



Board of Park Commissioners

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

Regular Meeting

Final Minutes

Thursday, June 15, 2023

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	
Connor Mason	Teen Advisor	Present	
Connor Goodman	Teen Advisor	Present	

Others present: Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry; and Grace Lahtela, Administrative Assistant.

II. Public comment upon matters not on the agenda. Comments made during the public comment period shall pertain only to matters under the jurisdiction of the Board of Park Commissioners. Chapter 6-3(f) DPMC

None

III. Items

1. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Board of Park Commissioners Minutes from the May 18, 2023 meeting.

James Kneiszel moved to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2023 meeting, seconded by Aldersperson Chandik Kunding. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

2. Consideration and Possible Action to Accept a \$2500 Donation from Greta Johnson to Rec Scholarship Fund*

Aldersperson Chandik Kunding moved to accept a \$2,500 donation from Greta Johnson for the Recreation Scholarship Fund, seconded by Aldersperson Raasch. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Randy Soquet thanked Ms. Johnson for her generous donation to the Recreation Scholarship Fund.

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

3. Consideration and Possible Action to Accept a \$1000 Donation from De Pere Rotary Club for Summer Carnival*

Alderperson Chandik Kunding moved to accept a \$1,000 donation from the De Pere Rotary Club for the Summer Carnival, seconded by Alderperson Raasch. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Randy Soquet thanked the De Pere Rotary Club for supporting the Summer Carnival.

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

4. Farewell from Teen Advisor Madison DeCleene.

Teen Advisor, Madison DeCleene gave a farewell address to the Board of Park Commissioners.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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5. Consideration and Possible Action for Recommendations on Final Draft Plan for Wilson Park.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated that representatives from Graef are here to provide information about the project.

Kristan Sanchez, from Graef gave a detailed summary of both options. Kristan stated that for the existing conditions of the park the online mapping and aerial photos were used from the city website. There is actual more trees and shrubs shown on the map than exists at the park. The current lighting, memorial tree and historical plaque are also shown on the existing condition drawing. From the existing conditions drawing, Graef was asked to design both an active and a passive concept for redesigning Wilson Park.

The first plan is the active concept which activates the perimeter of the park along College Avenue, with adding perimeter seating, landscape plantings, and a walking path near College Avenue. The interior of the park will remain more passive in nature, and a sports court is identified in the corner of the park. Because this park is more active, the plan includes more active, color changing LED lighting options, colored concrete, and the addition of resting knolls, with some including built in benches for seating.

The second plan is the passive concept which steers the circulation and visitor traffic to the interior of the park, with a crushed gravel path that goes around the memorial tree and connects to College Avenue. With the crushed gravel material, it is a more natural product. This plan includes softer moon lighting and illuminated benches, which are incorporated in the Walsh Plaza. This passive concept also includes an area designated for a small playground.

Both plans leave the historical monument and the memorial tree in the same place; add lighting, including artistic lighting, which was important on the survey; improve the

grading of the park; keep as many trees as possible; and include some type of hammock groves or posts.

Aldersonperson Chandik Kunderger questioned if there is an estimate on what the cost would be to implement either of the options. Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated that either option would probably be between \$125,000 to \$200,000. Kristan Sanchez from Graef agreed with Marty's cost estimate and stated that both plans, as shown, were similar in cost.

Aldersonperson Raasch question how much space is allocated for the playground equipment in option 2. Kristan Sanchez stated that the area shown colored in yellow is around 1,500 to 2,000 square feet. Marty Kosobucki clarified the size of the site stating that the allocated space for the Kelly Danen playground is around 1,800 square feet.

Connor Goodman, Teen Advisor question if there is a plan to put a fence or trees along the multi-sport court to keep balls from going into the street. Kristan Sanchez stated that currently there is a fence at the park, but extensive repairs are needed to be done to the fence and the recommendation would be for the existing fence to be removed. Fencing would be determined by what sport is going to be played on the court. Marty Kosobucki explained that the size and dimension of the sport court could be altered to accommodate the end use of the court that the Park Board would like, however, the space shown is not adequate to hold a full-sized basketball or tennis court.

Aldersonperson Defnet Ledvina stated that the Park Board must be mindful of vandalism. Marty agreed that there has been a lot of art damage and vandalism in the city, which is concerning.

