

# **PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Wednesday, June 12, 2013**

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

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

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

A motion was made by Ald. Warner to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2013 meeting as recorded, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

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

1. Discussion/Action on the amended resolution supporting the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway.

Staff indicated that this group had given a presentation at the last Park Committee meeting. Issues and areas of concern were centered on private property rights, boundaries of the parkway, level of influence the organization has and the \$150 annual donation. This committee sent the resolution back to the Law Department for revision to include language specific to private property acquisition and zoning rights.

Attorney Decker reviewed the amended resolution. He indicated we removed the \$150 fee. He stated he added additional language referring to one provision that discusses private property interests.

It very clearly states in the resolution that your support of this Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway does not in any way indicate that you support a change in zoning or acquiring private property.

Ald. Warner made a motion to approve the amended resolution supporting the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

2. Discussion/Action on acquiring outlet 5 of the Baird Creek Preserve Subdivision Development located off of Huron Road.

Staff referred to the map with outlet 5 outlined. This area is now referred to as outlet 8. This subdivision of the Baird Creek Preserve is located by Huron Road and Whittier Drive. In 2009 the City attempted to purchase this property. The property went into foreclosure before it could be subdivided, therefore it could not be purchased. We have new information regarding this property.

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

Ald. Moore made a motion to authorize staff to purchase what was formerly outlot 5 and is now outlot 8 of the Baird Creek Preserve subdivision development as discussed in closed session, seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

3. Discussion/Action on the proposed athletic field renovations for 2013.

Staff distributed maps showing the two sites for renovation at Beaver Dam Park Diamond #2 and East River Van Beaver Diamond #1. \$295,000 is allotted for renovations of these fields. Beaver Dam Park is located at McArthur School on the west side. There are two lighted diamonds at this site. Beaver Dam #2 has very poor drainage and is hardly ever used. Our concept is to make Beaver Dam #2 a lighted softball field. This will allow us a three diamond lighted softball complex. Games can be held in one location versus dual sites, which reduces maintenance and travel time.

The second site is East River Van Beaver Park. We are proposing to relocate one softball field that has a very short outfield fence. This field has not been used in many years and needs a lot of work. We propose to make this facility a two diamond baseball complex.

Staff explained the proposed renovations to field #2 at Beaver Dam Park. Drainage is terrible so we are unable to use this as a baseball field. This area is currently used as a cricket field. The field will be slightly moved, all of the fencing including the backstop will be replaced and drain tile will be installed. We will replace the infield mix and add a warning track in the outfield. Concrete pads for the player's bench areas will be installed. Concrete bleacher areas will be added behind the backstop. Minor grading and seeding will occur. An ADA accessible walk from the school asphalt play area to the field will be added. Construction will begin late summer or early fall.

At East River Van Beaver we are doing almost identical work as described for Beaver Dam #2. The main difference is the drainage in this field is good so we will not need drain tile. However we will have to add 18" to 2' of fill to the right outfield foul line area. This project will include a major relocation of the field.

Once these renovations are completed, if any remaining funds are available, we would add lighting to Beaver Dam #2. We will look at economical ways to accomplish this. We will explore using donated or salvaged wood poles and

fixtures. We will ask NWTC to install the poles. They have used this as a training experience in the past.

Ald. Warner had some questions pertaining to the warning track on Beaver Dam #2. Staff explained its purpose, particularly as it relates to a safety issue.

Ald. Warner made a motion to approve athletic field renovations at Beaver Dam Park Diamond #2 and East River Van Beaver Park Diamond #1 as presented by staff, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

#### 4. Director's Report

An intern picnic is occurring at Bay Beach tonight. Interns from the City as well as other companies are attending.

Groundbreaking has occurred for the waterfall by the Sea Dragon. Concrete is being poured tomorrow. The Finance Committee has approved the artist to paint the ship and the dragon heads. The fiberglass repair on the boat is also in process.

Pools opened this weekend with a cool start.

Playgrounds opened June 11 at 1:00 p.m.

We have completed the paving on the West Side Trail and are in the process of site restoration. This project is currently ahead of schedule.

We had 562 students at STEM Day at Bay Beach which is Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. They had to complete a quiz booklet which included determining speed, velocity and ride measurements.

On Friday, June 7, seventy-six 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Nicolet School came to Bay Beach to study the Zippin Pippin. The curriculum included the subject of gravity and how it relates to the Zippin Pippin ride. Their day concluded with a free ride.

The Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary are sponsoring three invasive species interns this summer. Their projects consist of mapping and removing invasive species as well as transplanting native flowers and ferns to areas within the Sanctuary.

Don and Rick Renard donated 4,000 trout to be placed in our lagoon for our urban fishing program. We thank them for another great donation to this program.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked about the wolves. Staff talked about the naming contest that is currently taking place. We would like to add more wolves to this exhibit. Our original exhibit had six wolves and we would like to obtain that number again. The Oneida Nation is working with us to produce the wolf exhibit. Ald. Wiezbiskie asked if we could introduce wolves within one exhibit from separate

packs. Staff explained that if we get them together within an early time frame, they adapt.

Ald. Moore indicated he would like to recognize Rich Grunwald who will retire July 5 after 42 years of employment with the Park Department. Interestingly his last day he will be cleaning up after the fireworks, which was what he did his first day.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked for the projected opening date for the Sea Dragon. Staff said the goal was to have it running this season.

We are working with an architect to design a conceptual plan for the west end great shelter.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked about relocating the track for the train. Staff indicated we are looking at doing that in late fall or early next spring. An interesting component of this project is that we are using wood from Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) tree removals for the train ties. Also we are looking at moving the slide stairs to the opposite side of the ride which would allow us a larger area to install the future boardwalk.

We are currently working with an artist and a local metal works company to design a sculpture that would use pieces from the original Zippin Pippin, such as chains and gears, to create a sculpture to be placed in the middle of the planter located in the center of the Zippin Pippin plaza.

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

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