

PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, August 14, 2013
City Hall, Room 207 5:30 P.M.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Dawne Cramer, Dan Ditscheit, Alders Amy Kocha, Mark Steuer, Tom DeWane, David Boyce and Tom Sladek, Bill Kloiber, Director Steve Grenier

A motion was made by Ald. Warner to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2013 meeting as recorded, seconded by Ald. Danzinger and carried.

Ald. Danzinger made a motion to adopt the agenda taking items in this order: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 1, seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

1. Discussion/Action on the donation of new batting cages and athletic field irrigation systems at Optimist Park

We have been approached by the Optimist Little League to replace their old batting cage with a different unit that has two cages. The cage would be surrounded with chain link fence. This group would coordinate with staff to select the location.

Secondly they asked permission to install irrigation systems to both fields, one at a time, the north field first followed by the south field. They would be responsible for all installation costs and materials.

They are requesting the City be responsible for paying the water bill. This is not in our operating budget and we would need your permission to add it if approved. Projected cost is \$240 per week for two fields for water and \$4 per week for electricity. This assumption is based upon watering five days per week for 30 minutes per day. Total cost for the season would be \$2,928 for both fields. Watering would depend on the weather. These estimates were provided to us by the irrigation company.

If you approve the irrigation systems donation, you will need to approve adding \$2,928 in the utility costs to the operating budget. It may be half of that in 2014 and the remaining in 2015.

Ald. Wiezbiskie said that he would like the City to be in charge of the utility costs.

Ald. Tom DeWane said he appreciates what the Parks and the Optimist Little League do for these kids. I ask that you approve this and add it to the budget so it is covered. I think it is a good partnership.

Ald. Moore questioned the location of the batting cages. Staff reviewed the location. Ald. Moore said this field is being used as a tournament field and it brings a lot of people to town. We want to bring people to our parks. I would be in favor of this.

Ald. Moore made a motion to approve the donation of new batting cages and two athletic field irrigation systems at Optimist Park contingent upon the Optimist Little League:

- Being responsible for all costs and materials.
- All proper permits and insurances being obtained.
- All materials must meet the City building and inspection codes.
- All repairs and maintenance of the systems will be the responsibility of the Optimist Little League.
- The City would be responsible for the utility cost of water and electricity.

Motion was seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

Ald. Moore made a motion to approve adding \$2,928 to the operations budget to cover the cost of water and electricity for two fields for the irrigations systems at East River Lawe Optimist Park, seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

2. Discussion/Action on accepting a donation by Ben Schenkelberg for Engineering Services for the design of the new west end shelter at Bay Beach

We were approached by Mr. Schenkelberg who is an architect. He does projects nationally as well as being known locally for donating his services for designing buildings at the NEW Zoo and Wildlife Sanctuary. He heard about our Bay Beach Master Plan and stepped forward to donate his services. He has already completed several concepts for the new West End Great Lawn Shelter. He and staff are tweaking one of these concepts and hope to bring it forward soon. He would like to move forward with providing detailed construction plans and specifications so we can bid out the construction. His donation is valued at \$40,000.

*Ald. Wiezbiskie arrived at this time.

Staff introduced Mr. Schenkelberg.

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

Mr. Schenkelberg said he is excited about doing something for the City. Bay Beach has a great plan. We want to build a shelter that is unique for Bay Beach. I look forward to getting construction plans started.

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

Staff would like to thank Mr. Schenkelberg for this generous donation and acknowledge him for enhancing the quality of life within our community.

Ald. Moore made a motion to approve accepting a \$40,000 donation by Ben Schenkelberg for engineering services for the design of the new west end shelter at Bay Beach, seconded by Ald. Warner and carried.

3. Discussion/Action on accepting a donation from the Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary for the replacement of the Wildlife Sanctuary Bridge

Staff reviewed the maps and photos of the existing bridge and new bridge. We badly need to replace the one lane bridge at the Wildlife Sanctuary. We have been trying to accomplish this for the past two years. We are proposing to build a two lane bridge with walkways on both sides. We have already ordered the bridge and hired a contractor. The bid came in at \$376,287. The engineer's estimate was \$335,675 which left us \$40,612 short. We approached the Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary and discussed the issue. They agreed to fund \$40,000 so we could complete the project. As you know, the Wildlife Sanctuary as it exists today would not have been possible without the generous support of this group. The Friends have contributed to helping us fund most of the buildings that exist today. They are currently funding a plan that will set future direction and priorities for the Wildlife Sanctuary, lights for the waterfall, website alterations and \$5,000 for the 4K program. We are very grateful to the Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary for all they help us accomplish and sincerely thank them for their continued support.

