



Board of Park Commissioners

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
<http://www.de-pere.org>

Regular Meeting

Final Minutes

Thursday, September 19, 2019

6:30 PM

De Pere City Hall Council Chambers

I. Call to Order

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

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Ryan Jennings	Alderman	Present	
Amy Chandik Kunding	Alderman	Present	
Dean Raasch	Alderman	Present	
George Brown	Board Member	Excused	
Sue Schinkten	Board Member	Present	
Randy Soquet	Board Member	Present	
Bill Volpano	Board Member	Present	
Lydia McMorro	Teen Advisor	Present	
William Soquet	Teen Advisor	Present	

Others present: Don Melichar, Park Superintendent/Forester, Paula Rahn, Recreation Superintendent, and John McDonald, Recreation Supervisor.

II. Action Items

1. Approve Board of Park Commissioners Minutes from the August 15, 2019 Meeting.

Alderman Raasch moved to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2019 Board of Park Commissioners meeting, seconded by Bill Volpano. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dean Raasch, Alderman
SECONDER:	Bill Volpano, Board Member
AYES:	Jennings, Kunding, Raasch, Schinkten, Soquet, Volpano
EXCUSED:	George Brown

2. Approve \$250 Donation from The Pink Flamingos for the De Pere Community Center Flooring Project*

Sue Schinkten moved to approve the \$250 donation from Pink Flamingos for the Community Center flooring project, seconded by Alderman Chandik Kunding. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Sue Schinkten, Board Member
SECONDER:	Amy Chandik Kunding, Alderman
AYES:	Jennings, Kunding, Raasch, Schinkten, Soquet, Volpano
EXCUSED:	George Brown

3. Consider request from De Pere Rapides to waive non-resident fees for Town of Lawrence.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained that in 2010, De Pere Rapides Soccer and the Town of Ledgeview asked for non-resident fees to be eliminated for the Town of Ledgeview residents. The request was made because the

number of fields being utilized in the Town of Ledgeview for the Rapides program was proportionate to the number of participants and was approved by Common Council. This request is similar in nature, but it is for the Town of Lawrence. De Pere Rapides currently uses three fields in the Town of Lawrence and this is proportionate to the number of Lawrence residents that participant in the program. If approved, this request would need to go to Common Council for final approval.

Sue Schinkten moved to open the meeting to public comment at 6:35 pm, seconded by Alderperson Jennings. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Jim Westerman, representing De Pere Rapides Soccer commented that he feels this would be a fair arrangement as it compares to the one that was approved for Ledgeview. Also, he is requesting that if the request is approved that it be retroactive for 2019 fees. Alderperson Raasch questioned what fields are being used in the Town of Lawrence, what age groups are using the fields, and the percentage of participants and fields for the Town of Lawrence.

Jim Westerman stated that not including Wrightstown, there are 1,324 participants in the program. The Town of Lawrence has 167 participants for 12.6% and provides 3 of the 19 fields for 15.8%. The City of De Pere provides 10 fields or 46.8%

A detailed discussion followed regarding the De Pere Rapides program.

Alderperson Raasch questioned if De Pere Rapides Soccer was a De Pere Park and Recreation ran program.

Marty Kosobucki commented that the De Pere Rapides is a completely separate organization, but the city is a co-sponsor of the program.

Alderperson Raasch moved to return to regular order at 6:42 pm, seconded by Bill Volpano. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed.

Alderperson Jennings questioned if there would be any difficulty with the request being retroactive to 2019.

Alderperson Raasch moved to open the meeting at 6:43 pm, seconded by Sue Schinkten. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Jim Westerman, representing De Pere Rapides explained that Rapides does not charge a non-resident fee and the organization absorbs the non-resident fees.

A detailed discussion followed regarding non-resident fees and the possibility of just renting fields versus charging resident and non-resident fees.

Alderperson Raasch moved to close the meeting to public comment at 6:52 pm, seconded by Alderperson Jennings. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Sue Schinkten moved to approve the request to waive non-resident fees for the Town of Lawrence participants in the De Pere Rapides Rec soccer program and for this request be retroactive to 2019, seconded by Alderperson Jennings.

Discussion followed.

Alderperson Jennings questioned the numbers on non-resident participants.

John McDonald, Recreation Supervisor commented that per the numbers that Jim Westerman provided for Town of Lawrence had 167 participants for 2019. With a \$20 non-resident fee, the financial impact would be \$3,340.

Alderperson Raasch commented that he is going to vote against the motion. He feels the topic of resident and non-resident fees needs to be a discussion with Common Council and there has to be a cleaner, easier way to allocate fields and fees.

Upon roll call vote, the motion passed 5-1 with Alderperson Raasch voting nay.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [5 TO 1]
MOVER:	Sue Schinkten, Board Member
SECONDER:	Ryan Jennings, Alderperson
AYES:	Jennings, Kundinger, Schinkten, Soquet, Volpano
NAYS:	Dean Raasch
EXCUSED:	George Brown

4. Approve Reallocating Partial Funding from Southwest Lighting Project to Riverwalk Maintenance. *

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry summarized that the Southwest Park paving project came in significantly higher than what was budgeted. During the budget workshop session, it was recommended to eliminate the project. This request is to reallocate a portion of these funds to cover repairs that are needed on the Riverwalk.

