



Board of Park Commissioners

Regular Meeting

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
<http://www.de-pere.org>

Final Minutes

Thursday, August 17, 2017

6:30 PM

De Pere City Hall Council Chambers

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Board Member George Brown

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Ryan Jennings	Aldersperson	Present	
Larry Lueck	Aldersperson	Present	
Dean Raasch	Aldersperson	Present	
George Brown	Board Member	Present	
Sue Schinkten	Board Member	Present	
Randy Soquet	Board Member	Excused	
Bill Volpano	Board Member	Present	
Ella Bublotz	Teen Advisor	Excused	
Lydia McMorrow	Teen Advisor	Present	

II. Action Items

1. Approve Board of Park Commissioners Minutes from 7-20-17.

Dean Raasch made a motion to approve Board of Park Commissioners Minutes from July 20, 2017, seconded by Larry Lueck. Upon vote, the motion passed.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dean Raasch, Aldersperson
SECONDER:	Larry Lueck, Aldersperson
AYES:	Jennings, Lueck, Raasch, Brown, Schinkten, Volpano, McMorrow
EXCUSED:	Randy Soquet

2. Accept Donations of Banners and Signs for Summer Events from Creative Sign.*

Ryan Jennings made a motion to approve to accept donations of banners and signs for summer events from Creative Sign, seconded by Bill Volpano. Upon vote, the motion passed.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ryan Jennings, Aldersperson
SECONDER:	Bill Volpano, Board Member
AYES:	Jennings, Lueck, Raasch, Brown, Schinkten, Volpano, McMorrow
EXCUSED:	Randy Soquet

3. Approval to Accept \$300 Monetary Donation from De Pere Area Men's Club for Senior Picnic.*

Dean Raasch made a motion to approve to accept \$300 monetary donation from De Pere Area Men's Club for the Senior Picnic, seconded by Larry Lueck. Upon vote, the motion passed.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dean Raasch, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Larry Lueck, Alderperson
AYES:	Jennings, Lueck, Raasch, Brown, Schinkten, Volpano, McMorrow
EXCUSED:	Randy Soquet

4. Approval to accept \$500 donation from Brown County Community Women's Club to Community Center.*

Bill Volpano made a motion to approve to accept \$500 donation from Brown County Community Women's Club to Community Center, seconded by Ryan Jennings. Upon vote, the motion passed.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill Volpano, Board Member
SECONDER:	Ryan Jennings, Alderperson
AYES:	Jennings, Lueck, Raasch, Brown, Schinkten, Volpano, McMorrow
EXCUSED:	Randy Soquet

5. Consider Bomier Boat Launch Design.

Marty provided a brief summary and showed two preliminary designs for the boat launch. He stated there are a number of people here to speak as well as representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

There was a public information meeting showing preliminary design (#1) which includes a passive recreation area, added a dual launch next to existing launch (1 1/2 lane) and added a parking lot south of the restroom. The addition of the parking lot requires a City street to be moved and does impact the entry into the condominium next to the ramp. From the public information meeting the major concerns regarding the design were: moving of the street next to the condominium, the layout of the additional parking lot would not work for boats with trailers; there is no screening between existing homes and the proposed recreational area, and an increase in traffic and safety concerns with this increase. From these concerns, an alternative design (#2) was done.

Marty stated that lots of discussion is probably needed before accepting a design and he is requesting the Park Board help in directing staff in what direction to pursue. The key three points that need to be addressed are the moving of the street, the size of the boat launch expansion, and what impact this might have on parking and traffic.

Larry Lueck asked Marty if there is a reason why this is even being considered and if there were problems that existed that needed to be addressed. Marty stated there was a series of events to approve Bomier. It is in the Capital Improvement Plan to improve the parking lot. Also, immediately south of the restroom building, the City purchased a home and tore it down with the intention of enhancing Bomier. The National Resource Development Assessment (NRDA) controls the Fox River cleanup money and identified Bomier as an area they would like to see improved. Perkofsky was recently renovated and Fox Point received money from the NRDA, so the only other area is Bomier. If the City were to take money from the NRDA, there is a strong likelihood there would be an opportunity to obtain matching grants from the WDNR. The last improvements were done 20-30 years ago and this would allow the ability to improve the launch with little or low tax burden to the residents. Also, the City comprehensive plan identified utilizing the Fox River.

Sue Schinkten made a motion to open the meeting to public comment at 6:45 pm, seconded by Dean Raasch. Upon vote, the motion passed.