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

David VanLanen, 1421 Finch Lane, Green Bay, President of the Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary, indicated the Board felt like they needed to support this. The bids came in a little high so we decided it was our obligation to help get this bridge built.

Ald. Warner thanked the Friends Group for their generous donation.

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

Ald. Warner made a motion to approve accepting a donation of \$40,000 from the Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary to be used for the replacement of the Wildlife Sanctuary Bridge, seconded by Ald. Danzinger and carried.

4. Discussion/Action on the proposal acquisition of parcels 8-203, 7-670 and 7-668 located at 433, 501 and 525 St. George Street for the East River Trail

Ald. Danzinger made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Ald. Moore 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 proceed with negotiations as directed in closed session on the proposed acquisition of parcel 8-203, 7-670, 7-688 located at 433, 501 and 525 St. George Street for the East River Trail, seconded by Ald. Moore and carried.

5. Discussion/Action on a proposed U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service Grant awarded to the Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkways Group

In February 2013 the Fox River Heritage Group applied for a NOAA grant. The grant was to produce a conceptual design and engineering plan for the development of the west bank of the Fox River between Walnut and Main Streets. The group notified the City prior to submitting the application but there was not enough time to bring this to the Park Committee prior to application deadline. The grant was denied.

Without any notification or discussions with the City, this group applied for a U. S. Fish & Wildlife grant as a supplement to the NOAA grant. This grant was approved for \$125,000 to be used to design a fish habitat in the water. Shoreline improvements are not part of the grant. This would occur in the water between Walnut and Nitschke bridges.

Because this grant is in the water, it falls under the Department of Public Works. Director Grenier and I met on Monday to review this grant.

We are in the process of talking about development of a downtown master plan. The west bank is a major piece of that project. Several public meetings are being held to discuss options.

Discussions have yet to occur if a fish habitat is desired in this location. Accepting this grant may be a bit premature to that process. Through the Downtown development process multiple proposals would be brought forth on what the shoreline developments should be.

Staff said there are still some unanswered questions pertaining to this grant:

- What development limitations will there be if the grant is implemented?
- If the fish habitat goes in, docking of boats may not be possible.
- Once installed, what are the commitments for maintenance?
- How does it impact the developed and undeveloped areas on the shoreline?
- What are the grant project limits?

Staff talked with this group and they are very apologetic that they did not follow the correct City approval process. We talked about our working relationship in the future and it would include following the process recommended by the Council and hopefully be a joint effort.

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

Candice Mortara, Board President of Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway, apologized for hurrying the process to meet grant application deadlines. They meant this grant to be a supplement to the NOAA grant.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked Ms. Mortara if they were aware that the City is currently discussing other plans for the development of the west bank. Could you hold off with your plans until a decision is made?

Ms. Mortara met with the Neville Public Museum prior to applying for the grant and understands their desire to dock the USS Green Bay along the shoreline. We could move the project to a different location along the Fox River if necessary.

Ald. Wiezbiskie recommends you do that because plans are up in the air on this site. Ms. Mortara said we would be willing to do that.

Bill Meindl, 125 West Mission Road, Allouez, writer for Green Bay Development News, wanted to offer his support for this group. It was mentioned at the last Council meeting that this group has excessive political clout. I don't think that is the case. They made an assumption that after applying for the NOAA grant that there would be no problem supplementing it with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife grant. This group deals with multiple government agencies and each one has their own way of doing things.

Ald. Wiezbiskie said when decisions come to the City, they go through the Committees and the Council for approval.

Ald. Danzinger said Mr. Meindl indicated each grant agency has multiple procedures. He asked Mr. Meindl if he has worked this group before and witnessed their process. Mr. Meindl said no.

Ald. Moore asked if the individuals who wrote the letters of recommendation were in favor of the NOAA grant or the U. S. Fish and Wildlife grant. Ms. Mortara replied the NOAA grant. Ald. Moore said the issue is that we are not discussing the NOAA grant. That grant was denied. We are discussing the U. S. Fish & Wildlife grant. I don't know if these people would be in favor of this grant if they realized the USS Green Bay could not dock there.

