

# **PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Wednesday, July 24, 2013**

**City Hall, Room 207 5:15 P.M.**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Dawne Cramer, Dan Ditscheit, Ald. Steuer, Ald. Kocha, Ald. Brunette, Attorney Tony Wachewicz, James Andersen, Bill Kloiber

A motion was made by Ald. Warner to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2013 meeting as recorded, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

A motion was made by Ald. Moore to adopt the agenda taking items in this order 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

1. Discussion/Action on a request by the Navarino Neighborhood Association to install a little library and message board in Navarino Park.

Staff has met with the Navarino Neighborhood Association to discuss their request. The Neighborhood Association has already purchased their little library and message board. We have discussed with them that no advertising is allowed in the park on the message board which they have agreed to. Staff would work with the group to determine the location.

Ald. Wiezbiskie stated that Schmitt Park has started this program and it has been very successful.

Ald. Warner made a motion to approve the request of the Navarino Neighborhood Association to install a little library and message board in Navarino Park contingent upon:

- Navarino Neighborhood Association would be responsible for all costs of the construction, materials and installation.
- Once installed it becomes City property.
- No advertising to be allowed.
- Park staff approval of the layout and installation plans.
- All materials must meet City building and inspection codes.
- Navarino Neighborhood is responsible for managing the reading content, damage, maintenance and repairs of the Little Library and message board.
- All proper permits and insurances being obtained.

The motion was seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

2. Discussion/Action on accepting two soccer goals from the Sunrise Optimist Club for Fort Howard Park.

The Sunrise Optimist Group's mission is to help kids. One of the primary areas they work with is Jefferson School. They provide many opportunities for these

kids at the school such as providing Christmas gifts, trips, scholarships, a day at Bay Beach and a soccer field. We have partnered with this group to provide a soccer field at Fort Howard Park. The Club provided nets and balls to the school. This group donated \$2,000 to the Park Department for soccer goals. Our recommendation is to approve accepting the donation of the two soccer goals from the Sunrise Optimist Group to be placed at Fort Howard soccer field. We would also like to thank the Sunrise Optimist Club for their donation as well as for everything they do to enrich the lives of the children and their families in the Fort Howard Park area.

Ald. Wiezbiskie sincerely thanked the group on behalf of the committee for their dedication to these children.

Ald. Moore made a motion to approve the acceptance of two soccer goals from the Sunrise Optimist Club for Fort Howard Park, seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

3. Discussion/Action on accepting a donation of little libraries for parks from Sam's Club.

Sam's Club Community Membership team approached the City about providing a partnership opportunity. In their efforts to provide a life-long learning opportunity to the community, Sam's Club has committed to providing little libraries to parks, neighborhoods and school sites to make this goal a reality. Green Bay Sam's Club is donating \$25,000 to the Parks Department. This grant will be utilized to purchase the little libraries, materials, supplies, labor and a maintenance repair fund for the program. We would work with groups such as we have in the previous situations with parks and Neighborhood Associations that already have them. If they adopt one, they would be responsible for all the requirements of managing it. We would be looking to place 10-12 of these soon, followed by another 10-12 in spring of 2014. Depending on the need, if dollars remain we could work to provide books as well as the possibility of partnering with a food pantry to purchase canned goods to be donated to the pantry based on the number of books the children read. This isn't the first time Sam's Club has partnered with us. For years they have helped sponsor our Playground Program by supplying prizes and food product for the Kiddie Karnival and Parade. We are truly excited about this project and the numerous avenues and opportunities we can venture into as a result of it. We recommend approval of accepting the donation of \$25,000 from the Green Bay Sam's Club for the little library program. We sincerely thank the Green Bay Sam's Club for their strong commitment to providing awesome opportunities to enrich the quality of life within our community.

Ald. Wiezbiskie questioned if this is similar to the little library programs we just spoke about. Staff replied yes.

Ald. Steuer questioned how many of these we presently have in parks. Staff responded we have six of them in parks; however there are other neighborhood areas that have them in areas such as on private property and church properties. He asked if these are popular. Staff replied yes.

Ald. Warner thanked Sam's for their generous donation.

Ald. Warner made the motion to approve the acceptance of the donation of \$25,000 from the Green Bay Sam's Club for the Little Libraries Program, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

4. Discussion/Action on a request by Wisconsin Public Service to release a partial easement on part of parcel 11-15-A at the northwest corner of Adams and Elm Streets.