Aldersonperson Raasch stated that looking at the two options, the decision needs to be made if we build something for college use or community use. The sports court area that is conceptualized is so small it would take away from the value of the park, or it would need to be made bigger. Aldersonperson Raasch likes option 2 where college students can hang out and study at and he feels it would be used by both college students and the community.

James Kneiszel moved to open the meeting at 7:03 pm, seconded by Aldersonperson Chandik Kunderger. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Joe Nicks stated he prefers a passive use for Wilson Park. He is not a big fan of the resting knolls, or the hammock stands. He feels that a landscaping planting plan is needed and is disappointed that the monument is left in the same place with no effort of restoration or preservation. He stated that the historic monument is a museum piece and should be a feature of the park. If the city is not prepared to preserve the plaque, then it should be given to someone who will preserve it. He stated that the city has many pools, sports fields, and playgrounds, but needs passive parks as well, and needs to be committed to have the resources available for maintenance at the park.

Chris Dahlke, representing St. Norbert College stated that the college students are concerned with the lighting of the park and would like the fence to be removed. Chris stated that hammock gardens are well used on campus and the sports court is an attractive option for the college students. The path running through the park is nice and would be a welcome short cut for students. Melissa Thiel Collar questioned if there are other outdoor sports court other than the volleyball court. Chris Dahlke answered that the volleyball court is the only outside court on campus.

Aldersonperson Raasch moved to return to regular order at 7:15 pm, seconded by Aldersonperson Chandik Kunderger. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Aldersonperson Raasch moved to pursue option #2, a more passive recreation concept, seconded by Melissa Thiel Collar.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina questioned if the passive option has the seating knolls and if not, she would like to see them implemented in the passive plan. Kristan Sanchez stated that it does not, but they could be integrated into the plan.

Aldersperson Chandik Kunding stated she would like to incorporate some art sculptures into the park and the playground to be removed. She would also like seating with tables to be incorporated as well.

James Kneiszel stated he really likes the passive option as well. He would recommend eliminating the fence and playground, which is a safety hazard, and likes the hammock stands. James questioned if there is something deteriorating on the historical monument, or if it could be relocated. Marty stated that the monument is not deteriorating but needs preservation.

Ryan Jennings stated he would like to investigate relocating the plaque and feels that the path should have a destination within the park, not an exit. The plaque could possibly be relocated somewhere in the middle or apex of the walking trail, with benches near it.

Ryan also likes the cluster of hammock option better than single hammock stands throughout the park.

Randy Soquet stated he likes the passive design and feels the plaque should be relocated with gardens. He feels there are a lot of great ideas.

Connor Goodman, Teen Advisor, also likes the passive option and the moon lighting. He thinks it would be nice if the path could be guided to the monument if it could be relocated.

Maddy DeCleene, Teen Advisor, thinks that there should be benches with tables, as the tables would be utilized by the students. She likes the knolls with the benches, as they are not anywhere in the city, and it would be nice to implement.

Upon vote, the above motion passed unanimously.

Kristan Sanchez from Graef asked if the plaque alone is the historical portion or is the entire monument historical. Marty Kosobucki stated that staff would investigate it.

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

6. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Amendment to the Facility Use Agreement with the De Pere Unified School District*

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve the amendment to the Facility Use Agreement with the De Pere Unified School District, seconded by Melissa Thiel Collar. Aldersperson Raasch stated that after discussions with staff and the mayor, he will support it because the City of De Pere and the school districts need to work together, but this amendment was not well received by the city. Both the school district and the city need to understand that they need to be supportive of each other and work together to make the community better.

Melissa Thiel Collar questioned Marty Kosobucki if there was a joint facility use agreement between the city and both school districts. Marty Kosobucki explained that during the time he has worked for the city, there has not been one and one was never needed because there has been a good understanding between the entities. Melissa Thiel Collar stated that the Joint Facility Use Agreement works out well in Green Bay.

Upon vote, the above motion passed unanimously.

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

7. Consideration and Possible Action for On-Line Survey Related to the Comprehensive Outdoor Plan.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry explained that the survey in the packet is for the Comprehensive Outdoor Plan and staff recommendations for changes to the survey were given to the park board before the meeting. Marty questioned if there are any questions that the Park Board would like changed, or anything removed or added to the survey.

