

**MINUTES
PARK COMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 29, 2014
City Hall, Room 207
5:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ald. Joseph Moore, Ald. Brian Danzinger, and Ald. James Warner

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Ald. Jerry Wiezbiskie

OTHERS PRESENT: Dawne Cramer, Dan Ditscheit, Brad Drefcinski, James Andersen, Mike Reed, Ben Nelson, Ald. Tim DeWane, Conor Caloia, and Liz Kern

Ald. Moore was acting Chair in the absence of Ald. Wiezbiskie.

Approval of the minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2013

A motion was made by Ald. Warner and seconded by Ald. Danzinger to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2013, Park Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Agenda

A motion was made by Ald. Warner and seconded by Ald. Danzinger to adopt the agenda of the January 29, 2014, Park Committee meeting. Motion carried.

1. Discussion/Action on the request by Leadership Green Bay to install 1/10 mile markers along the East River Trail

Staff referred to the map. We were approached by Leadership Green Bay in conjunction with Starlite and Joannes Neighborhood Associations for a request to install trail mileage markers on a 1.5-mile section of the East River Trail beginning at the Brown County Extension building and ending at Joannes Park. This would be consistent with the Fox River Trail markers posted every tenth of a mile.

They would like them installed in May. After the installation, they are going to have a trail and river clean-up day to promote environmental stewardship.

We would use the same post design as the Fox River Trail mile markers, which is a recycled plastic 4"x4" post 42" tall with a reflector ID panel near the top. Regarding installation, Parks & Recreation staff would measure and mark the mileage. Leadership Green Bay would be responsible to hire a contractor to dig the holes and install the posts 3 feet from the edge of the trail. Leadership Green Bay would be responsible for all costs totaling approximately \$2,000.

Ald. Moore asked if this project would be funded through neighborhood association grants. Staff said Leadership Green Bay will be fundraising for the project, and Starlite Neighborhood Association has already donated funds as well.

Ald. Danzinger asked if the City or County would maintain the markers after installation. Staff said the City.

Ald. Tim DeWane said he supported the project.

A motion was made by Ald. Warner and seconded by Ald. Danzinger to approve the request by Leadership Green Bay to install 1/10 mile markers along the East River Trail contingent upon:

- All costs are the responsibility of Leadership Green Bay;
- Final site, design, and placement of the markers must be approved by Park staff;
- Once installed, the markers become property of the City of Green Bay;
- All proper permits and insurances being obtained;
- All materials meeting City building and inspection codes.

Motion carried.

2. Discussion/Action on the request by the Redevelopment Authority to donate 1342 Main Street (Parcel 8-294) to the City of Green Bay

At the January 2014 Redevelopment Authority meeting, the Committee approved donating this property to the City for future East River Trail development. The property was purchased in 2003 by the Redevelopment Authority using community block grant funding.

This parcel is located next to properties we have just purchased such as Red's Antiques, the restaurant, and the car lot. The donation of this lot will allow us to demolish those existing City-owned structures for trail development. These buildings share common walls so they must be demolished together. We recommend accepting the donation.

A motion was made by Ald. Warner and seconded by Ald. Danzinger to approve accepting the donation of property located at 1342 Main Street from the Redevelopment Authority for future East River Trail development.

3. Discussion/Action on introducing the new owners of the Bullfrogs and the proposed 2014 Joannes Stadium improvements

In November 2013, the Bullfrogs' franchise was sold. The new owners are still part of the Northwoods League. Tonight we would like to introduce you to those new owners and let them share information about their current partners and past experience. We also need to discuss the proposed 2014 improvements. With the baseball season right around the corner, they need to get moving on this proposal.

For the past 2½ months, we have been meeting with them to discuss items such as our existing lease. The lease is with the Northwoods League, and there are 3 years remaining. To get us started for this year, we will amend the lease to include the cost for one additional game, and they will be responsible for trash pickup.