Staff asked the Committee to refer to the map included in their packet. The area we are referring to is the area outlined in yellow. Staff was approached by Wisconsin Public Service to request a release of the easement. Concerns we had in addressing this issue is that it is our only access to allow us to maintain and deal with issues and maintenance of our trail.

Both groups have been having discussions to try to make this happen. Attorney Wachewicz is here to talk about their discussions. Attorney Wachewicz said additional details have come forward and we are still working on those. We would need additional time, however we thought it was important to bring this forward to make you aware of the issue. We certainly think we have alternatives. We just need to work them out.

Ald. Moore asked if this is for additional parking. Attorney Wachewicz said we are looking for additional security to the site.

Ald. Warner made a motion to refer the request by Wisconsin Public Service to release a partial easement on part of parcel 11-15-A at the northwest corner of Adams and Elm Streets back to staff and the Law Department for further review, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

5. Discussion/Action on a request by Eagle Scout Eric Erb to install batting cages at Perkins Park baseball field.

At our May 7, 2013 Park Committee meeting, Mr. Erb addressed the committee for a request to install a pair of double batting cages at Perkins Park Babe Ruth Field. The Park Committee requested that he receive approval of his plan from the Boy Scout Council and that he meet with the Neighborhood Association to bring his item back to the Park Committee for final approval. Mr. Erb has received approval of his plan from the Boy Scout Council. He plans on attending the July 30 Neighborhood Association meeting. His issue has become time sensitive. If he has to wait until the next Park Committee meeting he would be delayed another three weeks which would impact his fundraising efforts. Staff is recommending that we approve his request contingent on there being no issues at the July 30 Neighborhood Association meeting. This way he would be able to start fundraising efforts prior to the completion of his baseball season.

Ald. Warner asked if we were aware of any issues or concerns the Neighborhood Association may have. Staff said they spoke with the current president and she wanted to know where the batting cages would be located.

They did not want them back by the apartments. Staff indicated we would locate them behind the bleachers which would be far from the apartments. The president felt the Neighborhood Association would support this location. She was neutral about a firm decision until presented to her entire committee.

Ald. Steuer stated because the Neighborhood Association is going through so much transition, he didn't want any issues for Mr. Erb.

Ald. Warner made motion to approve a request by Eagle Scout Eric Erb to install batting cages at Perkins Park baseball field contingent upon there being no objections or concerns presented at the Perkins Neighborhood Association meeting of July 30, 2013, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

6. Discussion/Action on painting the Bay Beach logo on the Quincy Street water tower.

A few weeks back we were approached with the idea of printing the Bay Beach logo on the water tower located on Quincy Street. Staff met with Director Quirk and her staff to discuss this issue. The Water Department painted this tower last year. We requested a quote from the painter who did the work. That quote came in at \$26,200. Due to the fact that this water tower was just painted, we would have to utilize the same painter to maintain the existing warranty. Director Quirk and I discussed the possibility of the Water Department partnering with us on this project. On July 8 this concept was presented to the Green Bay Water Commission and they were very supportive of the request. The Green Bay Water Commission committed no less than \$5,000 but up to \$7,500 if we could match the donation and the money would need to be used this year. We will be able to match the donation with money from the Friends of Bay Beach who absolutely loved the idea. The remaining \$1,200 would come from the Bay Beach Development Fund. We have addressed the issue with Ald. Moore and the Neighborhood Association who said there were no concerns.

Ald. Moore encouraged staff to make this happen. He believes it's a good advertising value for the cost.

Director Quirk indicated that due to temperatures required for painting, we need to act on this quickly to complete this project this year.

Ald. Warner made a motion to approve the request to paint the Bay Beach logo on the Quincy Street water tower, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

7. Discussion/Action on a request by Ald. Steuer to look at vacant green spaces/outlots that could be looked at as potential sites for community gardens.

In our follow up conversation with Ald. Steuer on his communication, the request was for green spaces and outlots, not parkland. Although we have allowed some garden areas within parks, we are not looking to turn parkland into gardens. In unique situations where we can accommodate those additions, we did. Ald. Steuer's request is for vacant land and outlots throughout the City and the possibility of partnerships with Brown County Extension as they run gardens throughout the County. The Planning Department would be better able to

provide the information and ownership of vacant lots. He is also looking into neighborhood associations and community groups to maintain and manage these which would be under the responsibility of the Neighborhood Division within the Planning Department.

