

JOINT PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, September 26, 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 and Municipal Services Secretary Lynnae Kolden were present.

Moved by Ald. Avenson, seconded by Marilyn Kleist to adopt the following agenda:

1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of Minutes from July 25th & August 22nd
5. Staff report
6. Chair's comments
7. Presentation of: Grand Traverse Islands National Park by John Bacon, Chair of Friends of Grand Traverse Islands
8. Presentation of: The noon Sturgeon Bay Rotary club's efforts to restore Little Lake by Mark Nelson
9. Consideration of: Creation of dog-free park at Martin Park
10. Discussion on: State of/ future of City beaches
11. Future agenda items
12. Adjourn

All in Favor. Carried

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes from July 25th & August 22nd: Moved by George Husby, seconded by Ald Avenson.
All in favor. Carried.

Staff Report: Mike Barker spoke in regards to Sunset Beach and removing 10 feet of dune grass with the help of the T.J. Walker 7th graders. A meeting was held with the Pickle ball /Tennis groups on the court usage times. He stated things seem to be working well for both groups. The trail head on the northern end of Peterson Park was built up to help with the standing water issue. Removal of stumps at Sunset Park has started & depending on leaf collection, some of the trees may be cut down.

Chair's comments: Ald. Hauser stated that Council approved the Adopt-a-Park Program, and a follow up / review with the Pickle ball / Tennis groups would take place when winter is over.

Presentation of: Grand Traverse Islands National Park

John Bacon spoke in regards to getting the Grand Traverse Islands added to the National Parks. They would start north of Newport and go up to Michigan. There are 17 islands in all and most are approximately 5 miles apart from each other. The Islands are part of the Nieria Escarpment which goes all the way to New York. Having the Grand Traverse Islands as a National Park would boost tourism in the area. John stated they are looking for a letter of support from the City of Sturgeon Bay to include with the request to congress to get the SRS for the Grand Traverse Islands started. It will take a few years for the process to finish before the islands could be named a National Park.

Presentation of: The noon Sturgeon Bay Rotary club's efforts to restore Little Lake

Mark Nelson spoke on the involvement of the Rotary Club's efforts on Little Lake. They gave \$100,000.00 in the past for Phase 1 of the restoration plan for Little Lake. They understand a plan B would have to be considered since the City didn't receive the grant money needed for the full restoration plan of Little Lake. He stated that they have funds set aside and would like to do a project for their 100th anniversary. They want to continue helping and also support the City, but the Club would like to know if Little Lake is still a priority and what the City's commitment level is to the project by the end of 2018.

Ald. Hauser stated a meeting would be needed with FOTH to go over the plan and possible options for a plan B. Mike Barker suggested a round table discussion to help decide what's needed in a plan B. Chris Larsen questioned if the City was bound by the FOTH proposal. Chris Larsen and Ald. Avenson questioned if FOTH

could work with a plan B, and if not, we would need to find another way locally to help with a plan B and with removing the sediment in the lake.

George Husby thanked the Rotary Club for all their work on the project.

Consideration of: Creation of a dog-free park at Martin Park.

Mike Barker stated that the City ordinance states; Dogs are allowed in all city parks except for on the beaches, playgrounds, ballfields and ballfield areas and must be contained on a leash at all times. Dogs must be cleaned up after.

Mr. Barker feels the reason for this, is that not all owners are picking up after their dogs. Sunset has had issues with dog droppings. Ald. Hayes mentioned that he brought it up after a constituent brought up a dog free park due to droppings. He suggested adding more dog stations in the parks to help with the dog droppings. Ald. Avenson stated she would like to see more dog stations around the city. Ald. Hauser stated that she spoke with the SBVC & the Boys and Girls Club, and they didn't see an issue with dogs or the droppings in and around their events. Ald. Hauser also stated that in the past it was mentioned how expensive the dog stations are. Ald. Avenson asked if we could work with a local artist and the industrial park to make dog stations more affordable. Chris Larsen questioned if we have enough garbage bins out for people to dispose of the dog droppings.

Ald. Hayes recommended not creating a dog free park but to have staff look into the purchase of dog stations for Martin & Sunset Parks. Seconded by Chris Larsen All in favor. Carried.

Discussion on: State of/ future of City beaches

Ald. Hauser mentioned that Randy Morrow wanted to discuss the city beaches and wasn't able to attend this meeting. She spoke with him and things to consider are swim buoys, size, condition, amenities and kayak launches. She stated this may be a good ad hoc committee. Ald. Avenson questioned what it takes to make a kayak launch at Otumba. Mike Barker stated maybe adding some pea gravel. Ald. Hayes suggested considering access or signage with the way finder project. Ald. Hauser mentioned that the dune grass helped keep our beaches open. Chris Larsen stated he thought we had too much dune grass on the beaches & also debris when the winds change. Mike Barker stated they have removed some of the grasses and will remove some more with the 7th graders from TJ Walker Middle School. Ald. Avenson is in favor of an ad hoc committee to discuss the beaches & get community involvement. Ald. Hauser suggested that Mike & Randy get a group together to discuss the beaches at Otumba & Sunset Parks. She will speak with Randy.

Future Agenda items:

- Letter of support for the Grand Traverse Islands National Park
- Little Lake
- Consideration of the cost to install dog stations at Martin & Sunset Parks
- Consideration of the ad hoc committee for the city beaches
- Tall grass ordinance

Next meeting: Wednesday Oct 24th, 2018 at 5:30 pm Council Chambers, City Hall.

Motion to adjourn by Ald. Avenson, seconded by Chris Larsen

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynnae Kolden
Municipal Services Secretary