Director of Public Works Steve Grenier addressed the committee. He said Director Cramer and I have had numerous conversations after we found out about this grant. Our interpretation of the NOAA grant is that it was a planning grant to determine what happens along the shoreline of the west bank. The U. S. Fish & Wildlife grant is an engineering grant to implement a fish habitat in the waterway adjacent to the west bank. This implies that there is already a decision that a fish habitat is desired in that location. It provides plans with an expectation of construction of the habitat. The issue and unanswered questions we have are:

- If the grant is utilized and constructed, what impact does that have on the City's ability to have future development in that area?
- We could never build a similar City Deck on that bank.
- The use of the shoreline would be adversely impacted.
- Ships could not dock there.
- The document we had been provided showed the fish habitat extending into the north end of Leicht Park dock area which would take out the docking facilities we have there. Was that the intent in the grant?

The development team for the City of Green Bay has not had any formal discussions on what we would like to see there. The NOAA grant may have provided that. He doesn't know if the City is ready to make a commitment on future development due to a shallow water fish habitat.

Ald. Moore asked if we would be able to accept this grant because it is just a study. Could we accept the grant and then if we decide to do a fish habitat, do it somewhere else?

Staff said we would recommend accepting the grant if we intend to implement it. If we deny this grant they could come back and propose a new location.

Ald. Warner asked what the timeline is on this grant. Ms. Mortara said the money needs to be spent within two years.

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

Director Grenier said we are not opposed to the concept. We feel there are unanswered questions with this particular grant in this particular area.

Ald. Kocha asked if the location is specific to the grant application. Staff said yes.

Ald. Danzinger said if we decline the grant, it is not taking their grant away. I agree with Director Grenier. If we accept the grant the expectation is that we find a place for the fish habitat. By going through this process we are giving expectations that we are going to build it. I don't know if we are ready to make that level of commitment.

Ald. Danzinger made a motion to deny accepting the U. S Fish & Wildlife Grant received by the Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway Group due to the geographical area and refer to staff for further discussions on potential locations for the grant, seconded Ald. Warner and carried.

6. Discussion/Action of the Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway Resolution

Staff indicated we have talked about this resolution at previous Park Committee and Council meetings. We don't know of any changes that can occur that haven't already been discussed. We would like to ask Ald. Moore to discuss his concerns and why he pulled this item at the Council meeting.

Ald. Moore said I am okay with the resolution and how it was written. I pulled this item because of the way the grant was applied for. There may have been some misinterpretations of our working relationship. I wanted to make sure there was nothing in the resolution that could make this organization believe they could operate separately from the City. I am now okay with it. Until item number 5 was resolved, I didn't want to approve it.

Ald. Moore made a motion to approve the Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway resolution, seconded by Ald. Warner and approved.

7. Director's Report

Preble Optimist sponsored free rides on the Zippin Pippin for two hours on Tuesday, August 13. 1,149 riders enjoyed a free ride.

We hope to have the Sea Dragon operating by Labor Day Weekend. The painting is awesome. I would like to compliment the Park staff who are working hard to get it completed. The paths are going in this week. Lights are in. We are having a soft opening this year followed by a grand opening in May 2014.

Staff met last week with potential donors to help kick off the fundraising campaign for the Friends of Bay Beach. In mid-September a private fundraising event will be held.

The 89th Kiddie Karnival, "*Ahoy, Sail Your Way to Green Bay*" was a great success. Congratulations to Tank Park on being the Grand Champion!

The pools did not have a great season. Weather was not cooperative.

We had 35 participants in our Junior Lifeguard Program. This continues to be a very popular program. This program is for kids 11-15 to develop skills to become future lifeguards for the City of Green Bay.

Ald. Wiezbiskie indicated that today they started painting the Bay Beach logo on the Quincy Street water tank.

Ald. Steuer wanted to know when the completion on the West Side Trail may occur. Staff indicated we have been waiting for the utility company to approve the locations of the guard rails. This individual will be on site August 19 and then it will take another week to complete.

Ald. Wiezbiskie said the *Hunka Hunka Burning Lights* was held August 8 at the Zippin Pippin with three Elvis Presley's present. It was a great time. The peanut butter and banana sandwiches were great.

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

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