



Board of Park Commissioners

Regular Meeting

Final Minutes

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

Thursday, November 18, 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 Kunderinger	Aldersperson	Excused	
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

Don Melichar, Park Superintendent / Forester

Grace Lahtela, Administrative Assistant

II. Public Comment Period

Joseph Nicks gave a brief history of Wilson Park and how the park became a city park. He also commented on the memorial that is at the park. Mr. Nicks feels that Wilson Park should not be sold to St. Norbert College and that the Park Board should get involved in the west side vision plan to see how the park can be improved. Mr. Nicks also commented on the refurbishing of the VFW tennis courts. He feels that if the courts are refurbished, there is a need for more than two pickleball courts in the plan. CC O'Malley spoke regarding Wilson Park and feels the park should not be sold. She stated that this is the only park that you can walk to from Scheuring Rd to Main Street and from the river to the railroad tracks. She agreed that there are a lot of college kids and rentals around the park, but there are also a lot of young families.

III. Items

1. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Board of Park Commissioners Minutes from the October 21, 2021 Meeting.

Aldersperson Raasch moved to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2021 meeting, seconded by Aldersperson Defnet-Ledvina. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

2. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Select Soccer Request for the President Cup to be held at Southwest Park in 2024.

Melissa Thiel Collar moved to approve the request from Select Soccer for the President Cup to be held at Southwest Park in 2024, seconded by Alderperson Defnet-Ledvina.

Discussion followed.

Alderperson Raasch questioned if there would be restrictions on other groups using the fields to keep the fields in good conditions.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained that this is not the National Tournament that was held at Southwest in the past where fields needed to be deactivated for three months prior to the event. He also stated that De Pere Rapides is aware of the tournament .

Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

3. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Sale of Logs from City Tree Removals to Urban Evolutions.*

James Kneiszel moved to approve the request to sell logs from City tree removals to Urban Evolutions, seconded by Randy Soquet. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

4. Consideration and Possible Action On Allocation of Beer Garden Revenue.*

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained that at the last Park Board meeting there was discussion as to where the profits from the Beer Garden should be allocated, but no action was taken and it was referred back to staff to come up with some options for discussion. Staff worked on a list of potential projects, and the top five options are listed in the agenda packet. With the beer gardens being held at Voyageur Park, staff recommendation would be for the profits to be allocated to the Nelson Family Pavilion at Voyageur Park.

Alderperson Defnet Ledvina stated her concern with allocating the funds to the Nelson Family Pavilion is that there is a fundraising committee established and would hate to deter people from donating when the funds could go to a different project.

Mr. Kosobucki stated that the Nelson Family Pavilion will cost \$1.3 - \$1.5 million. Currently we have about \$770,000 raised, so there is a long way to go before reaching the goal.

James Kneiszel questioned if the funds needed to be earmarked today.

Mr. Kosobucki explained that there have been some questions from Alderpersons as to where the funds were going, that is why we are looking to have the funds earmarked for a certain project.

Alderperson Raasch stated that he would like to put more emphasis on things that benefit kids in the community and would like the funds to go to playground updates and maybe earmark it for playground upgrades going forward. He feels this would be good public relations for the event.

Randy Soquet agreed with Alderperson Raasch where the funds could be used for playground updates; however the Park Board made a commitment to the Voyageur Park project and allocating the funds there shows the city is committed to the project. Mr. Soquet feels that the Nelson Family Pavilion should be completed first and then prioritize playgrounds in the future.

Melissa Thiel Collar commented that the Nelson Family Pavilion would be within the mission of giving back to kids because the pavilion would be a gathering place for families and kids. Once the Nelson Family Pavilion is done, then the funds could be allocated to playgrounds.

Alderperson Raasch commented that the Voyageur Park Playground has families driving from outside communities to use the playground. He feels that the Park Board should help with the fundraising efforts for the Nelson Family Pavilion, but doesn't feel that the funds should go to the pavilion. From the public comments tonight, it shows how important it is to put funds into the parks and playgrounds.

Alderperson Defnet-Ledvina agrees that the funds should be allocated to playgrounds and that the fundraising committee has been doing a real good job and will bring in the funds for the pavilion.

James Kneiszel questioned if it would be beneficial to pick a playground and advertise at the beer gardens what the funds are going toward.

Marty Kosobucki explained that advertising a specific program might limit the people attending the beer gardens. Currently it is advertised that the profits go toward park infrastructure, and whatever project is chosen will help out the community.