Ald. Moore indicated that RDA is already working with Schreiber Foods and the Neighborhoods Associations for providing community gardens. They are looking to place gardens on RDA owned lots. In talking with staff of the Neighborhood Division, they recommended referring this to them for those discussions to occur.

Ald. Moore made the motion to refer to the Planning Department the request by Ald. Steuer to look at vacant green spaces/outlots that could be looked at as potential sites for community gardens, seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

8. Discussion/Action on a request by Ald. Danzinger to waive the rental fee for the use of the Showmobile on September 14, 2013 for the Guinness World Record Largest Zumba Class event to be held at Lambeau Field.

Ald. Danzinger requested the use of the Showmobile for his world's largest Zumba class record event. The Park & Recreation Department would like to partner with him and other various community groups to provide this event. The daily cost of the Showmobile is \$225. Ald. Danzinger is requesting this fee be waived. We wouldn't waive the cost of labor for the operator. These dollars are the responsibility of the event organizer. They do not exist in the operating budget.

Ald. Wiezbiskie questioned what the operator costs would be. Staff said it depends on the number of hours the operator is needed at the event. This event could cost approximately \$400-500 dollars.

Ald. Danzinger says he is hoping to have 10,000 people at Lambeau Field on that day. He is also requesting all Alders to be present. He believes this is a good event that will bring tourists to the City. The previous record is around 6,700 people. He is aware of the operator costs and has already gained sponsorship to pay for it.

Ald. Warner made a motion to approve the request by Ald. Danzinger to waive the rental fee for the use of the Showmobile on September 14, 2013 for the Guinness World Record Largest Zumba Class event to be held at Lambeau Field, seconded by Ald. Moore. Ald. Danzinger abstained from voting. Motion carried.

9. Discussion/Action on a request by Ald. Kocha on behalf of Ed Langenberg to remove four Linden trees located on City property at 607 Ravenswood Drive.

Staff explained that Mr. Langenberg lives at 610 Ravenswood Drive. The trees we are referring to are across the street at 607 Ravenswood located in front of the United Presbyterian Church.

Ald. Kocha summarized that Linden trees were removed from Mr. Langenberg's terrace. He states that the same trees across the street were planted by the City after he complained about the trees on his side of the street and feels they have been planted in spite. Ald. Kocha doesn't believe that is the case but she agreed to put this on the agenda so he has the opportunity to speak with this committee about his concerns.

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

Ed Langenberg, 610 Ravenswood Drive, has lived here for almost 40 years. Ten years after moving in the trees were planted in front of my house. In 1993 the same trees were planted across the street adjacent to the church. In fifteen years these trees started dropping branches and leaves. They were uprooting his sidewalks. In 2009 some trees were removed and I asked if the trees across from my house would be removed. I was told yes. The trees in front of my house were removed but the ones across the street were not. I was told the minister didn't want them taken down. When I talked to the minister she said she was never asked about them. I called Ald. Tom DeWane and Mark Freberg. I asked if the three of us could discuss this. I was told she had her chance. The trees are fifteen years old and are starting to make a mess.

Ald. Wiezbiskie clarified which trees were being discussed. There are only four Linden trees on the street located on the church side.

Staff explained in July of 2009 the Forestry Department removed trees along Ravenswood Drive due to infestation and street reconstruction. The terrace on the west side of the street is narrow, only 6 feet wide and the trees were damaged by construction. Thirteen replacement trees were planted in the fall of 2009. The east side of the street does not have sidewalks, therefore the trees were not removed. We talked to the pastor at the church at the time who said she was not in favor of removing the trees.

Mr. Langenberg asked if the City would follow through with what they said they would do. I stood up for all my neighbors and had all those big trees taken down. Now I am the one who has these big trees in front of my house making a mess.

Ald. Wiezbiskie explained the trees were removed for sidewalk and road construction. We have a policy where we do not remove living trees.

Ald. Moore asked what kind of trees Mr. Langenberg would like them replaced with. Mr. Langenberg stated a small tree that would not make a mess. His question is why when I complained about the trees did they plant the same trees on the other side of the road? Staff explained those trees were planted in October 1993 across from him and this issue with the street construction was in 2009.

