

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD
September 5, 2023

The meeting of the Park, Recreation & Forestry Board of the Village of Slinger was called to order by Chairman Stuetzgen at 300 Slinger Road, Slinger, WI 53086 at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 in accordance with the Notice of Minutes emailed to the members on Friday, September 1, 2023.

1. Roll Call & Notice of Meeting:	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Bob Stuetzgen	x	
Jeff Behrend	x	
Jennie Stonehouse	x	
Rick Kohl	x	
John Murray	x	
Jake Bergum		x
Scott Kusta	x	
	6	1

Also Present: Margaret Wilber, Village Administrator
 Josh Feller, Parks & Forestry Supervisor

Chair Stuetzgen asked Director Dobson if the open meeting law had been complied with in connection with the meeting, including the Notice of the meeting being sent to all who requested it and posting in three public locations. Director Dobson said yes.

2. Approval or Correction of Minutes: 8/7/23

Motion Murray/Kusta to approve the minutes from 8/7/23. Motion passed.

3. Public Comments

Dennis Lechner, 117 Parkway Drive, Slinger spoke in favor of a dog park at Rotary Park.
 Cathy Conway, 3164 State Road 164, spoke in favor of a dog park at Rotary Park.
 Christa Thorin, 527 Kettle Moraine Drive South, Slinger spoke in favor of a dog park at Rotary Park.
 Ken Tower, 513 Kettle Moraine Drive South, Slinger spoke in favor of a dog park at Rotary Park.
 Director Dobson read a letter from Village President Scott Stortz, 2000 Highland Court, Slinger, which spoke about being against a dog park at Rotary Park.
 Director Dobson read an email from Darla Kazikowski, 594 Mary Way, Slinger, which spoke about being against a dog park at Rotary Park.

4. Unfinished Business

A. Forestry Report

Supervisor Feller said that they had some trees down in Fireman’s Park and along the Ice Age Trail due to storm damage. Feller also stated that he is working with Goetz Nursery to order and organize our Fall street tree planting.

B. Recreation Report

Director Dobson said that the Fall/Winter activity guide was submitted to the printer on Friday. Dobson stated that registrations will open and the activity guide will be released to the public in the middle of September. Dobson said that the 2024 flag football season is off to a good start with the first games this Saturday at Community Park. Dobson also informed the board that little gridders flag football

begins on Wednesday and pee wee soccer is starting tonight.

C. Breuer Park Update

Director Dobson said that Breuer Park is moving along extremely well and making great progress. Dobson said that he is very optimistic that they will be playing baseball and softball here in the spring of 2024. Dobson told the board to expect to see a lot of progress in the next month.

D. Rotary Park dog park discussion

Considerable discussion took place regarding the possibility of adding a dog park at Rotary Park. The board discussed possible costs associated with the construction of the park as well as possible ongoing maintenance costs of the facility. There was also discussion of other possible capital projects needed in the parks and the need to prioritize. Motion Stonehouse/Kohl to recommend the land north of the parking lot at Rotary Park as a location for a future dog park to the Village Board. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Stonehouse, Stuetgen, Kohl, Murray, Kusta. Nays: Behrend. Motion carried 5-1.

5. New Business

A. 2024 Budget discussion

Director Dobson presented the 2024 preliminary budget to board members. Dobson said they are projecting an \$11,272 increase in the tax levy, which is a 8.5% increase from 2023. Dobson said they are projecting \$357,945.00 in revenues and \$357,945.00 in expenses for 2024. Dobson stated that the increased levy is due to increased cost for insurance, program equipment, and officials along with various other cost increases. Dobson said they are having a difficult time finding ways to increase revenues at a rate that will keep up with cost increases. Dobson stated that they will be forced to increase program and league fees in 2024 to help offset the added costs.

B. 2024 Capital budget discussion

Director Dobson said that the 2024 capital budget includes \$50,000 for repairing the parking lot at Fireman's park. Dobson stated they also have \$30,000 in the budget for fence replacement costs at Rueckl Fields. Dobson said that he believes they can push back the fence replacement at Rueckl. Some discussion took place about other possible capital improvements needed at the park. The list included; dog park, new ADA bleacher at Community Park, storage shed at Breuer Park, new light on Rueckl small field and lights on Breuer Park fields.

5. Other Discussion

- A.** Next meeting date will be Monday, October 2, 2023. Chair Stuetgen asked to add Rotary Park as a discussion item at the October meeting. Dobson said he will also add the capital budget.

6. Adjournment

Motion Kohl/Behrend to adjourn at 6:55 pm. Motion passed.

Submitted By

Tony Dobson, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director