Alderperson Raasch moved to recommend to Common Council to allocate the beer garden revenue of \$28,292 to playground needs from the listed park recommendations, seconded by Alderperson Defnet-Ledvina.

Marty Kosobucki explained that it might be best for the motion to identify a specific project.

Alderperson Raasch modified the motion to recommend to Common Council to allocate the beer garden revenue of \$28,292 to the Legion Woods playground, Alderperson Defnet-Ledvina agreed to the modification. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

5. Consideration and Approval of Revisions to Carrico Aquatic Agreement.

Alderson Defnet-Ledvina moved to approve the revisions to the Carrico Aquatic Agreement, seconded by Randy Soquet. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Shana Defnet Ledvina, Alderson
SECONDER:	Randy Soquet, Board Member
AYES:	Thiel Collar, Jennings, Kneisel, Defnet Ledvina, Raasch, Soquet
EXCUSED:	Amy Chandik Kunding

6. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Raincheck Policy for Swimming Pools.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained that staff wants to make sure there is a policy on file regarding refunds and/or rainchecks for the swimming pools. Staff recommendation would be that no refunds are given in the event of a pool closure. Rainchecks however would be given under certain unplanned or uncontrolled staff closures, but will not be provided for weather closures. This policy would not be advertised but would be followed at a patron's request.

James Kneisel questioned who would be issuing the rainchecks.

Marty Kosobucki explained that rainchecks could be issued by the pool manager, head pool manager, Recreation Supervisor Angela George, Recreation Superintendent Paula Rahn or Marty.

Alderson Raasch moved to approve the raincheck policy for swimming pools as presented, seconded by James Kneisel. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

7. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Pool Policy to Allow Children 8 Years Old And Under with a Guardian 16 Years Old or Older.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, explained that staff contacted local communities; along with the city's health and legal departments for recommendations regarding an age policy for the aquatic facility. After this information was obtained, staff recommendation would be that 8 year olds and under must be accompanied by a guardian 16 years of age or older.

Melissa Thiel Collar question if this policy will be monitored and adjusted if necessary and how the age of patrons will be determined by staff.

Marty Kosobucki explained that age determination will be difficult for day passes, but the information will be in the system for all season pass holders. Staff felt it was better to have something in place, than to have nothing at all.

Randy Soquet stated his concern is that residents having a responsible babysitter watching their children that is under 16 years old and have a family pool pass, the babysitter would not be able to bring the child to the pool with this policy.

Marty Kosobucki explained that this is probably going to be the biggest complaint from residents. Staff recommendation is what other local municipalities are doing and there will be advertising put out in the winter that states the policy changes.

Alderson Raasch moved to approve the pool policy that 8 year olds and under must be accompanied by a guardian 16 years of age or older, seconded by Melissa Thiel Collar. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

8. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Repairs for Legion Pool in the amount of \$17,900.*

Randy Soquet moved to approve repairs to Legion Pool in the amount of \$17,900, seconded by Alderperson Raasch.

Discussion followed.

Randy Soquet stated he was glad that the required repairs were minimal and that Legion Pool will still be operational next year.

Alderperson Defnet-Ledvina questioned if Council is going to discuss what the threshold of repairs are going to be before the new pool is constructed.

Marty Kosobucki explained that council would need to have that discussion.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

IV. Staff Updates

1. Staff Update for 2022 Beer Gardens.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained that next year staff recommendation is to eliminate the Saturday event. The attendance was alright, but there are too many conflicts that occur on Saturdays. We are going to stick with three events in 2022 and once the Nelson Family Pavilion is completed we may increase the number of events. The main event sponsorship will be \$3,000 and Amerilux has already agreed to be the main sponsor again for 2022. There is also another organization that may be interested in being a main sponsor, but details have not been worked out yet for this business. A rain date will also be considered in 2022, with the event being held the following week if the beer garden needs to be cancelled. With the large tent being a huge expense, staff has decided to forgo renting the tent and possibly purchasing some additional 10x10 pop-up tents to put up around the outside of the bowl. Volunteers have been considered and staff is trying to get this approved.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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2. Staff Update on Status of Wilson Park and St. Norbert College.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained that after discussions with St. Norbert College and the City Administrator, St. Norbert withdrew their intent to purchase the Wilson Park property. However, they are very interested in working with the city to see how the park could be improved to benefit both the college students and the community.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

V. Future Agenda Items

None

VI. Adjournment

Melissa Thiel Collar moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm, seconded by Randy Soquet.
Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Lahtela