would like to go with. Mr. Henning said that he was not sure but could ask them. Setz stated that the bottom line still is, proper field maintenance after using the fields. Setz stated fields can be fixed but the maintenance issues do not change. Weihert stated that what Mr. Haberkorn is saying is that there isn't time in the morning to take care of the fields. Henning stated that it cannot be denied that there is better top dressing on the baseball field and everyone can see that. Haberkorn said that he cannot deny that either, that one cost \$5000 and

the other costs \$300 for a Quad-axle load. Haberkorn also stated that he cannot spend the money on doing a top dressing like that because after the first rainfall, it will be all gone, and it would not be fiscally responsible. Haberkorn stated that with every heavy rainfall the field is eroded in areas and needs to be fixed and that after the last rainfall he had pictures for Mr. Henning. Yerges says it is an elevation change problem. Haberkorn stated that every heavy rainfall you would be replacing the top dressing. Yerges explained what they tried to do with the rainfall in the past and what the plan was when they put in the Coach Pitch Field. Haberkorn asked if Mr. Henning could have the Coaching Staff get together and put together a list for the Parks Commission? Mr. Henning replied that he certainly could do that. Haberkorn asked what the Parks Commission wanted to do and if anyone had anything other to add. Yerges asked when the next meeting was. Haberkorn stated that the next meeting is October 4. Motion was made by Setz to table until the next meeting on October 4, 2023, with recommendations and fortification mat samples from Parks Coordinator Haberkorn, seconded by Weihert. Yerges stated he would like these in the ground before this winter's frost so they are ready to go in the Spring and asked the question if the City of Waterloo or a professional company was going to put it in, that either way he would want it in before the frost. Haberkorn then asked if Setz would like to rescind his Motion along with Weihert rescinding his 2nd. Both Weihert and Setz rescinded their original motions. Haberkorn asked if they would like to move the meeting until September 6, 2023, and move the meeting up one month. Discussion. MOTION: Moved by Setz to table until the special meeting on September 6, 2023, at 5 pm with recommendations on fortification mats from Parks Coordinator Haberkorn, seconded by Weihert. VOICE VOTE: Motion Carried 4-0

