



Board of Park Commissioners

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115

<https://www.deperewi.gov/>

Regular Meeting

Final Minutes

Thursday, April 15, 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
Casey Nelson	Aldersperson	Present	
Melissa Thiel Collar	Board Member	Excused	
Ryan Jennings	Board Member	Present	
Jim Kneiszel	Board Member	Present	
Amy Chandik Kunding	Aldersperson	Present	
Dean Raasch	Aldersperson	Present	
Randy Soquet	Board Member	Present	
Lydia McMorro	Teen Advisor	Absent	
Christopher Soquet	Teen Advisor	Present	

Others present: Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry; Don Melichar, Parks Superintendent/Forester; Paula Rahn, Recreation Superintendent; John McDonald, Recreation Supervisor; Kristen Johnson, Assistant City Attorney; and 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 March 18, 2021 Meeting.

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

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Casey Nelson, Aldersperson
SECONDER:	Amy Chandik Kunding, Aldersperson
AYES:	Nelson, Jennings, Kneiszel, Kunding, Raasch, Soquet
EXCUSED:	Melissa Thiel Collar

2. Request from property owner at 525 Fulton Street to remove a tree located in a public area submitted on March 17, 2021.

Marty Kosobucki explained that the homeowner has spoken with the City Forester several times to get a tree removed from the terrace at his home. The forester has indicated that the tree is healthy and based on city ordinance and the city horticultural plan; a healthy tree should not be removed. Staff agrees with the homeowner that there are tree roots in his sewer line, but the trees do not damage the line. What occurs is the lateral breaks and then the tree roots gravitate to the nutrients and water being dispersed into the soil. Options for the homeowner include: placing a chemical in the line to kill the roots; to fix the lateral by installing a sleeve in the line; or replace the sanitary lateral.

Staff believes that if the tree would be taken down, there are several other trees in the area and these roots could become a problem in the future for the homeowner. Based on city ordinance and because the tree is healthy, staff recommends that the tree does not come down. If the park board agrees with staff, the homeowner would have the option of filing a claim with the city insurance company.

James Kneiszel commented that he agrees that the problem is with the sewer line and not the tree. He feels that cutting the tree down will not solve the problem.

James Kneiszel moved to agree with the City Forester and reject the request of removing the tree by the homeowner, seconded by Alderperson Raasch.

Discussion followed.

Alderperson Chandik Kunding questioned who would be responsible for the cost of installing the sleeve or replacing the lateral.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained that because the problem is in the lateral to the home and on the homeowner's property, it would be the homeowner's responsibility to put in a sleeve or repair the lateral.

Randy Soquet questioned if there is evidence that it is the referenced tree that is causing the problems.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained that the Forestry Department does believe the roots are from the referenced tree; however the only way to know for certain would be to dig up the yard.

Alderperson Raasch moved to open the meeting at 6:40 pm, seconded by Alderperson Chandik Kunding. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

John Felton spoke on his behalf regarding the issues he is experiencing with roots in his sanitary line. Mr. Felton has done the chemical treatment and it only lasts a year. He is not certain how the sewer line broke, but every spring he has to call in a plumber to clear the sewer line at \$200 a time. The last few years, this same procedure had to be done again in the fall. Mr. Felton has written proof from the plumber that the referenced tree is the problem. Mr. Felton believes that the tree should be cut down and another tree can be planted in a different area.

Alderperson Chandik Kunding questioned the cost of the sleeve to repair the break in the line.

Alderperson Raasch moved to return to regular order at 6:45 pm, seconded by Jim Kneiszel. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Alderperson Raasch explained that the lateral is on the homeowner's property and their responsibility. The roots enter the lateral because a lateral breaks; the roots do not cause the issue. The roots gravitate to the lateral because of the nutrients and water in the soil due to the broken lateral. Keeping the tree up is the correct choice.

Ryan Jennings also agrees that the lateral is the problem.

Upon vote, the above motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jim Kneiszel, Board Member
SECONDER:	Dean Raasch, Alderperson
AYES:	Nelson, Jennings, Kneiszel, Kunding, Raasch, Soquet
EXCUSED:	Melissa Thiel Collar

3. Consideration and Possible Action to Accept \$200 Donation from De Pere Area Men's Club for Easter Egg Hunt.

Aldersperson Nelson moved to accept the \$200 donation from the De Pere Area Men's Club for the Easter Egg Hunt, seconded by Aldersperson Raasch. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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4. Consideration and Possible Action to Accept a Donation from Joe Wollin and Family for a Disc Golf Practice Basket at the Legion Park Disc Golf Course.*

Aldersperson Chandik Kunding moved to accept the donation from Joe Wollin and his family for a disc golf practice basket at the Legion Park disc golf course, seconded by Randy Soquet.

