

CITY OF AMERY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS
July 22, 2019

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the City of Amery met on July 22, 2019 at City Hall in the Committee Meeting Room. Chairperson, Rick Van Blaricom called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Chairperson, Rick Van Blaricom; and Vice-Chairperson, Kris Vicker.

Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Administrator, Kim Moore and City Clerk-Treasurer, Patty Bjorklund.

Staff Absent: None.

Others Present: Mayor, Paul Isakson and Chad Leonard.

Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan (Draft):

Mayor, Isakson discussed the Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan for January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2025. The Plan was reviewed from the Polk County Environmental Services Committee and prepared by the Polk County Forest and Parks Department as well as the Land Information Department. The Draft Plan initiation is June 2019. The report assesses the existing recreation system in Polk County, identifies recreation needs and based upon public input and recreation standards, sets forth goals and objectives to be used as guidelines in formulating recreation plans, and establishes recommendations for improving the recreation system over the next five years. The submission of the report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the County and local units of government for a variety of Federal and State Aids. Non-profit groups, foundations, and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities. Mayor, Isakson noted that the City of Amery will need to possibly weigh in on the draft plan before it is completed by way of Public Input. He did note that in the plan it mentions canoeing. Kayaking should be included as that is more common. Coordination with other plans will be addressed. The draft plan does not mention city plans. The classification of City of Amery is a 9E Community – Senior Style. There is a higher focus on the seniors in the area. Possibly because of the senior living centers here. Chairperson, Van Blaricom wondered when the LMI Survey (Low to Moderate Income) was done, he thought a demographic was done. That might be something the committee could look at. Also, demographic on property tax payers as well could be looked at. This may help with the view that we may or may not be a higher populated Senior Community. The surveys that have been done show that the area is suitable for bike and walking traffic. He wanted to point out that for Hiking and Nature Walking it states: *“Approximately 95 trails exist within the county. Many of these 95 trails exist within villages, cities and Conservancy lands with the county. These trails are mapped out and can be found within the recreational viewer. The most notable trails are located at Apple River County Park, Lotus Lake County Park, County Forest, and Interstate Park.”* He stated that those trails are a mile or less in length. The mention of Stower is not even in that description. Stower Seven Lakes Trail is 13 miles long. Mayor, Isakson wanted the committee to know that there is no action needed at this time for the Draft Plan, however; he will keep everyone aware of the progress of this subject. Member, Van Blaricom noted that the signage at the trailhead should be different than Polk County’s signs. Brochures would be nice to be displayed across the bridge on the City of Amery’s side to show eating establishments, etc. Audience Member, Chad Leonard noted that a QR Code on each sign would be something that would be helpful. Signage costs and brochure costs should be included in the 2020 Budget. More discussion to follow in the future regarding the signage and brochure costs at a future meeting date and as part of the 2020 Budget discussion..

Seasonal Campground Sites:

North Park RV Campground Seasonal Sites was discussed. Currently there are 8 Improved RV sites with 50-AMP service, Water, sewer and electric services and fire ring is available. Free Wi-Fi is also available. There is a Picnic Shelter. Dump Station is available for a \$10 fee. There is a playground and a Canoe/Kayak Launch as well as a Fishing Pier and Basketball, Tennis and Frisbee Golf. Camp sites are currently \$30 per night and

may be used for RV and tent camping. Maximum duration of stay is seven days. Chairman, Van Blaricom noted that he would like to see more campers utilize the space. If there is a monthly fee established for just a few sites that may help with the use of the park.

Motion by Member, Vicker to recommend to the City Council to charge \$450 per month for 2 of the 8 sites, with one being used for the Camp Host. Seconded by Chairman, Van Blaricom. Motion Carried.

Ayes – 2

Nays – 0

Motion Carried

Bike and Pedestrian 5K and 2-Miler Trail:

Mayor, Isakson presented the Amery Schools 5K Wellness Loop Map to the committee as well as The Lakes Loop North Miler. He detailed the fact that the Amery Schools 5K Wellness Loop it will entail ½ mile of the Cattail Trailhead (Riverfront Park) and ½ mile of the Stower Seven Lakes State Trail. Amery Hospital has up to \$30,000 for development of the Wellness Loop. It will run along the Amery Cemetery on city-owned property. The sidewalks throughout the area need to be looked at. There are several that need to be installed as well as redone and maintained. Chairman, Van Blaricom would like to look at these costs in the near future for the 2020 Budget preparation. The Lakes Loop North 2 Miler will begin and end at the Cattail Trailhead (Riverfront Park) as this is where the bathrooms are, as well as the location with the greatest natural resource assets and scenic values. Rather than heading east over the Apple River trail bridge, trail users will go north along the Apple River Flowage utilizing the existing trail that will need to be paved and widened for optimum shared use. The path will bring people to Birch where they will cross over to Riverside Blvd. The Lakes Loop North 2 Miler will be part B of the project. The concept has been approved for both projects. Hopefully by the next Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting, Mayor, Isakson will be able to provide the numbers for the trails.

Motion by Vicker, seconded by Van Blaricom to adjourn at 5:50 p.m.

Ayes – 2

Nays – 0

Motion Carried

Patty Bjorklund, WCMC, CMC, CMTW
City Clerk-Treasurer