

JOINT PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE / BOARD

Wednesday, August 22, 2018

A meeting of the Joint Park and Recreation Committee / Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson Hauser in Council Chambers, City Hall, 421 Michigan Street.

Roll Call: Members Ald. Hauser, Ald. Hayes, Ald. Avenson, Municipal Services Director Mike Barker, George Husby, Chris Larsen, Marilyn Kleist, Randy Morrow, Leif Hagman and Municipal Services Secretary Lynnae Kolden were present. Also present Josh VanLieshout.

Moved by Randy Morrow, seconded by Leif Hagman to adopt the following agenda:

1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Staff report
6. Chair's comments
7. Presentation and Consideration of: Local wayfinding and public place finding proposal
8. Discussion of: Exclusive times for tennis usage and pickle ball usage at Otumba Park
9. Consideration of: Recommendation to Council re: Adopt-a-Park program
10. Future agenda items
11. Adjourn

All in favor. Carried.

Public Comment: Public Comment was moved on the agenda to take place after item # 7.

Approval of minutes: Tabled until next meeting.

Staff Report: Mike Barker spoke in regards to the parks, adding the pickle ball lines at Otumba and the continued tree cutting and stump removal from the parks, roughly 15 trees at Sunset alone. Also talked about the NOAA grant and not receiving it this year but will be reapplying later this year.

Chair's comments: Ald. Hauser advised that the recommendation from the last meeting on the Peil property, did get approved by Council. She thanked everyone for attending in support of the parks.

Presentation and Consideration of: Local wayfinding and public place finding proposal:

Pam Seiler, Executive Director of the SBVC, spoke on the Door County Wayfinding Initiative project, explaining that this is a county wide project. All county visitor's center directors have been meeting monthly to discuss branding the entire county in the same way, but not losing the individual identity of each town. The cost for the county is \$58,000, and the SBVC has committed to their portion of \$11,471.00. Randy Morrow commented how excited he is to get the signage updated in the community, and that the SBVC is paying 100% of the design portion & bringing all the communities together in the county. Ald. Hayes questioned if there would be public input on the signage, and stated that it looks like a well thought out plan for the communities. He also questioned the time frame on the project. Pam Seiler stated hopefully they will have all 19 communities approved by November, and the plan would continue on after that. Ald. Hayes questioned the cost for the installation. Pam Seiler stated the bid would come in after seeing everything that is needed.

Discussion of: Exclusive times for tennis usage and pickle ball usage at Otumba Park:

Public Comment:

Cliff Wind, 144 N. 10th Place, plays both tennis & pickle ball, and understands pickle ball can be loud. He stated Sunset Park is bigger and there are no houses near the courts but wind is an issue, and suggested the City invest in windscreens and pickle ball nets.

Jack Follick, 449 N. 18th Ave., Treasurer for the Door County Pickle Ball Club is looking for a place to play outside, since they can already play indoors at the YMCA. He thinks Otumba Park is the best location for both tennis & pickle ball because Sunset Park is too windy.

Morgan Witteborg, 15 N. Joliet, stated her biggest concern is the noise at Otumba, and would like to see upgrades at Sunset for pickle ball.

John Witteborg, 15 N. Joliet, said sound is a big issue with pickle ball since the houses are so close to the park, tennis is much quieter, and he would like to see improvements at Sunset for pickle ball.

Claire Morkin, 110 N. Joliet, commented that the tennis courts are used a lot with tennis players. She is very concerned living next to the noise and the constant loud ball noise of pickle ball. She would like to see improvements at Sunset for the pickle ballers.

Annie Lampert, 33 N. Joliet, enjoys her front porch, and has nothing against pickle ball, just the noise.

David Valentine, 834 N. Duluth Place, said they have a consistent tennis group playing at Otumba, and the numbers are increasing. The tennis courts at Otumba are the only 2 courts on the west side, and he is concerned with the possible damage to the nets and posts with people leaning on them. He would like to see signage listing the priority times for tennis / pickle ball if pickle ball is not moved to Sunset.

Dean, nonresident, owns property on Ironwood, plays both sports and he is concerned with the noise of pickle ball. He would like to see two courts at Sunset with windscreens.

Barb Warren, 717 Prairie Lane, wasn't aware of the noise when it was talked about at the last meeting, she has been a long time tennis player.

