

# **PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Wednesday, May 15, 2013**

**City Hall, Room 207 5:30 P.M.**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Ald. Steuer, Ald. Boyce, Dawne Cramer, Dan Ditscheit

A motion was made by Ald. Moore to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2013 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 a request by Chappell School to donate and install some playground equipment at Chappell Park/School.

Staff explained where the playground equipment would be located. The School has received donations to purchase this equipment and wishes to install it on city property. The School would be responsible for the cost and installation. Equipment selected would meet all safety standards.

Ald. Steuer said he was in favor of this donation.

Ald. Moore made a motion to approve the request by Chappell School to install some playground equipment at Chappell Park/School contingent upon:

- All costs are the responsibility of the Green Bay Area Public School District.
- Green Bay Area Public School District is responsible for installation.
- All proper installation and code requirements being met.

The motion was seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

2. Discussion/Action on a request by West High School to install a community garden at Fisk Park.

Staff explained that the garden is located near the existing greenhouse in the back of West High School. It will consist of tilled garden beds, ADA accessible raised beds and will include a 3 sisters garden located in a fenced area. There will be a key sign out system located in West High School's main office.

The mission is to provide fresh, healthy foods to West High School students and community members and to create community inclusion by representing and celebrating various plantings that represent different cultures.

The garden growers would be West High students, Franklin Middle School students, participants from Fort Howard School Summer Playground Program and Fisk Park Playground Program. We would provide education programs and

enrichment programs. All produce will be shared with the community except for the fundraising days. Fundraising Day dollars will be used to purchase plants.

Funding is from two grants, The University of Wisconsin – Green Bay Strategic Class Grant and the School Spirit Award from the Green Bay Community Foundation. These grants will pay for the garden operation and fund a West High School staff member to manage the garden. Maintenance would be the responsibility of West High School staff and students during the school year and AmeriCorps and Fisk Neighborhood Association during the summer months.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked who is responsible for liabilities. Staff said that would be the School District.

Ald. Moore asked if this is green space now. Staff said yes.

Ald. Moore made a motion to open the floor, seconded by Ald. Danzinger and carried.

E-Ben Grisby 1103 West Packard, Appleton, special education teacher and an advisor for this community garden, said they worked to design a garden that is multi functional and can be used throughout the year.

Kayla Viste, a AmeriCorps Member, said she is helping to plan the gardens, and assisting students to bring in leadership development activities so they will walk away with more knowledge than how to grow vegetables and fruits.

Ald. Moore asked if students were involved in the grant writing process. Mr. Grisby said yes.

Ald. Steuer asked the size of the green space. Staff explained it is roughly 80' x 80'.

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

Ald. Warner made a motion to approve the request by West High School to install a community garden at Fisk Park contingent upon:

- All costs will be the responsibility of the Green Bay Area Public School District.
- West High School is responsible for maintenance and management of the garden.
- All proper permits and insurances being obtained.

Motion was seconded by Ald. Danzinger and carried.

3. Discussion/Action on request by East River Trail Task Force to fundraise for the East River Trail connection.

The East River Trail Task Force is seeking permission to initiate a fundraising campaign for the trail. The Task Force consists of community members, city and county employees, private business, neighborhood associations and

citizens. They are in the beginning stages of the project. The first step is to get Park Committee approval to initiate the fundraising campaign. They have not determined all of their fundraising goals at this time. The project would happen over several years. This would be developed in phases. It would consist of seeking donations, bonding and grant applications. Once they complete the fundraising proposal they would bring it back to the Park Committee for approval.

Ald. Moore made a motion to open the floor, seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

Crystal Osman said she would be happy to answer any questions.

Ald. Moore made a motion to close the floor, seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

Ald. Moore made a motion to approve the request by the East River Trail Task Force to initiate a fundraising proposal for the East River Trail and bring it back to the Park Committee for approval, seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

4. Discussion/Action on a resolution in support of a DNR Stewardship Grant Application to purchase property for the East River Trail and proposed canoe/kayak launch.

