

**MINUTES
PARK COMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 9, 2013
City Hall, Room 207
5:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Jerry Wiezbiskie, Brian Danzinger, Joseph Moore and James Warner

OTHERS PRESENT: Dawne Cramer, Dan Ditscheit, Attorney Kail Decker, Ald. Boyce, Mike Reed

A motion was made by Ald. Moore to approve the minutes of the last meeting as recorded, seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

A motion was made by Ald. Warner to adopt the agenda, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

1. Discussion/Action On The Proposed Joannes Park Neighborhood Association Sign Location

Staff explained the proposed sign design and location. The sign will be located on Mason Street, adjacent to the East River Trail on the west side of the river and the north side of Mason Street.

Ald. Warner made a motion to approve the proposed Joannes Park Neighborhood Association sign location on Mason Street between Goodall and Hartung Streets provided all proper permits and insurances are obtained, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

2. Discussion/Action On The Proposed Acquisition Of Parcels 21-6099 and 21-6137 Located Along Mahon Creek In The Proposed Largo Ridge Estates Subdivision Development

Ald. Danzinger made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

The Committee may convene in closed session pursuant to Sections 19.85(1)(e), Wis. Stats., for purposes of deliberating or negotiating the sale of public properties, investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business as necessary for competitive or bargaining reasons. The Committee may thereafter reconvene in open session pursuant to Section 19.85(2), Wis. Stats., to report the results of the closed session and consider the balance of the agenda.

Ald. Danzinger made a motion to return to regular business, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

Ald. Danzinger made a motion to authorize staff to proceed with negotiations as directed in closed session pertaining to a conservation easement as an alternative to

property acquisition of parcel 21-6099 and 21-6137 located along Mahon Creek in the proposed Largo Ridge Estates Subdivision Development, seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

*Ald. Moore made a motion to take item 4 out of order, seconded by Ald. Warner and carried; however these minutes will report items in numerical order.

3. Discussion/Action On The Purchase Of Parcel 8-289 at 1306 Main Street

Ald. Warner made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

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Ald. Moore made a motion to return to regular business, seconded by Ald. Danzinger and carried.

Ald. Danzinger made a motion to authorize staff to proceed with negotiations as directed in closed session pertaining to the purchase and lease agreement of parcel 8-289 at 1306 Main Street, seconded by Ald. Moore and motion carried.

4. Discussion/Action On The Proposed Nature-Based Four Year Old Kindergarten Program At The Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary

Staff explained that over the past year the Wildlife Sanctuary, Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and the Green Bay Area Public School District have been working together to develop a plan for a 4K nature-based program at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary. The goal of this program is to empower every 4K student to touch, smell, feel and experience nature first hand and prepare them for future academic life. The Wildlife Sanctuary will offer their site and all amenities and resources available on site. The Green Bay Area Public School District will provide the curriculum, assessment, teacher training, student support systems, equipment and teaching tools. The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay would provide professional guidance in environmental education and early childhood, student interns and an analysis of the nature program outcomes. The Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary would provide financial support, equipment and facility needs. The program would run Monday through Thursday, with morning and afternoon sessions and would follow the school calendar. Registration is open to students enrolled in the Green Bay Area Public School District as well as Green Bay city residents. There is no transportation provided. Registration begins on January 17 on a first come, first served basis with a limit of 20 students per classroom. The nature-based 4K staff would be a team teaching approach with a certified teacher and a Naturalist.

Staff reviewed the budget. Dollars are provided by the Department of Public Instruction. The Green Bay Area Public School District would reimburse the Wildlife Sanctuary \$3,860 per student with 32 students, which would allow \$123,520 to start the program. The Green Bay Area Public School District has committed \$25,000 for administrative support and \$15,000 for materials and teaching tools. They would reimburse the Wildlife Sanctuary \$2,300 per student with 32 students which would allow \$73,600. We received a one-time \$5,000 donation from the Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary. Staff will apply for additional grants when the program begins. The City's responsibilities would include hiring the certified teacher and Naturalist. The teacher salary is \$37,761.47 and is a contractual position with no benefits. The Naturalist cost would be \$20,051.71. Additional maintenance employee costs would be \$7,920.00. There will be additional costs of \$771.60 for paper and cleaning supplies and utility costs of \$594.00. These expenses total \$66,448.78.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked when we could apply for grants. Staff responded this spring. Ald. Wiezbiskie asked who would be hiring the teacher. Staff explained that the Human Resources Department would be responsible for the recruitment and the interviewing committee would consist of park staff and Green Bay Area Public School Staff. Ald. Wiezbiskie asked how much time our staff would give to this program. Staff explained that nature education is a major component of our mission and is done daily at the Sanctuary.

Ald. Danzinger stated this will be a fantastic opportunity. He asked how confident we are in the enrollment numbers. Christine Fabian, 249 Patricia Lane, Wrightstown, is Principal at Early Learning Center and Supervisor for Pre-School Programs for Green Bay Area Public School District, responded she is confident in the enrollment. Today she spoke with five different parents who inquired about this particular program and expressed interest in enrolling. On Monday she had a parent ask if they could be put on a wait list for two years down the road for this program. The interest is there and people want something different for their 4 year olds. Theresa Willems, 1420 Spring Street, Sobieski, is Executive Director of Pre-K Elementary at the Green Bay Area Public School District stated our experience is that we fill these choice programs and have to create a wait list.

Ald. Danzinger asked about space at the Wildlife Sanctuary. Staff reviewed the classroom space available. Ald. Danzinger asked if the Naturalist hired will only be working this program or would they be available to do other things for the Sanctuary. Staff explained that at this time there is no additional hours budgeted to accommodate this. We do have two Naturalists on our Sanctuary staff.

Ald. Danzinger made a motion to authorize staff to provide the proposed nature-based four year old kindergarten program at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, seconded by Ald. Moore, and motion carried.

5. Director's Report

Our efforts of flooding ice/hockey rinks have been destroyed due to snow storms and warm weather. The Ameriprise Ice Rink on CityDeck has been very successful with outstanding crowds.

The Personnel Committee approved our requests to hire positions that were left vacant due to the hiring freeze. The positions are four park maintenance workers, one building custodian for City Hall, one part-time cleaner and one facility equipment supervisor.

Triangle Ski Area has been very popular and extremely busy over the holidays. We had several days where there were waiting lines for tube rentals.

February 2 will be Frosty Family Night at the Sanctuary from 5-8 p.m. This evening features night walks, horse-drawn wagon rides, a bonfire with s'mores, crafts, chocolate dipping, live folk music, night cross-country skiing, snowshoe walks and a raffle.

Today we received a calendar from American Coaster Enthusiasts who visited Bay Beach in July 2012. They stated it was their pleasure to place the Zippin Pippin in the spotlight in their calendar which is distributed internationally. They thanked us for being a delightful host. The Zippin Pippin is featured in the month of June as well as in the inside of the front and back covers. It is listed as one of the most highlighted coasters of 2012.

Ald. Danzinger made a motion to receive and place on file the Director's Report, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

Ald. Danzinger made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.