Being new owners, they are reviewing and researching current operations and will use this season to evaluate their future direction. They met with the school groups, the Joannes neighborhood, and have held public meetings to get to know the individuals involved on our community team.

A motion was made by Ald. Warner and seconded by Ald. Danzinger to open the floor to allow interested parties to speak. Motion carried.

The new owners of the Bullfrogs include Steve Schmitt, Vern Stenman, Conor Caloia, and Liz Kern. C. Caloia and L. Kern represented the group at the meeting.

C. Caloia introduced the owners and discussed the Bullfrogs' partners including the Madison Mallards, the Kenosha Kingfish, and the Wisconsin Rapids Rafters. The group has already renovated two stadiums and has had great success.

L. Kern and C. Caloia described the proposed improvements to Joannes Stadium, including developing a primary entrance and re-orienting traffic flow, removing fence behind home plate and replacing with fabric net, constructing a new concession stand on the third base side, and refurbishing exteriors of the concessions areas. These improvements should be completed in April and May this year.

Ald. Warner said he supports the proposal and applauds the Bullfrogs' efforts.

Ald. Danzinger spoke in support of the project as well. He asked if ticket prices might increase this year because the cost of renovation.

L. Kern said prices would go up slightly from \$6 to \$7 behind home plate; the rest would stay the same.

C. Caloia stated that they will also offer new package ticket and food deals, which would offset the increased entrance fee.

Ald. Moore asked if there was any negative feedback of renovations from a historical perspective of the previous stadiums.

C. Caloia stated there was no negative feedback.

Ald. Moore asked if the Bullfrogs have spoken with the athletic directors from the high schools.

L. Kern said they spoke with both athletic directors from East and Preble and other coaches as well. Everything has been well received.

Ald. Moore asked if they have reached out to community partners in the area.

C. Caloia responded that they have been reaching out to corporate partners. Support and feedback has been wonderful.

Ald. Moore asked about the probability of late-night celebrations such as fireworks on school nights affecting the nearby neighborhoods.

C. Caloia said they are sensitive to that, can remove the salutes (loud booming fireworks) from the display, and have also chosen to start games earlier in the evening.

Staff added that working with the Bullfrogs has been a very positive experience and that the City looks forward to continuing the relationship.

A motion was made by Ald. Danzinger and seconded by Ald. Warner to close the floor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ald. Danzinger and seconded by Ald. Warner to approve the 2014 proposed improvements to Joannes Stadium including the net behind home plate, the new concession stand on third base line, re-orientate the main entrance to the left field side, and refurbish the exterior of both the existing main concession stand and primary beer service area located on the first base side contingent upon:

- All costs of materials, construction, and installation are the responsibility of the Bullfrogs;
- Park staff approval of the final site, design, and installation plans;
- All proper permits and insurances being obtained;
- All materials must meet City of Green Bay building and inspection codes.

Motion carried.

4. Discussion/Action on the new 2013 Wisconsin Act 71 as it relates to the City's Deer Management Program and approval of the updated policies and procedures as a result of the new law

In 2002, the City, in partnership with Brown County, developed a City-wide wildlife damage management program that was specific to managing white-tailed deer. The management program was designed to reduce the overall deer population within the municipal boundaries of the City of Green Bay and in turn, reduce resident complaints about deer/human conflicts.

The resulting population management strategy that was implemented was a controlled archery hunting program that provided archery hunting opportunities within the City of Green Bay to citizens that met program requirements. This hunting program was

administered by Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary staff and authorized by WDNR nuisance permits.

The original deer management program became active in February 2003, and the framework has largely remained unchanged through 2013. The program historically involved both publically- and privately-owned properties.

Prior to December 12, 2013, the City of Green Bay prohibited the discharge of bows and crossbows everywhere within the corporate City limits through Ordinance 27.603 unless certain conditions were met. Those conditions were used as the basis for design of the City's Deer Management Program.

On December 12, 2013, Governor Scott Walker signed Assembly Bill 8 into law, which is Wisconsin Act 71.