Staff explained that on May 1 we re-submitted a Stewardship Grant Application to purchase the property needed for the proposed kayak/canoe launch along the East River Trail along with purchasing one adjacent residential property. Both properties are needed for the trail and are owned by the same property owner. The total project cost is \$200,000 with the Department of Natural Resources paying \$100,000. The City bonded \$100,000 in 2012 for this project. The grant application process requires a formal resolution showing that the City supports this project, adequate funds are budgeted, and designates a personal contact for the Department of Natural Resources to work with.

Ald. Danzinger asked if this grant has a time line. Staff explained there is always a two year stipulation on the grant but you can request an extension if necessary.

Ald. Danzinger made a motion to approve the resolution to support the Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Grant Application needed for the canoe/kayak launch for the East River Trail located on St. George Street, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

5. Discussion/Action on a resolution in support of a DNR Stewardship Grant Application to reconstruct the Fox River Trail from Main Street to the East River.

Staff explained the second Stewardship Grant that we applied for is to replace the section of the Fox River Trail from Main Street to the East River. This proposal was to replace a section of the 6' wide brick trail with a 10' wide brick trail. The existing trail is in poor condition and is too narrow for the present amount of users. The total cost of the project is \$335,000. The grant is a 50/50

grant with the Department of Natural Resources paying \$167,500 and the City paying \$167,500. The City is bonding \$150,000 in 2013 for this project. The remaining \$17,500 would come from our paving account. The Department of Natural Resources requires a resolution as part of the grant process.

Staff distributed a map showing the existing trail and proposed trail.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked about the 10' wide trail. Staff explained that 12' is preferred trail size; 10' is adequate in this area.

Ald. Steuer asked if we should be getting away from building another brick trail. Staff explained originally steel edging was used which moved over time causing the bricks to move. Also this section of the trail was built too close to the river wall. That soil settled causing the trail to settle. We are proposing to remove the steel edging and replace it with concrete edging. This will stabilize the trail. We will also install it further from the river wall. Keep in mind this trail is over twenty years old and has served its purpose.

Ald. Danzinger asked why we have chosen brick versus blacktop. Staff explained that twenty years ago the decision was made to go with brick from Main Street to Monroe Avenue to improve the aesthetics of the downtown. Staff feels this is still a good fit for the downtown area.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked if the Department of Natural Resources is involved. Staff explained that if we disturb more than one acre of soil we have to apply for a DNR permit. This is a Department of Natural Resources grant so there will be some oversight.

Ald. Warner made a motion to approve the resolution to support the Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Grant Application for the replacement of the Fox River Trail from Main Street to the East River, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

6. Discussion/Action on accepting a donation of four park benches by Perkins, Maple Arches and Mather Heights Neighborhood Associations through the Neighborhood Association Mini Grant Application to be placed on the West Side Trail.

Maple Arches, Perkins Park and Mather Heights Neighborhood Associations combined to apply for a Mini Grant through the City's Neighborhood Association Mini-Grant Application process and have received the grant. The grant was to purchase and install four park benches along the West Side Trail. They wanted to provide benches for bird watching, reading, picnic areas or just a place to sit and chat with neighbors. The Park Department would work with the group to install the benches. We would order the benches. They would be installed after construction of the trail is complete, approximately mid to late July. All costs of the project are the responsibility of the neighborhood associations.

Ald. Moore asked the cost of the benches. Staff explained the cost of the bench is \$900 including installation.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked where the benches will be placed. Staff would work with the neighborhoods groups to decide the best placement of the benches. Ald. Wiezbiskie asked if there would be plaques placed on the benches. Staff explained this is just the cost of the bench and installation. You could make it a memorial bench in the future but that is not the intent at this time. Ald. Wiezbiskie asked if the grant application was submitted by three different people. Staff explained that the grant was submitted as one grant for three associations. Ald. Wiezbiskie asked what would happen if one entity dropped out. Staff explained that we would move forward with the other two associations.

Ald. Steuer asked if there was a time frame. Staff explained that benches would not be installed until the trail was completed but we will start working with the associations on placement locations now. Ald. Steuer explained that all three neighborhood associations are in his district and he is proud that they came together to work on this.