George Brown introduced Cara Kampke, Conservation Warden for Western Brown County from the WDNR and Jeremy Kords, Recreation and Safety Warden from WDNR. Jeremy's job entails accident and ordinance review for 12 counties.

Ryan Jennings asked Cara about the safety of the river from the dam to Little Rapids and if an improved boat landing will increase traffic. Cara stated that there are noticeable busy and slow times, with Friday evening and Saturday afternoon being the busiest.

Sue Schinkten questioned Cara regarding the proposed plans with dual launches and safety issues. Cara stated that the option with angle parking is much better for boats. She also liked the idea of a parking lot for non-trailer vehicles. In regards to the dual launch, she did not think this would be an issue as all other launches are set up this way. With one stall, long lines form and this should improve the amount of parking accidents.

Ryan Jennings spoke regarding a comment he received regarding a boater that lost power to their boat and went over the dam and if there is any concern with the location of the launch to the dam. Cara stated there is a decent current there, but that could be a problem anywhere.

George Brown asked Jeremy if there are any restrictions on how close to the shoreline boats can come. Per Jeremy, lakes are regulated different than rivers. The 100 foot buffer zone does not apply to rivers but the City could create an ordinance of slow or no wake zones.

Dean Raasch wanted to clarify that the WDNR controls the rules on the river and the City on shore. This contradicts what they were told and thought the City couldn't do anything regarding the river, just the WDNR. Cara stated for boating the local municipalities are allowed to make ordinances, but they are only enforceable if the ordinances follow state statute and are posted correctly. Jeremy informed the Park Board that State Statute 30.77 refers to creating boating ordinance.

George Brown moved to return to regular order at 7:00 pm, seconded by Sue Schinkten. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Sue Schinkten made a motion to reopen the meeting to public comment at 7:00 pm, seconded by Ryan Jennings. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Mike Trulley commented that he is not a boater, but has a canoe. He would support a no wake zone. Parking wouldn't be impacted as they are already parked on street and that doesn't bother him.

Christine Williams is one of the owners of Fox River Tours and would support docking more boats. She is also part of Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway and they would support more docking and launching areas for kayaks and canoes. Additional docks would allow the tour boat to dock under emergency medical situations.

Anthony Vita feels this is an all-around bad idea. Adding a neighborhood park and boat ramps show no respect for the neighborhood. Moving the Right of Way (ROW) destroys the value of his condo, it would leave 2' of green space. He is willing to compromise because he understands access to the river is important, but will fight if the ROW is moved. Option 2 only creates 6 more parking spaces at cost of destroying his home. The launch is only crowded some weekends in summer and the parking on the street doesn't bother him or many other neighbors. He feels additional information is needed and a formal survey should be done. Per the agenda packet, on page 27, the City Development Team thought a study regarding parking needs should be done and there is not enough information to recommend either option.

Mike Wallace stated he uses the river quite a bit for boating and skiing. This area is a high traffic area with several inputs; boats coming from locks, boat launch, tour boat

coming from docks, St. Norbert music festival. It is very hard to kayak and feels expanding the launch is a bad idea.

Larry Delo, City Administrator, stated there is a misunderstanding on the ROW. The ROW would not be changing; the driveway location in the ROW would be moved. There would be no property acquisition, the ROW stays where it is and the pavement would be moved in the ROW. The current driveway is located within the ROW and still would be if it was moved.

Anthony Vita stated that the paved driveway is in the ROW, but the City doesn't assess how damaging it is to his property to move the street. Legally it is a platted street, which the City is supposed to plow, however the City does not keep it up. He also stated he paid \$20,000 to landscape the green space which would be lost if the driveway is relocated.

George Brown asked if the improved landscaping was on his land. Anthony Vita answered no unfortunately it is in the ROW. He stated that there was an agreement between the developer of the property and the City that stated the City would not need or have use for the land.

Dean Raasch called Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, up for comments on the street. Scott stated that the pavement is technically a street. There were two homes on the street. He doesn't believe the City never plows the street, but it is a low priority since it only services one house. The property is actually using a public street as a driveway. Scott is not aware of any agreement that exists with the developer of the property and the City.

Tracy Guiou stated that she has parking concerns and the amount of traffic on Fox River Drive. The street is not very wide and with a trailer parked on the street it is tight for two cars to fit through. She is afraid that doubling the boat launch will lead to an increase in parking issues. She feels the 2nd design is better which only improves the current boat launch system not doubling it. She thinks the City should take care of the residents who pay tax dollars. Dean asked if there are boat trailers parked on Fox River Drive. She stated yes, the trailers are parked up past Wilcox Court.