\*Ald. Danzinger arrived at this time.

Ald. Danzinger thanked Mr. Langenberg for stating his concerns in the email. There is some discrepancy over what the pastor of the property said in terms replacement and location. Ald. Danzinger asked if we received any statements from the church over their opinion. Staff explained that we were going to get their statement but the property is for sale at this time. Ald. Danzinger asked who is responsible for branches and leaves on that property. The church is responsible and Mr. Langenberg's neighbor does maintenance. People are responsible to manage their own yard and debris. Mr. Langenberg asked for an honest answer on why those trees were planted on that property and why they were not taken down. Ald. Danzinger said he does not have the ability to confirm or counter those statements. This committee understands you are frustrated over the handling of those trees. None of us was here at that time. If you are frustrated with the debris from the trees we want to help with that. We cannot resolve what happened in the past. Mr. Langenberg said he would like the trees taken down. Ald. Danzinger said we would be going against our policy and I struggle with that.

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

Ald. Wiezbiskie said the issue at hand is that we have a policy against removing live trees. We are not going to change the policy.

Ald. Danzinger asked what the cost would be to remove and replace the trees. Staff said the cost would be approximately \$5,000 to remove the trees which does not include purchasing and planting new trees. Ald. Danzinger asked if they are scheduled to be removed. Staff said they are healthy trees and are not scheduled to be removed. Ald. Danzinger asked if we can note that when those trees are replaced, they are not replaced with Linden trees. Staff stated that we have not planted Redmond Linden trees in the past seven years. We have planted some in conservatory areas but not along houses on streets. Ald. Danzinger did some research on Linden trees. Leaves and branches fall earlier. Can we promote proactive cutting? Staff explained that our foresters could examine the tree for proactive trimming methods to help the situation.

Ald. Wiezbiskie stated that there is tree debris heading toward the sewer and that could be looked at also.

Ald. Danzinger made a motion to deny the request by Ald. Kocha on behalf of Ed Langenberg to remove four Linden trees located on City property at 607 Ravenswood Drive and have the Forester examine the trees for proactive trimming methods. Also, when the trees need to be replaced, do not replace the trees with Redmond Linden trees. Motion was seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

10. Discussion/Action on a request from Ald. Moore for an update on the future status of Colburn Pool.

Ald. Wiezbiskie questioned Ald. Moore on why this item was brought before the committee at this time.

Ald. Moore indicated he wanted to be informed of how the fundraising was going and the budget process is coming up soon. This will be an item that will need to be discussed.

Staff referred the floor to Ald. Brunette to address the committee.

Ald. Brunette said he is feeling good about the project and attendance. Pools are seasonal and attendance is a little down this year due to the weather. He feels the word is getting out and there is a strong awareness of this issue. Last year he didn't know if the community would support this and now he feels they would. He has held meetings with the Friends Group and met with Park and Rec staff. Events such as the Frank Herman's event and the pirate themed movie night where an incredible amount of people were present showed good support. He needs to talk to the Mayor to push this forward and would like to develop some kind of agreement like what happened in the past with the Resch Pool agreement. He needs to know how much money the group would be expected to raise for the City to be committed to this project. The Facebook page has over 500 active likes and the swim groups have been writing letters of support. He will be presenting this issue in his newsletter to be passed out shortly and at a public meeting scheduled in October. My feeling is if we don't have any major malfunctions I would like to operate this pool for another season. This would help us with our fundraising efforts.

Ald. Warner said the last time this was presented to committee there were several different options of needed repairs to operate this pool. We believe we need to replace it completely, not repair it.

Ald. Brunette stated I can't argue with spending large amounts of money to fix it.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked where the users are coming from that use the pool?

Ald. Brunette said swim groups, people from his neighborhood and the community.

Ald. Wiezbiskie said when we left this issue we were under the understanding that you were getting a fundraising group together to soften the blow of the project.

Ald. Brunette said we have Friends of the Colburn Pool established. They have had personal situations that have taken away from meeting on the project.