Ald. Warner made a motion to accept a donation of four park benches by Perkins, Maple Arches and Mather Heights Neighborhood Associations through the Neighborhood Association Mini Grant Application to be placed on the West Side Trail contingent upon:

- All costs will be the responsibility of the Neighborhood Associations.
- Final site, design and placement of benches must be approved by park staff.
- Once installed the benches become property of the City of Green Bay.
- All proper permits and insurances being obtained.

Ald. Moore seconded the motion and it carried.

7. Discussion/Action on the following item referred to the Park Committee by the City Council on May 7, 2013. To revise bullet #8 of the draft resolution to read "visitors" rather than "tourism", recommend Council approval of the amended resolution supporting the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway and refer the resolution to the Park Committee for additional consideration.

Staff explained when we originally received this request from this group pertaining to the resolution we referred this to the Planning Department because it wasn't only about a trail. This was more of a regional issue that involved waterways, economic development, shipping issues, proper land uses, and industrial concerns. We were then going to bring it back to the Park Committee to discuss Park issues as needed. This group is seeking approval from the City for their resolution supporting their group efforts to accomplish their goals. The copy of the resolution was distributed along with an information package they wanted to share with the committee. Their goals are listed in the center of the page. On the second page is listed a request for an annual request of \$150 toward their mission. We would need to address both of these items.

Ald. Moore made a motion to open the floor, seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

Mike Lizotte, resident of Oshkosh and Executive Director of Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway, and Jim O'Rourke, resident of Allouez, member of the trails committee, Brown County Historical Society, local realtor, and serves on Mayor's Beautification Committee, Candice Mortara, Board President, spoke.

Mr. Lizotte reviewed a PowerPoint of the organization. Areas discussed were:

- Who we are
- The Parkway on property rights. The group said they fully support property owner's rights to use their property in any way they decide.
- Benefits they strive to deliver
- Who their customers are
- Projects already underway
- The Great River Voyage Reenactment
- Municipal, Heritage and Business partners

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked why Neenah was not being shown as a supporter. Ms. Mortara answered that they were meeting with Neenah Park and Recreation Department tomorrow. Ald. Wiezbiskie asked if they had issues with property rights. Mr. Lizotte explained that there was a concern about an issue with an application we put in with the National Park Service, but that application was turned down by Congress last year and we have no intention to pursue it. Ald. Wiezbiskie asked if this would eliminate political issues. Mr. Lizotte explained that they haven't seen a billboard since then. We posted on our website a response from Rep. Petrie giving his staff's understanding of federal law and what power would or would not go to an organization getting a Heritage Parkway status. Part of it may have been a misunderstanding. We originally had a map with a red line showing the riverway and that may have been misunderstood.

Candice Mortara, said they did a number of community meetings to address the misunderstandings and concerns about private property rights. Many individuals did attend. As soon as they heard that the National Park Service was no longer involved and they were educated about the projects we are doing, the concerns seemed to go away.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked if they have a good relationship with the Department of Natural Resources. They have a member of the DNR on their board.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked how they handle property owners who do not want people on their property. Mr. Lizotte explained this would be state law. You probably have a lot more issues with hunters than with paddlers. We are about connecting communities; the waterway is what connects us. We would like to see more people utilizing the waterway. If there are cases of trespassing, you would work with the local community. If you give them great places to visit, they don't need to go on private property. Landing sites will be published in all of our literatures and we would state "please don't go on private property".

Ald. Moore asked if they have a map showing the area of land they cover. Mr. Lizotte explained the boundary was necessary for the National Park Service. Now we do not need the boundary. We are more about the history and the

stories; we do not have a land boundary. Our area includes the lower Wisconsin River. Ald. Moore stated you do not have many communities as municipal partners. Ms. Mortara stated we are working with Sauk Prairie and Prairie du Chien very closely to approve new board members.

Ald. Moore asked if you would support or oppose Brown County and the Neville Museum bringing in a ship or with the Neville Museum being a partner of yours? Ms. Mortara stated we haven't talked about it at the board level but I would support that. We worked with the Neville Museum to apply for a NOAA Grant for a fish habitat and river bank restoration.

Ald. Moore asked you stated you were a young organization but haven't you been around for fifteen years? Ms. Mortara answered the concept has been around for many years but we received our 501(c)3 in 2009.