Discussion followed.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry suggested that prior to finalizing the location of the practice basket, there should be discussion with the individuals that helped lay out the course. This will ensure there will be no issues for course play or for patrons to get to the restroom facility.

Randy Soquet questioned if the plaque would be done in house.

Don Melichar, Park Superintendent explained that Mr. Wollin is aware that it is their responsibility to obtain the plaque.

James Kneiszel commented that he was part of the group of individuals that designed the course. He thinks it is a good idea for the golfers to look at the location to make sure the practice discs do not cross the path of the golfers or people going to the restroom. James can provide the name of the local sign company that created the plaques for the original baskets.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Amy Chandik Kunding, Aldersperson
SECONDER:	Randy Soquet, Board Member
AYES:	Nelson, Jennings, Kneiszel, Kunding, Raasch, Soquet
EXCUSED:	Melissa Thiel Collar

5. Consideration and Possible Action to Accept a \$2,500 Donation from Greta Johnson to the Recreation 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.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Amy Chandik Kunding, Aldersperson
SECONDER:	Randy Soquet, Board Member
AYES:	Nelson, Jennings, Kneiszel, Kunding, Raasch, Soquet
EXCUSED:	Melissa Thiel Collar

6. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Voyaguer Parking Lot Reciprocal Use Agreement.*

Aldersperson Nelson moved to approve the Voyageur Parking lot Reciprocal Use Agreement, seconded by Randy Soquet.

Discussion followed.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained that the Voyageur Parking lot is not completely owned by the city. The agreement expired last year and this is the renewal of the old agreement.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Casey Nelson, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Randy Soquet, Board Member
AYES:	Nelson, Jennings, Kneiszel, Kunding, Raasch, Soquet
EXCUSED:	Melissa Thiel Collar

7. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve 2020 Community Center & Recreation Annual Report

Alderson Nelson moved to approve the 2020 Community Center and Recreation Annual Report, seconded by Alderson Raasch.

Discussion followed.

Paula Rahn, Recreation Superintendent commended her staff for the work they put in during 2020. With the constant changes with COVID, it was a really hard year on staff. Even though revenues decreased around 57%, staff feels they were successful in what programs were able to be offer to the community.

Randy Soquet commented that he and his family are thankful for the programming that did take place in 2020 and are looking forward to 2021.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Casey Nelson, Alderson
SECONDER:	Dean Raasch, Alderson
AYES:	Nelson, Jennings, Kneiszel, Kunding, Raasch, Soquet
EXCUSED:	Melissa Thiel Collar

8. Staff report on work place incident.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained that Jerry Hasenberg Jr., one of the cities arborists was killed in a workplace incident on Thursday, April 1st Jerry was a highly valued employee and an excellent arborist that loved his job and the work that he did. His loss has deeply impacted the employees and our deepest sympathies go out to Jerry's wife Vanessa, her three boys and his entire family. We are in the process of trying to get our Forestry Department back on track, and discussions are being held on memorial ideas for Jerry.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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9. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Contractor for Tree Service.*

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained that due to the workplace accident on April 1st, if there is a forestry emergency that takes place, we are not currently able to address the issue. This contractor service would only be used if there was a forestry safety hazard present that needed to be taken care of immediately. Unfortunately there is now way to predict how much funding might be necessary.

Alderson Raasch moved to approve the use of a contractor for emergency tree

services, seconded by Alderson Chandik Kunding. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

10. Staff Update on the Voyageur Park Multi-Use Facility.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry commented that City Council approved the motion in regards to the multi-use facility at Voyageur Park. At this time, we are not sure if there has been any development on the fundraising committee and we are hoping to receive notice on the anonymous donor by the first of May.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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IV. Future Agenda Items

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry apologized for the Friends and Foundation and The Preserve not being included in this month's agenda. Unfortunately, due to the circumstances that arose, we were unable to get to them.

Randy Soquet commented that this was Alderperson Nelsons last Park Board meeting and thanked him for his years of service on the Park Board.

Alderperson Nelson thanked the Park Board for being so welcoming and will definitely miss the Park Board. He also thanked Marty and staff for all of the hard work that they do.

V. Adjournment

Alderperson Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm, seconded by Alderperson Chandik Kunding. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Lahtela