Marty Kosobucki explained that the dog question was added because it is a topic that is coming, and the survey is a great way to gather information.

Ryan Jennings questioned #7 about the park web mapping application and felt that the question was confusing. Marty Kosobucki explained that the city has a system available on the website and the consultants are trying to see if the public is using it, or even aware it exists.

Alderperson Chandik Kunding questioned #29 and felt that the option of allowing dogs in the parks without restrictions should be eliminated. An option that would never be considered should not be listed as an available option.

Randy Soquet moved to approve the online survey regarding the Comprehensive Outdoor Plan with recommended changes from staff, along with removing the second option in question #29 and revising the wording of question #7 to be more user friendly, seconded by Alderperson Defnet Ledvina.

Alderperson Raasch feels that the second option for question #29 should be left in the survey. The option is warranted to be in there, but it will probably not be popular.

Alderperson Chandik Kunding disagreed with the comments made by Alderperson Raasch. She feels that if an option would not be something the city would ever entertain, then it should not be listed as an option. Alderperson Raasch stated that funneling a survey to get the answers wanted is not a true survey.

Alderperson Raasch moved to amend the original motion to remove the changes to question #29 and for the second option to be in the survey, there was no second. The motion dies for a lack of a second.

Marty Kosobucki explained that the question was added to see if the residents wanted to allow dogs in the parks. Once the survey results are in, the topic may come back to park board and possibly another survey might be needed.

Upon vote, the above motion passed unanimously.

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

8. Discussion On Considering Changes to Ordinance Pertaining to Dogs in the Parks.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry explained that this discussion item was placed on the agenda to get an idea of the Park Board felt that allowing dogs in the park should be pursued, or if the ordinance should stay as is.

Randy Soquet, Alderperson Defnet Ledvina, and Melissa Thiel Collar all expressed their interest in allowing dogs in the parks be pursued.

Alderperson Defnet Ledvina explained that the people that are following the rules are getting upset because others are bringing their dogs, and nothing is being done about breaking the rules.

James Kneiszel explained that he is happy that the topic is being brought up again, and either way it goes, the rules need to be enforced. The pets should be required to be on a leash and there should be signage with the rules people need to follow. Mr. Kneiszel reached out to the Brown County Parks Department, and they have very little problems regarding dogs in the parks. They have signs in the parks with the rules and the ordinance violation is listed on the signs.

Alderperson Raasch stated that the topic needs to be addressed again. The problems that are occurring with dogs in the parks are not with the dogs, but with the owners. The owners need to have control of their pets, know their animals, and enforcement needs to be better.

Maddie DeCleene, Teen Advisor agreed that dogs should be allowed in parks, but they should be required to be leashed. Not only for the safety of individuals, but for the safety of the dogs too. Also, people need to be made aware that enforcement of the rules is being done.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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IV. Staff Updates

1. Staff Update on New Teen Advisory Appointment.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated with the departure of teen advisor, Madison DeCleene, the new teen advisor for the east side is Conner Mason. Connor's first meeting will be next month.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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2. Staff Update on Nelson Family Pavilion Progress.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated he received a preliminary report from the environment survey but we are still waiting on the final report. From what information McMahon is relaying, it is good news.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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3. Staff Update on Status of Pool Openings.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry explained that everything went well with the pool openings, except for the weather. One problem that occurred was that a breaker popped at the VFW Aquatic Facility and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the concessions in the freezer were lost. Also, the vacuum at Legion Pool broke, so we are down to one vacuum again.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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4. Staff Report on Status of Legion Diamond Renovation.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated that the agreement for the Legion Park diamond renovations has been signed. The work is planned to start in September.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

5. Staff Update on Status of Playground Installations.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated that the installation for the Kelly Danen playground is set for August 7th – 11th, Legion playground is set for September 18th – 22nd, and Lawton playground September 18th – 29th. The poured in place surfacing is set for installation at Kelly Danen Park on September 5th – 6th, and Legion Park on September 25th – 31st.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

V. Future Agenda Items

Melissa Thiel Collar requested an update on the Southwest Park pavilion fire.

VI. Adjournment

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm, seconded by Aldersperson Chandik Kunding. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Lahtela