Lisa Hefty stated the boat ramp was busier a few years ago. By putting in 2nd boat launch she is afraid it will go back to the same issues. Trailers that are parked on the road don't want to pay the fee. The parking design on the 2nd proposal is far better than the first. She has a concern for the safety of trail users with an increase in boat launch.

Mike Hartman feels if new regulations are set for river, he would like to see a noise ordinance. He stated trailers are parked all along Fox River Drive and concerned with safety as cars travel really fast. He felt that if something could be done to protect people from the dam that would be great.

Bob Rader stated the Fox River is a great asset and attraction to the City. If the boat launch capacity is increased, then you will get more people. What is the long term plan for river? He believes the answer is not to increase Bomier, but add an additional ramp south of the dam.

Mike Wallace commented that the no wake zone would make the river narrower for the recreational boater. He believes a time limit would increase congestion. Feels it is a good idea of improving what is there. Currently there are no boat bumpers and metal pieces sticking out of the dock, the bathroom stinks and taking care of what you have would be a big service.

Cara, WDNR Conservation Warden, spoke on some of the issues brought up. She doesn't know if increasing the size of the boat launch will increase traffic. Most launches have much larger parking lots, which Bomier will never have. The change in parking would make it easier for boaters to go in and out and help with backups. Regardless of what is

done, there will still be issues with danger of the dam. She does agree that another launch near Little Rapids would be great. A solution to the parking issue might be to post the road as a no parking zone and if the parking lot full it would force boaters to go to a different launch. There are options regarding the implementation of a no or slow wake zone. She feels the safety concerns at Bomier are not related to how big the launch is and expanding the launch would not necessarily increase boat traffic, but as it sits, Bomiers is not boater friendly.

Sue Schinkten asked Cara to comment on the river being narrow and erosion. Cara does receive a lot of calls on erosion but the WDNR does not address erosion. The issue of the river being narrow is not unique to De Pere, and there are actually areas that are much narrower.

Bill Volpano wanted clarification if Cara thought the boat launch should be doubled, but keep the parking the same. Cara stated that she feels the parking limits the number of boats that launch and currently the stalls are not wide or long enough.

Tracy Guiou stated she is concerned about an expert on the water talking about problems on the road. Just because Cara would not use the launch if that lot is full, that does not mean others feel the same. She feels there would be safety issues if the road is relocated between the trail and the lot and feels additional data needs to be obtained in order to make decisions regarding the safety concerns and traffic issues.

Larry Lueck clarified that Tracy does have a problem with people parking on the road.

Dean Raasch made a motion to go back to regular order at 8:02, seconded by Bill Volpano. Upon vote, the motion passed.

George Brown stated that Marty needs some type of direction to go in, which is not necessarily tied to either option.

Discussion followed.

Dean Raasch commented on the width of the road for parking and restricting parking on the road. He stated that doubling the launch does not necessarily mean double the parking, just doubling the access to river. Also, increasing parking will not necessarily stop parking on street, possibly restricting parking on the street during certain hours would be better. The existing parking at the launch is set up to pull into stall after launching and back-up to the launch to retrieve the boat and angle parking would be better.

Larry Lueck stated the problem is that there is no specific goal to accomplish. Now we have a wide open slate and not enough data regarding what any of these changes might do. Maybe a study should be done regarding what impacts a double launch would have. Other launches have parking stalls that allow for drive in and out access, which is better. He likes Option 2, but wonders if there is a better design? Larry likes the gazebo and bench and would like to keep bathroom by trail. He stated maybe losing stalls might not be bad thing.

Ryan Jennings commented that it is probably most important to get the current ramp more functional and adding a 2nd ramp is not the best thing to do. The current launch should be expanded so it functions as it should. Regardless there will still be parking on the street. The primary goal should be the ease of getting on and off the river and it would be nice if we could achieve this and not move the street.

Sue Schinkten questioned what the long term plan for area is. Also asked if there is any property the City owns south of Bomier, but the City would have to acquire property Bill Volpano feels it is best to improve the launch that is there or consider another site. If the City doesn't own property, it might be best to approach Lawrence or Rockland and build an additional site to use the river near Little Rapids. He stated parking at Bomier is a big problem.

Dean Raasch commented on the need to improve the safety and usability of the existing site. Also, if moving the street in the ROW allows for better improvement it has to be considered. It would be admirable if the street was not moved, but it should not be off the table.