Wisconsin Act 71 states that local governments now cannot impose restrictions on hunting with a bow and arrow or crossbow within municipal boundaries except within 100 yards of a building unless the owner of the building allows such hunting and the discharge of the weapon is towards the ground. This new law still allows for the City to restrict hunting on City-owned or leased property, but the City cannot prohibit hunting with bows and crossbows on private land as long as the hunter satisfies the minimum requirements of Act 71.

This presents the City with a good opportunity to be proactive at addressing how wildlife management in general will be administered throughout the City now and into the foreseeable future.

Mike Reed, Director of the Wildlife Sanctuary, recommended the City continue to administer the updated wildlife management program on public lands located within the municipal boundaries of the City of Green Bay and no longer offer this service to private landowners.

This recommendation would comply with State Act 71 and the current City Ordinance 27.603(2).

The areas of the proposed direct management action include all City-owned and/or leased properties, as well as any publicly-owned/leased property within the City of Green Bay municipal boundaries where wildlife is causing or threatening to cause damage to agricultural, property, natural resources, and human health and safety. This would include UWGB, Brown County, and school district property.

The Parks Department Wildlife Sanctuary Division would only provide technical assistance to private landowners. Technical assistance is providing information, demonstrations, and advice on available and appropriate wildlife damage management methods. Technical assistance provides private landowners with the knowledge to make informed wildlife management decisions. The requestor then maintains the

responsibility for carrying out management activities in compliance with City ordinances and state laws for their individual property.

The majority of deer habitat within the City is found on the relatively large tracts of both City and other public land. The residential neighborhoods adjacent to public land are where the majority of citizens' wildlife damage complaints originate.

Ben Nelson, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Sanctuary, reviewed the proposed changes to the Deer Management Program. The application minimum requirements will stay the same. The applicants must now pay for and submit the background checks and proficiency test results instead of the City doing this work. There will be minimum participant requirements to ensure adequate deer management results. We will now implement a two-week priority registration for City residents. After the priority registration, there will be an open enrollment period through the month of January. There will be no administration fee charged for the background checks due to DNR restrictions.

Ald. Danzinger asked if there was a maximum amount of applicants we accept into the program. Staff said in the beginning of the program there were more applicants than spaces available, so they accepted all applicants that passed background checks and passed their proficiency tests but only gave them a two-week window for hunting.

Ald. Danzinger asked how a person would show proficiency in archery and if private organization testing would be acceptable. Staff responded that there is a facility named Hunter's Edge that administers the proficiency tests for free.

Ald. Warner asked what seems to be the biggest challenge for the management program. Staff replied communication of the changes to the public will be challenging.

A motion was made by Ald. Warner and seconded by Ald. Danzinger to approve the City's Deer Management Program policies and procedures as presented. Motion carried.

5. Discussion/Action on the proposed acquisition of 10.9 acres along Baird's Creek behind the residence at 346 S. Northview Road (Parcel 21-5)

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.

We are currently working together with the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation to possibly purchase this property for part of the Baird Creek greenway. We would like to go into closed session to discuss those negotiations.

A motion was made by Ald. Danzinger and seconded by Ald. Warner to go into closed session. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ald. Danzinger and seconded by Ald. Warner to return to regular business. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ald. Danzinger and seconded by Ald. Warner to proceed with negotiations as directed in closed session on the proposed partial acquisition of Parcel 21-5 located at 346 S. Northview Road. Motion carried.

6. Director's Report

The Frosty Family Fun Night is Saturday, February 1, from 5-8 p.m. There will be food, entertainment, horse-driven carriages, skiing and snowshoes, campfire, and lighted trails for \$5 per carload.

Staff is in the process of updating the Open Space Plan.

Staff is heavily involved with special events planning and permit requirements. Last year staff was involved in 72+ events.

We continue to have large participant numbers at our ice and hockey rinks, as well as Triangle where we have experienced waiting lines for tubes.

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

A motion was made by Ald. Warner and seconded by Ald. Danzinger to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.