



Board of Park Commissioners

Regular Meeting

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

Final Minutes

Thursday, February 17, 2022

6:30 PM

Council Chambers and Virtual

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 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	Excused	

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 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. §6-3(f) DPMC

None

III. Items

1. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Board of Park Commissioners Minutes from January 20, 2022 Meeting.

Aldersperson Raasch moved to approve the Board of Park Commissioners minutes from the January 20, 2022 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. Review and Approval of Point of Sale System for Pools.

Aldersperson Raasch moved to approve purchasing RecDesk software and equipment for the point-of-sale (POS) system for the 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

3. Consideration & Possible Action to Approve Amerilux as the Main Sponsor of the De Pere Beer Gardens*

Alderperson Chandik Kunding moved to accept a \$3,000 donation from Amerilux to be the main sponsor of the De Pere Beer Gardens, seconded by Alderperson Raasch. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

4. Consideration & Possible Action to Approve a \$1,500 Donation from Immel Construction for the De Pere Beer Garden in August.*

Alderperson Chandik Kunding moved to accept a \$1,500 donation from Immel Construction for the sponsorship of the August Beer Garden, 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 & Possible Action to Approve a \$1,500 Donation from Graef for De Pere Beer Gardens in July.*

Alderperson Chandik Kunding moved to accept a \$1,500 donation from Graef for the Beer Garden sponsorship in July, seconded by Melissa Thiel Collar. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Ryan Jennings thanked all the sponsors for the donations.

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

6. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Policy Change regarding Transferable Fees for Community Center Rentals

Alderperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve the policy changes regarding transferable fees for Community Center rentals, seconded by Randy Soquet.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry explained that the requested change is to clear up the language in the policy to make it more understandable. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

7. Consideration and Possible Action regarding Moving Forward with Technical Design of Nelson Family Pavilion.*

Ryan Jennings moved to approve moving forward with the technical design, bidding, and construction management for the Nelson Family Pavilion at Voyageur Park, seconded by Alderperson Raasch. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

8. Discussion on Timeline for Replacement of Legion Pool.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry explained that a few months ago the Park Board requested that a discussion item be placed on the agenda regarding the timeline of replacing Legion Pool. Since that request, staff has reached out to the Finance Director for financial data for the aquatic facility and the referendum funding. The Finance Director has not provided the financial data yet. Staff recommends waiting to discuss this until financial information is available.

Alderperson Raasch agreed that without financial information it is hard to discuss a timeline and it is too early to even discuss a timeline yet.

Ryan Jennings explained that he requested the item to be placed on the agenda due to the recent repairs that had to be made to Legion. Ryan questioned if there is a certain point where the aquatic facility is paid down enough to start construction on Legion pool? With construction costs steadily increasing there is also a cost of waiting on the construction of the new pool.

Randy Soquet stated that once the financial data is received from the Finance Director to put the discussion topic back on the agenda.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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9. Discussion and Presentation of Aquatic Year End Report.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry gave a summary of the 2021 Aquatic Report. Marty explained that daily admission totals include patrons that walk up and pay admission for the day. Total attendance is not an exact count, but an average is taken of the head counts that are done every ½ hour at the pools. In 2021, 971 season passes were sold with 702 being residents and 269 non-resident passes. Swim lessons were not as popular because they were only offered as semi-private and private swim lessons due to COVID. In 2022 swim lessons are returning to normal swim lessons. Generally speaking, the pools did well, but could have done better with traditional swim lessons.

Randy Soquet questioned if the excess expenses come from the referendum funding.

Marty Kosobucki explained that all new operation costs come from the referendum funding, and previous operating costs still come from the operating budget. To see how this breaks down, we need the requested referendum financial information from Joe. Melissa Thiel Collar questioned if there is the expectation for the pools to break even. Marty Kosobucki explained that municipal pools are subsidized in some capacity. However, aquatic centers give municipalities a better chance of breaking even. Alderperson Raasch questioned the large increase in expenses. Marty Kosobucki explained that the largest increase was utilities, however the mechanical room at VFW was not running correctly for the entire year. Alderperson Raasch questioned how the staffing is doing for the pools. Marty Kosobucki explained that Council passed a new aggressive wage scale and at this time we probably have 80-90% of the pool positions filled.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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10. Discussion on Guidelines for Improving Wilson Park.

Marty Kosobucki commented that it was clear the Park Board did not want to part with Wilson Park. Since the last meeting, staff met with St. Norbert College to see what could be done at Wilson Park. During this meeting it quickly noted that some type of direction is needed in order to come up with ideas that would benefit the residents and the students at St. Norbert College.

Alderperson Raasch stated that the historical value of what is located at the park needs to be focused on. With the historical piece there, that most of the city of De Pere knows that it is there, the city should emphasize the memorial and why it is unique and special to De Pere.

Jim Kneiszel commented that he would like to see the city to remain owner of the parcel and to have complete control of the space; he would like to see both passive and active recreation at the park; and would consider a building on the property if it was feasible with the property size. One idea that he would support would be an adult fitness system around the park.

Alderperson Chandik Kunding stated she would like tables and chairs, or benches at the park. This would allow city residents, students, and employees of the college to walk there and have lunch. Just simple benches and sitting areas would encourage people to use the park.

James Kneiszel questioned the parking at the park.

Marty Kosobucki stated that the parking is strictly street parking and is generally filled with St. Norbert employees and students.

Randy Soquet moved to open the meeting to public comment at 7:25 pm, seconded by Alderperson Raasch. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Joe Nicks stated that he was at the Park Board meeting in November and expressed his opposition of transferring the ownership of the park to anyone else. He believes improvements are needed to the park and feels the park should be included in the comprehensive plan and downtown visioning plan that is taking place for the west side of the city. Mr. Nicks explained that he contacted Dan Lindstrom, Development Services Director, about including the park in the comprehensive plan. Dan explained that it was decided that the park was not being included in the comprehensive plan and that the planning of any park improvements would fall under the responsibility of the park board and the Park Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Nicks does not think this is correct and still feels that it should be included in the west side comprehensive plan, and for the planner to look

at it. Mr. Nicks would like the Park Board request that the planner include Wilson Park in the west side comprehensive plan.

Alderson Raasch moved to return to regular order at 7:30 pm, seconded by Randy Soquet. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Alderson Raasch explained that the cultural district plan that was done on the east side of the city, the Mulva organization had a lot of impact on how the plan was prepared. At the planning commission, the west side plan is looking more into the business district and the west side business development. This could be brought back to the Planning Commission for reconsideration. Also, with the historical plaque located at the park, it might be beneficial for the Historic Preservation committee to look into it as well.

Randy Soquet stated he would like to see the city maintain ownership of the property but might be open to private partnership. Also, both a passive and active recreational area would be nice, with the possibility of an open-air shelter for shading.

Alderson Chandik Kunding feels that a public art wall or structure would be impactful in the area, and a partnership with St. Norbert College art students could be a low-cost option.

Alderson Raasch commented that he likes the art idea but is a little concerned with the vandalism that is taking place in the art alley.

Ryan Jennings stated that the city is doing a 10-year strategic plan and Wilson Park can be part of that discussion as well.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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IV. Future Agenda Items

None

V. Adjournment

Melissa Thiel Collar moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm, seconded by Alderson Defnet Ledvina. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Lahtela