George Brown commented that the board needs to give Marty some direction in what way to proceed. He feels Marty should work with designers to enhance existing facility but to modernize it to a point where a two lane launch is more user friendly. Maybe some of the green space could be used to accommodate single spaced parking for the Fox River Trail. An ADA accessible kayak and canoe launch is a really big hit and single stall parking is also needed for this. Moving the street should be the last resort.

Bill Volpano made a motion to give Marty the direction to enlarge the launch and the parking as indicated on the alternative plan, seconded by Larry Lueck. George Brown clarified the motion by Bill Volpano, to give Marty the direction to enhance the existing facility and make it better within the framework we have, use the green space that we have and if we can do this without moving the road it would be better. Dean Raasch amended the motion to refer to Option 2, the alternative design being a better option and improving that design. George Brown further amended the motion to add without moving the road. Upon vote, the motion passed.

George Brown wanted to clarify that no plan has been approved and designers will come back with a better option.

Sue Schinkten made a motion to take a 2 minute recess, seconded by Ryan Jennings. Upon vote, the motion passed.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill Volpano, Board Member
SECONDER:	Larry Lueck, Alderperson
AYES:	Jennings, Lueck, Raasch, Brown, Schinkten, Volpano, McMorro
EXCUSED:	Randy Soquet

6. Consider Location of Band Shell in Voyageur Park.

The meeting was called back in session at 8:40 pm.

Marty provided an overview of the site options and reminded the board that there is a donation of \$25,000 for the naming rights of the band shell.

Discussion from the board followed.

Larry Lueck made a motion to open the meeting for public comment at 8:45 pm, seconded by Dean Raasch. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Keith VandenAvond from the De Pere Chamber of Commerce Board and Amy Hobbins President of the De Pere Chamber of Commerce Board spoke. Amy stated there was a Chamber Board meeting yesterday and there was a strong consensus they would support Option B. They would like to offer the opportunity to form a committee to do some research to see what it would take to get a really great stage for the City. Discussion followed.

Sue Schinkten made a motion to go back to regular order at 9:00 pm, seconded by Dean Raasch. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Discussion from the board followed regarding the size and cost of the band shell.

Bill Volpano made a motion to further pursue the idea of the Chamber doing research on the project and report back to the board in 30 days, seconded by Ryan Jennings. The motion was amended by Dean Raasch to state that only \$125,000 would be available from City. The motion was further amended by Sue Schinkten to include that it is Option B. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Larry Lueck clarified that the Board is not endorsing Option B, but the proposal for the work will include Option B.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill Volpano, Board Member
SECONDER:	Ryan Jennings, Alderperson
AYES:	Jennings, Lueck, Raasch, Brown, Schinkten, Soquet, Volpano, McMorrow

7. Consider Cooperative Effort with Brown County to Manage Fairgrounds Property.

Marty spoke with the Board requesting the ability for the City to work with Brown County to pursue a potential plan to work with the County to manage the Fairgrounds property. This was brought up a number of years ago but staff thinks it is worth exploring again.

Discussion with the board followed.

Sue Schinkten made a motion to allow staff to meet with the County and pursue a potential plan, seconded by Dean Raasch. Upon vote, the motion passed.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Sue Schinkten, Board Member
SECONDER:	Dean Raasch, Alderperson
AYES:	Jennings, Lueck, Raasch, Brown, Schinkten, Volpano, McMorrow
EXCUSED:	Randy Soquet

8. Consider Proposed Budget for 2018 Park, Recreation and Forestry Department.

Marty provided a budget breakdown to the board. He stated the 2018 budget is at a 0% increase in the operational budget, which he was asked to do. The 0% increase was due to a tremendous amount of staff turnover which had a huge impact. There are a lot of capital projects for the year and Marty provided a summary of the large capital projects. Ryan Jennings questioned funding for the Fox River Trail. Marty stated that the mayor is including that in the budget.

Bill Volpano made a motion to approve budget, seconded by Sue Schinkten. Upon vote, the motion passed.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill Volpano, Board Member
SECONDER:	Sue Schinkten, Board Member
AYES:	Jennings, Lueck, Raasch, Brown, Schinkten, Volpano, McMorrow
EXCUSED:	Randy Soquet

III. Public Comment Period

IV. Future Agenda Items

V. Staff Updates

1. Update on Positions at Community Center/Recreation Dept.

Paula Rahn introduced John McDonald the new Recreation Supervisor and Collin Volpintesta who was the intern for the summer.

2. Donations for Summer Events

Marty stated they received a lot of small donations under \$250 that they are grateful for.

VI. Adjournment

Sue Schinkten made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:27, seconded by Dean Raasch.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Lahtela