Jim O'Rourke, lives in Allouez, has been with the group for three years, said there was confusion when they were working with the National Park Service. We are pro-economic, pro-development, we have been working on projects such as the canoe/kayak launches you spoke earlier about tonight.

Ald. Moore asked how were 17 different lock sites transferred to the state? Ms. Mortara stated they were owned by US Army Corp of Engineers. When commercial shipping left the area they wanted to close them permanently. A local group, Friends of the Fox, asked that the locks be transferred to the State. Friends of the Fox were predecessor to our group. They helped do to the lock projects and they helped create our group.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked if we are under any obligation to pay more than one time the fee of \$150 per year or can we pay for just one year. Ms. Mortara answered there is no obligation.

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

Ald. Danzinger asked staff if all projects brought forward were donations of materials, if we would still be responsible for installation and maintenance, and that this would have to go before Park Committee for approval. Staff said yes. Ald. Danzinger asked if this resolution needed to be modified, would it go to the Law Department for a final revision? Staff said yes.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked if it would come back to the Park Committee. Staff said you could make that motion.

Ald. Moore said he is not against protecting heritage and enhancing it. The bullet points listed on the resolution we already do as a City and as a Committee. My biggest concern is that I still don't know how to answer constituent's questions. A political organization battled so hard against this organization. I don't want to rubber stamp it at the City Council meeting That puts us in a bulls eye. The City of Green Bay would be a feather in their cap. We are the biggest community. I don't see the huge advantage to the City. We

already do this. This is why I didn't want to support this resolution. I won't vote to support this resolution tonight.

Ald. Danzinger said he did some research on this. Other organizations that have similar approaches don't have any influence in the acquisition of property and zoning. Look at the Heritage Trail in Green Bay. This trail was put forward by an organization that was not looking to acquire property. They were looking to highlight certain elements within the city that had historical value along this route. No property was acquired or in any way influenced. We as a committee did not make any purchases to facilitate that trail. This is a different situation but it has a lot of parallels with this in that it is not an elected group; there is not financial gain or influence from a political level; still trying to mark historical value within a region. Based on that, is there any way we can move forward?

Ald. Moore said he looks at these 17 lock sites that were federal and are now owned by the state. I see political clout and I don't know how much political clout approving this resolution has in the future.

Ald. Danzinger said he was going to refer this resolution to the Law Department for revision to include language specific to private property acquisition as well as zoning rights. Staff was right in talking about the Planning Department being a part of this. This needs to be a multi-headed approach. It's not one committee giving them a full ride. We are looking at this for property purchase and economic development as well as city planning. If there was a way to incorporate that in the resolution I would be in favor of that.

Ald. Moore said he is in favor of referring this to the Law Department for further review.

Ald. Danzinger made a motion to refer the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway resolution to the Law Department for revisions to include language specific to private property acquisition and zoning rights and to bring this item back to the Park Committee for a final review, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

## 8. Director's Report

The Golden Memories Ball was a great success with over 350 attending.

We were notified yesterday that we received our Forestry Grant for \$125,000 for the mitigation of Emerald Ash Borer. We received this grant for our proactive approach to this issue, being leaders in methods and procedures, and for the professionalism brought forth. Our Foresters, Mark Freberg and Brian Pelot, have done a wonderful job of putting this project together. They will be working with the DNR to do create a video which will be used state-wide.

On May 7 Proctor & Gamble gave us a \$7,000 grant to plant 82 trees at Arnie Wolff Sports Center. They also provided volunteers to plant them. We certainly appreciate this donation. They are truly a great community partner.

Baird Creek Preservation prairie burn took place on May 8 and was very successful.

Bay Beach had a very successful opening weekend. Last weekend was very cold.

Staff is finalizing restoration details of the Sea Dragon. DPW is doing specifications for the walks and queue lines. The Friends of Bay Beach have hired Shade Today to construct the waterfall in front of the ride.

The West Side Trail construction has begun. All vegetation has been cleared. Installation of dirt, fill and gravel has begun.

Bay Beach BBQ Bash is June 1, 2013 from 11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

On May 7 we introduced our wolf pups to the media at our Spring Wings event. It was well attended with over 500 people visiting the new baby wolves.

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

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