- b. Park Budget: Haberkorn spoke on the 2 budgets he has would like to submit to the City of Waterloo Finance. Haberkorn spoke on the 2 budgets with one being with a new full time park employee and one without. Weihert asked when the budget meeting is. Haberkorn stated that the Parks Budget goes in front of Finance on August 17, 2023. Haberkorn spoke on the number for the new employee and that it included Social Security, Insurance, and wages. Haberkorn spoke on the changes from last year to this year in yellow with a special note. Haberkorn spoke on the Mayors Parameters and the 2% raise for employees. Setz stated that he thinks that the new employee should not be at the same level as the Parks Coordinator. Weihert agreed with that comment and asked to look at that deeper. Yerges stated that the number used is what he has his employees starting at. Weihert agreed to change that number and did not agree that the new position should be making that amount. Yerges explained that the number is 80% of what the DPW worker is working at now. Haberkorn stated that the new number would be approximately \$33,780/year with the change. Setz asked if the new employee would be working for the Park Department and the DPW. Yerges explained that is what is already happening with himself and the DPW crew spending so many hours there per year. Setz asked if it is split, then why wouldn't we split it between departments. Yerges stated that he already has the Seasonal Employees on his budget. Setz asked why the Parks Department is on a separate budget. Haberkorn explained that he is a special revenue and is listed as 225. Weihert explained the different budget levels between the Parks, Police, Fire Department, and others. Haberkorn explained what the position would entail. Haberkorn adjusted the numbers and said that if we didn't change the tax levy then the adjustment would put us in the positive at \$475. Haberkorn stated it was up to them if they wanted to go with the new budget number with the adjustments or if they wanted to go with the budget without an employee. Veith asked why there was a difference in insurance numbers between the Parks Coordinator and Employee? Haberkorn stated that it was because he does not take the insurance and is given a stipend of 45% instead. Weihert was pleased to see the Dog Park back on the budget for revenue in 2024. Haberkorn stated that either way the budget is in deficit at \$19,000. Haberkorn asked and stated that he would like their honest opinion. Weihert asked if the Parks Department or DPW would like the new employee at an 80/20 split. Yerges says it wouldn't matter what budget it comes from that either way it will come out the say. Weihert said that budget wise it might make sense. Setz stated that he did have a problem adding the new employee and that he believed it would cause some blowback from the public. Setz also stated he didn't think there was enough to keep the individual busy enough. Weihert did agree with Setz but stated that we do know we will need it sooner than later and that employees usually do not pass by Finance in the first year and that we should put it on the budget to Finance to show that we are looking for that employee. Discussion. MOTION: Moved by Weihert to send budget with adjusted numbers and new Full-Time Employee. Seconded by Vieth. VOICE VOTE: Setz No; Vieth, Kegler, Weihert Yes. Motion Carried 3-1
- c. Basketball/Pickleball Design Concepts: Haberkorn stated that they requested a design concept and he wanted to provide them with one. Haberkorn stated that the difference in cost with adding the basketball court is only about \$10,000. Weihert asked if Haberkorn believed there would be a conflict with people playing pickleball and someone wants to play basketball. Kegler stated that it looked like the pickleball court was down the middle. Haberkorn stated that there would be 3 courts going from sideline to sideline and that it would be a schedule item just like regular rentals. Haberkorn spoke on the dimensions and asked Setz if the dimensions were what he would like to see. Setz stated that the courts should be within a 30'x64' space. Haberkorn stated that the space would be sufficient to fit all three courts. Haberkorn stated the difference in cost is Hoops and painting. Vieth asked what it was for or if this was a project. Haberkorn stated that it was asked at the last meeting and if they wanted to move it up the priority list. Weihert asked how the court would be placed with netting. Setz explained that it is portable and to move nets is easy. Haberkorn stated that the net system would go into storage container for easy set-up and take down. Haberkorn discussed the full fencing with an open end and towards the road and lighting that is on a timer. Yerges asked why we wouldn't put up full fencing, so individuals do not park the courts as we have problems as it is. Weihert asked if it is in 2028 for the priority list. Haberkorn asked if they wanted to move it. Yerges stated he is against building new rather than fixing old that needs to be taken care of. Vieth asked to move Pickleball up to 2025 on the Priority List. Haberkorn asked Setz if he would like 2025. Setz stated that he would be okay with 2025 but

wants 2024. Yerges stated that there are lots of projects that need to be done and it would be nice to have bathrooms in the Bingo Hall, but he does not perceive them as a necessity. Vieth asked if numbers could be changed around to fit in the budget for 2024. Discussion.

- d. Park Rental Cleanup Policy: Haberkorn spoke on the issues at the Waterloo Regional Trailhead. Haberkorn spoke on the garbage timeline for emptying of the trash receptacles at the Waterloo Regional Trailhead. Haberkorn stated that Trek had rented the facility for two consecutive days from different departments. Haberkorn stated that on Thursday they had a large event and didn't even use one trash receptacle, left a garbage bag next to the trash bags, and left both recycling bins overflowing. Haberkorn stated that when the 2nd party happened, the party had called, and he had to go up to the WRT to clean the facility. Kegler stated that as a Parks Department we should be going up to the facility and checking it daily after events. Haberkorn stated that it is a part of the cleaning contract, and that Trek is responsible for cleaning up their own messes just like any other renter is responsible. Kegler is asking us to be more vigilant in areas when we have events. Kegler then stated that we need to take better care of areas and garbage in Firemen's Park around wedding areas. Yerges spoke on the timing on when the seasonal employees pick up garbage at Firemen's Park. Weihert asked if our contracts ask how many attendees a party will have. Haberkorn spoke to that stating that we do have that on our contracts and that he wasn't expecting a party like this with 50 attendees listed and it being noon on a Thursday. Yerges spoke of having a 10 yard dumpster but it was taken from the budget when the building was first implemented.

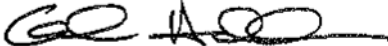
6. INFORMATION:

- a. Summer Concert: August 10 & September 7
- b. W&K Day/Weekend – September 8 & 9

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND NEXT MEETING.

- a. Next Meeting: September 6, 2023, at 5:00 pm

8. ADJOURNMENT. MOTION: Moved by Setz to adjourn, seconded by Vieth. VOICE VOTE: Motion Carried 4-0 Approximate time: 7:34 pm



Gabe Haberkorn
Park Coordinator