Alderperson Raasch moved to approve reallocating \$5,000 from the Southwest Park paving project to the Riverwalk for maintenance, seconded by Bill Volpano. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dean Raasch, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Bill Volpano, Board Member
AYES:	Jennings, Kundinger, Raasch, Schinkten, Soquet, Volpano
EXCUSED:	George Brown

5. Approve 9th Amendment to Humana Lease for Open Space and Ball Diamond.*

Alderperson Raasch moved to approve the 9th Amendment to the Humana Lease for use of the Humana Sports Park, seconded by Bill Volpano. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dean Raasch, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Bill Volpano, Board Member
AYES:	Jennings, Kundinger, Raasch, Schinkten, Soquet, Volpano
EXCUSED:	George Brown

III. Discussion Items

1. Discussion on Policy Related to Dogs in Parks.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry provided a summary of the current policy of allowing dogs in city parks. Brown County Supervisor Knizel requested that the Park Board review the current policy and possibly recommend ordinance changes. If the Park Board is interested, the City Attorney's office would draft any changes wanted and it would be brought back to Park Board as an ordinance change. Sue Schinkten moved to open the meeting to public comment at 7:03 pm, seconded by Alderperson Jennings. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

James Knizel, Brown County District 19 Supervisor and a member of the Boston Terrier rescue explained that about 1 ½ years ago, Brown County approved opening all their parks to dogs. Since the change, there has been little to no customer concerns. More people are viewing their pets as part of the family, and it would allow for clearer enforcement of policy for the city.

Sue Schinkten questioned if all Brown County Parks have dog waste stations.
Aldersperson Raash questioned Brown County's position on youth sporting events.
Sue Schinkten moved to close the meeting to public comment at 7:15 pm, seconded by Aldersperson Raasch. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained he received comments from one resident that has concerns with allowing dogs in the parks. The user groups were also contacted with De Pere baseball having no issues allowing dogs in the park if they are not allowed on the field; De Pere Select Soccer and Girls Softball are not in favor of allowing dogs in the park; and De Pere Rapides has mixed feeling, however stated it is tough to control as policy is now.

Bill Volpano questioned if we have complaints with the current ordinance and feels it might be helpful to conform to Brown County regulations.

Sue Schinkten commented that the layout of the parks will make it extremely hard to determine where dogs would actually be allowed in the parks.

Aldersperson Jennings commented it might be beneficial to clearly identify what parks are allowed and which parks are prohibited.

Randy Soquet requested that additional information be gathered on what parks would be considered pet friendly and which ones would not.

Aldersperson Chandik Kundinger questioned the percentage of city residences that have dogs and the number of residents would be affected by an ordinance change.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
----------------	------------------

2. Aquatic Annual Report

John McDonald, Recreation Supervisor reviewed the aquatic annual report in detail.

Sue Schinkten commented that she was surprised the attendance numbers were not higher with the VFW pool being closed.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry commented on the weather for the summer.

Aldersperson Raasch also commented on the attendance numbers.

Aldersperson Jennings commented on the great initiatives implemented this year.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
----------------	------------------

3. Presentation from Park Superintendent/City Forester on Emerald Ash Borer and tree planting.

Don Melichar, Parks Superintendent/Forester gave a detailed presentation on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and what the City policy is regarding removals and planting.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry commented on the number of trees that the city is taking down and the number replanted. Staff routinely plants more trees than what is taken down. With the timeline of EAB, the city will need to make a large financial investment within the next few years to prepare for what will need to be done.

Aldersperson Raasch thanked Don for the presentation and explained the Forestry Department has recently dealt with some very outspoken residents regarding department policies. This presentation was important, not only to show what a good job is being done, but for residents to have the facts and the importance for the community to know what is being done. He stated that the city does a great job keeping the trees as healthy as possible, in a way that is prudent and right for the city.

Aldersperson Chandik Kunding commented sharing the information on social media to help inform citizens.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
----------------	------------------

IV. Staff Updates

1. Update on the Status of the 2020 Budget.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry provided a list of items that were removed or changed in the budget.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
----------------	------------------

2. Update on the Outcome of the August Beer Garden.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry presented a financial summary of the August event. He also stated that Mischief and Magic was hired for the September event to do balloon tying for the kids. Also, there will be recognition of organizations that have been vital to the parks, including Tweet Garot, De Pere Men's Club, the Pink Flamingo and others.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
----------------	------------------

V. Future Agenda Items

Aldersperson Jennings requested a discussion item for fireworks near the eagles nest at the Fairgrounds property.

Randy Soquet requested the consideration of a policy change related to dogs in the parks to be a future action item.

VI. Public Comment Period

Marty Kosobucki commented that the final beer garden is on Tuesday, September 24th.

VII. Adjournment

Sue Schinkten moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm, seconded by Bill Volpano. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Lahtela