



Board of Park Commissioners

Regular Meeting

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
<https://www.deperewi.gov/>

Final Minutes

Thursday, December 16, 2021

6:30 PM

Council Chambers and Virtual

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Board Member Randy Soquet

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Melissa Thiel Collar	Board Member	Present	
Ryan Jennings	Board Member	Present	
Jim Kneiszel	Board Member	Present	
Amy Chandik Kunding	Aldersperson	Present	
Shana Defnet Ledvina	Aldersperson	Present	
Dean Raasch	Aldersperson	Present	
Randy Soquet	Board Member	Present	
Hundamo Lovell	Teen Advisor	Present	
Christopher Soquet	Teen Advisor	Present	

Others Present:

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry

Paula Rahn, Recreation Superintendent

Angela George, Recreation Supervisor

Grace Lahtela, Administrative Assistant

II. Public Comment Period

None

III. Items

1. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Board of Park Commissioners Minutes from the November 18, 2021 Meeting.

Aldersperson Raasch moved to approve the Board of Park Commissioners minutes from the November 18, 2021 meeting, seconded by Aldersperson Chandik-Kunding. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dean Raasch, Aldersperson
SECONDER:	Amy Chandik Kunding, Aldersperson
AYES:	Thiel Collar, Jennings, Kneiszel, Kunding, Defnet Ledvina, Raasch, Soquet

2. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Policy Change at Community Center To End Rentals at Midnight instead of 1:00 am

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve the policy change at the Community Center to end rentals at midnight instead of 1:00 am, seconded by Aldersperson Chandik Kunding. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Shana Defnet Ledvina, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Amy Chandik Kunding, Alderperson
AYES:	Thiel Collar, Jennings, Kneiszel, Kunding, Defnet Ledvina, Raasch, Soquet

3. Consideration and Possible Action on VFW Tennis Court Bids. *

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry presented a new memo to the Park Board. He explained that the memo in the agenda packet is incorrect. If the bid and alternate bid from Pro Track and Tennis is accepted, along with the consulting fees there would be an additional \$23,750 that is needed to complete the project per plans.

Alderperson Raasch explained that he doesn't see any other option.

Mr. Kosobucki explained that the only way to get a better bid would be to restructure the design and eliminate the pickle ball courts.

Alderperson Raasch moved to accept the bid and alternate bid from Pro Track and Tennis, in the amount of \$81,250, seconded by Alderperson Chandik Kunding.

Alderperson Raasch modified the motion to accept the bid and alternate bid from Pro Track and Tennis, in the amount of \$81,250 and to ask Council for the additional \$23,750. Alderperson Chandik Kunding approved the amendment. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dean Raasch, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Amy Chandik Kunding, Alderperson
AYES:	Thiel Collar, Jennings, Kneiszel, Kunding, Defnet Ledvina, Raasch, Soquet

4. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Request to Donate One Family Pool Membership for the 2022 Virtual Snowman Contest Grand Prize.

Alderperson Chandik Kunding moved to approve the request to donate one family pool membership for the 2022 virtual snowman contest grand prize, seconded by Melissa Thiel Collar. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Amy Chandik Kunding, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Melissa Thiel Collar, Board Member
AYES:	Thiel Collar, Jennings, Kneiszel, Kunding, Defnet Ledvina, Raasch, Soquet

5. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve New Outdoor Pool Schedule.

Melissa Thiel Collar moved to approve the new outdoor pool schedule as proposed, seconded by Randy Soquet.

Discussion followed.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained that originally staff was planning about doing major changes to the schedule due to staffing concerns.

However, after reviewing the schedule staff is recommending condensing the day schedule, eliminating family swim and having two open swim sessions with the last one getting done at 7:45 pm. Condensing the schedule allows staff to complete work before it gets dark. The new schedule does include lap swim at both pools and family swim users have the option to attend open swim.

Randy Soquet commented that he would really like to keep family swim at Legion Park. Alderperson Raasch questioned the difference between open swim and family swim. Marty Kosobucki explained that with family swim patrons can bring toys into the pool and the children have to be accompanied by an adult. There are probably far more people that attend open swim than family swim. An option could be to schedule special events of family swim at Legion.

Randy Soquet commented that he would like to see at least a transition of holding special family swim events is made, this would allow a determination to be made to see if it is worth continuing for following years.

Ryan Jennings commented that he would not be opposed to having different schedules for both pools, where Legion could hold family swim times and VFW would not.

Marty Kosobucki explained that for scheduling purposes, staff would highly recommend keeping schedules the same for both pools, but would be open to holding special family swim events at Legion.

Randy Soquet would like to see special events held at Legion for family swim.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Melissa Thiel Collar, Board Member
SECONDER:	Randy Soquet, Board Member
AYES:	Thiel Collar, Jennings, Kneiszel, Kunding, Defnet Ledvina, Raasch, Soquet

6. Consideration and Possible Action on Policy Change to Open Swim Pass for Summer Pools.

Alderperson Raasch moved to approve the policy change for open swim passes for summer pools, seconded by Ryan Jennings. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dean Raasch, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Ryan Jennings, Board Member
AYES:	Thiel Collar, Jennings, Kneiszel, Kunding, Defnet Ledvina, Raasch, Soquet

7. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Proposal to Change Non-Resident / Resident Fee for Open Swim Day Pass to a Single Fee. *

Alderperson Raasch moved to approve the proposal to change non-resident / resident fees for open swim day passes to a single fee, seconded by Melissa Thiel Collar.