Dan, Park Rd., stated the City has a noise ordinance, and pickle ball doesn't exceed that level. He was not concerned with pickle ballers damaging the tennis nets, and stated the groups should be able to come up with times that work for both, and said the Door County Pickle Ball Club has 80 members. Regarding pickle ball nets, they have offered the use of the nets, and are willing to donate nets to the City for pickle ball.

Guy Fortin, 5581 Reynolds Rd., stated having multi users to the parks is great.

Jay, Egg Harbor, stated in his community in Egg Harbor, he lives 1/3 mile away and can still hear the pickle ball noise.

Closed public comment:

Ald. Avenson mentioned she appreciates the feedback, and believes the excitement will help with a long term solution. Ald. Hayes stated he was excited to see people in the parks and understands that noise is a concern and that wind effects pickle ball and not tennis, and feels it can be figured out. A short term solution would be to schedule times, and a long term solution would be separate courts. When planning, the parks can look into the improvements needed. Ald. Hauser agreed a long term solution is needed and the Door County Pickle Ball Club offered a donation of nets to the City. Randy Morrow said he understands the sound issue and also understands the under usage of Sunset Park. Mr. Morrow would like to see the cost to convert two courts at Sunset to pickle ball vs. building 2-4 from scratch. He is not a fan of scheduled times. Chris Larsen said Otumba is the preferred park, Sunset is too windy, and the High School doesn't have sun protection or places to sit. He asked if other parks would be possible, like Cherry Blossom. George Husby wanted to know if anyone had looked into sound material to put around the courts. He mentioned it does take a while to get a plan for separate courts, and that

fundraising would help. He also pointed out that Otumba & Sunset both have lights, and that pickle ball players would like to play outside for the next few months, not just weeks.

Ald. Hauser suggested having one Pickle Ball rep, one tennis rep and one neighborhood rep to meet with Mike Barker to come up with a plan for the rest of this year. Randy Morrow questioned what the process is to get items added to the parks. Mike Barker stated that it was done because he thought it would bring usage to the parks & the cost was low, about \$30.00 to paint the lines for pickle ball. Ald. Hayes asked for the groups to come up with a proposal of what is needed, so when discussing the 2019 budgets, needed items could be considered. Ald. Avenson mentioned that we have weeks, not months, to obtain and send in the proposals. George Husby stated Municipal Services Director Mike Barker needs to ensure the ultimate use of the parks, some fields have double lines and there are plenty of multi-use facilities. Ald. Hauser appreciated all the input and thanked everyone.

Consideration of: Recommendation to Council re: Adopt-a-Park program:

Ald. Hauser, explained the Adopt-a-Park program. Mike Barker brought forward the park list and stated we can always use help in the parks weeding, mulching, etc. which would help reduce the cost of chemical usage, and said some buildings also need painting. Chris Larsen likes the simplified documents in favor of the program.

Motion by Chris Larsen to recommend to Council The City of Sturgeon Bay Adopt-a-park Program.
Seconded by Ald. Avenson.

Randy Morrow, would like to see consideration on signage of who adopted the park, as recognition may help with more volunteers and sponsorships. Ald. Hauser also stated we could use social media to help with recognition. Ald. Hayes said more than one group can adopt-a-park, and thought after a year as a trial run, then maybe review Randy's point on signage & sponsorships of the parks. Ald. Avenson said she is all about recognition, and that signage does help get the information out to the public. She was very happy to hear this would help with less chemicals in the parks.

All in Favor. Carried.

Future Agenda items:

Ald. Hayes requested two items: 1. Discussion of: Making one park a dog free park, possibly Martin Park. 2. National Park proposal 20 minute presentation and 10 minute discussion.

Ald. Avenson suggested reviewing the land the City owns. Josh VanLieshout stated that would go to the Finance Committee.

Randy Morrow suggested two items: 1. Beaches and getting them cleaned up, he stated local hotels keep sending tourists to other beaches, not Otumba or Sunset. 2. Pedestrian signs back out by the parks for crossing the streets. Josh VanLieshout stated this would need to go to the Parking & Traffic Committee.

Ald. Avenson asked that the beaches have swim nets or buoys out, along with the swim platform.

Next meeting: Sept 26th at 5:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall.

Motion to adjourn by Ald. Avenson. Seconded by Ald. Hayes. All in favor. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynnae Kolden
Municipal Services Secretary