Ald. Moore made a motion to open the floor, second by Ald. Warner

Corrie Campbell, 431 Watermolen Avenue, Green Bay, spoke representing the fundraising group. She indicated this group has held four meetings. She has personally raised large amounts of money for many projects. The group would first like to see a commitment from the City before asking for private funds. We need that to get title sponsors. If I was a corporate owner I would want to know that I have a commitment from the City and the Council to go forward with this project. Early in our discussions we talked about raising money for maintaining it just to show that we would have some skin in the game. This would also allow

us some time to shop for title sponsors. We need a number to shoot for together and a commitment from the Council and the Mayor.

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

Ald. Moore asked if we could budget the operating costs for 2014 on a monthly basis. Staff replied we need to budget for the entire season due to allocating dollars for such things as chemicals and staffing would be an issue. If anything would happen during the season which would require a large amount of money to be spent, we would bring the item back to the Park Committee for further review.

Ald. Moore made a motion to include the operating costs for Colburn Pool in the 2014 budget. He would rather make this motion to have it remain in the budget than to try to put it back in later. There was no second to the motion.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked what information would be included in the budget. Staff replied it would be the same budget information as you receive every year pertaining to operating costs.

Ald. Danzinger said he would like to see the full operating cost go into the 2014 budget. He would like to fund this pool for one more year. He has seen more commitment from this group than a year ago in terms of participation and advancement such as in activities and events that they are promoting. We all have a better understanding of the cost factors related to this issue. I do agree we need a commitment from the Mayor and this Council if we choose to move forward on this project. The group says they want some skin in the game. They are willing to show commitment. We need to determine a design and put together a design cost. We talked about doing that in the past. Staff said the basic consultant fees would be at least \$20,000. The cost of the pool would be determined by what we want to see in the pool. We talked about meeting with the group to see what amenities they would like to see in this pool. We had conversations which centered around wanting this pool to be a competitive swimming area and not a whole lot of amenities as we already have two aquatic centers. We talked about the possibility of adding an area of zero depth entry for accommodating community use.

Ald. Danzinger said once we have that established we would be able to gather specifications to determine development costs. I see that we need this process so we can come up with some type of requirements for the pool to determine a commitment. We may need some dollars to determine what is needed or to secure a consultant. I am in favor of keeping the operating costs in the 2014 budget and maintaining it.

Ald. Wiezbiskie would like Ald. Brunette and the fundraising group to work with staff to put together a business plan to present to the Mayor and the Council.

Ald. Brunette said last year my focus was trying to understand this issue before I went gung-ho and started making plans. After talking to various groups within the community I feel they really want this pool.

Ald. Kocha said the 2013 operating costs were put in the budget. This discussion we are having is to include the 2014 operating costs into the budget. She asked staff if we feel this pool can run for one more year. Staff said we did some updates this year to be able to operate the pool. There are many issues with this pool. It may or may not run.

Ald. Brunette said if next summer something major happens and the pool breaks down, we would need to have that discussion at that time.

A motion was made by Ald. Moore to have Ald. Brunette and the Friends of Colburn Pool work with staff to determine the pool design needs as well as the City's commitment to the project and to have the Director include the operating costs in the 2014 budget, seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

#### 11. Directors Report

Maddie Hinkfuss, 525 Antelope Trail, is our intern this summer. She goes to school at University of Missouri–Columbia. Her major is Parks, Recreation & Tourism. She is planning a Zumba Glow Event next Friday at Leicht Park.

Since January of this year 975 trees that are diseased, dying or dangerous have been removed and 730 stumps remain to be removed. We are working on them as fast as we can.

We introduced two new wolves at the Wildlife Sanctuary last Friday. We had over 100,000 hits on our website link and over 400 entries to name them. It was sponsored by the Oneida Tribe. We have three additional wolves for a total of five wolves. The new wolves will go into the habitat this fall.

July 30 is the Kiddie Karnival and Parade. It is early this year due to Tall Ships. The Parade begins at 5:30 at Leicht Park.

We made history on the Zippin Pippin in our oldest rider category. Florence Shekoski took a "bucket list" ride followed by a ride on the scrambler. She did this at the young age of 96.

August 8 is Hunka Hunka Burning Lights event at the Zippin Pippin.

FIN (Fishing in Neighborhoods) on the City Deck was an extremely popular program and we would like to work with the DNR to bring it back next year.

Ald. Wiezbiskie said he had the opportunity to hold one of the wolves in April and his little head tucked into his arms.

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

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