Discussion followed.

Randy Soquet commented that he feels strongly that residents of De Pere should have discounted rates. The residents voted in a tax increase for the purpose of funding the pools and non-residents should pay a higher rate. He understands the difficulty staff is having, but there has to be a way to make this process easier and strongly feels that there needs to be some type of discounted day passes for residents.

Ryan Jennings suggested the possibility of having a separate counter fee at the pool. Is there a possibility to offer discounted resident day passes for sale at the Community Center, where residents could purchase the discounted day passes early and charges for purchasing passes at the pool could even be higher.

Alderperson Raasch commented that the residents of De Pere have the ability to get discounted rates if they purchase a season pass and feels the established fees are fair.

Aldersonperson Chandik Kunderinger questioned if the POS system could track the number of times a person purchases a day pass.

Aldersonperson Defnet Ledvina commented that not all families have the ability to come up with season pass fees at once.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained that staff would not recommend a single fee day pass if they did not think it was the right way to go. If discounted day passes are sold at the Community Center, this would just move the long line from the pool to the Community Center and would increase the risk of patrons not getting into the pool because of capacity issues. There is only one other local community that actually checks for residency. Staff would like this policy adopted for operational efficiencies and if residents purchase the season pass they would get a great deal.

Aldersonperson Defnet Ledvina questioned if there was a way for residents that cannot afford a season pass to get discounted rates.

Marty Kosobucki explained that the Recreation Department does have the ability to give out Recreation Scholarships to families on food stamps, but also to families that have a hardship. The hardship would just need to be explained. The city has been very generous with the Recreation Scholarship funds with allotting them for seasonal pool passes.

James Kneiszel questioned what the percentage of revenue from non-residents was from last year.

Marty Kosobucki passed out a spreadsheet showing last years' revenues from day pass sales. Angela George, Recreation Supervisor explained the spreadsheet of resident and non-resident revenues for day pass sales and the proposed revenues with the new proposed fee schedule.

James Kneiszel explained that he is alright with the change from a practicality standpoint, but feels this topic should be reviewed next year if there are a lot of complaints. There is a great need to make the process easier for the pool staff.

Aldersonperson Chandik Kunderinger stated she would like to see if staff could look into the possibility of getting benefits to patrons that purchase multiple day passes.

Upon vote, the motion passed with a vote of 6-1, with Randy Soquet voting Nay.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [6 TO 1]
MOVER:	Dean Raasch, Aldersonperson
SECONDER:	Melissa Thiel Collar, Board Member
AYES:	Thiel Collar, Jennings, Kneiszel, Kunderinger, Defnet Ledvina, Raasch
NAYS:	Randy Soquet

8. Consideration and Possible Action to Accept Lawn Mower Bid.

Ryan Jennings moved to accept the lawnmower bid from Reinders, seconded by Randy Soquet.

Discussion followed.

Aldersonperson Raasch suggested that due to the bid coming in over budget, that the climate control cab be removed from the bid.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained that if the climate control cab is removed, a canopy would need to be added to the bid.

James Kneiszel questioned the need for a climate controlled cab.

Marty Kosobucki explained that the 11' mowers are the ones that are used the most.

There are times when the employees go out to mow and it is miserable. The climate controlled cab is not just cooled, it is heated as well. This would be nice for the early spring and late fall mowing. Staff would not go the point of having all mowers climate

controlled, but it would be nice for the 11' mowers.

Ryan Jennings questioned how many hours a day would an employee typically spend on the mower and how many years do the mowers last.

Marty Kosobucki commented that the mower being replaced is from 2006. On a typical mowing day employees would work 9 hours a day and when seasonal employees are not working the employees could work overtime just to get the mowing done.

Alderson Raasch commented that he doesn't feel that the additional funding should be requested for the climate controlled cab.

Alderson Raasch moved to amend the original motion to exclude the climate control cab in the bid from Reinders and add a canopy to the mower, seconded by James Kneiszel. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dean Raasch, Alderson
SECONDER:	Jim Kneiszel, Board Member
AYES:	Thiel Collar, Jennings, Kneiszel, Kunding, Defnet Ledvina, Raasch, Soquet

IV. Staff Updates

1. Update on Nelson Family Pavillion Fundraising Committee and Plan.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained that a fundraising committee has been established and is chaired by Tina Quigley of Definitely De Pere. The fundraising plan is included in the board packet and the resolution is allowing the committee to go out and accept funds for the project.

Alderson Chandik Kunding stated that the committee has submitted a grant for \$250,000 and they should find out by the end of December if the grant is received.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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V. Future Agenda Items

Ryan Jennings requested that staff look into the possibility of planting no mow grass in some of the parks to help alleviate some of the grass mowing. Marty Kosobucki explained that the Sustainability Commission is looking into no mow grass around the city, so this might be a topic that they will be addressing in the near future.

Ryan Jennings stated that last month the park board voted to spend around \$18,000 for repairs to Legion Pool. Even though that is not an insurmountable cost for repairs, there should be some plans in place to when repairs would not be done and the construction of the new pool would be started. Ryan would like the park board to formally develop a plan for the replacement of Legion Pool and to propose the cost at which we don't repair it. And, if Legion doesn't fail what is the optimal timeline to decommission Legion and build the new facility.

Randy Soquet requested for the mayor and administrator to approach neighboring community about contributing to the aquatic facility to get discounted non-resident rates.

VI. Adjournment

Alderson Defnet Ledvina moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm, seconded by Melissa Thiel Collar. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Lahtela