

**JOINT PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, October 24, 2018**

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

**Roll Call:** Members Ald. Hayes, Ald. Avenson, Municipal Services Director Mike Barker, Randy Morrow, Chris Larsen, Marilyn Kleist and Municipal Services Secretary Lynnae Kolden were present.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Moved by Ald. Avenson, seconded by Randy Morrow

1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of Minutes from Sept 26th
5. Staff report
6. Chair's comments
7. Consideration of: Woods West native grasses restoration / mowing reduction
8. Consideration of: Letter of Support for the Grand Traverse Islands National Park
9. Future agenda items
10. Next Meeting date: Wednesday, December 12 @ 5:30pm
11. Adjourn

All in Favor. Carried

**Public Comment:** Kent Wickman – 1358 Memorial Dr. Mr. Wickman stated he thought the beaches were on the agenda and was concerned with the grasses and the lack of sand to enjoy. Randy Morrow mentioned great points on the beaches and that they were working to get an Ad Hoc committee started to address the city beaches. Mr. Wickman also mentioned having concerns about the bike/multi use path/sidewalks. Mr. Wickman also questioned what the definitions of the sidewalks/paths are. Ald. Hayes stated that each type of path/sidewalk has different dimension requirements. Mr. Wickman is concerned with the land issue, that the property isn't owned by the land owners. He stated the fact that the land is owned by the land owner, and would like a public acknowledgement of the land issue regarding the ownership. Ald. Avenson stated that there is confusion regarding the easements and it should be looked into further. Chris Larsen mentioned that it's listed as a scenic easement in the recreation plan. Mr. Wickman, wants it announced publicly that the land is owned by the land owners. Randy Morrow stated that his concerns should go directly to City Council. Ald. Hayes mentioned he should go to the Planning Commission meeting to get action, and the Common Council meeting to let everyone know the concern regarding the land issue. Mr. Wickman thanked everyone for listening.

Bill Luer – Sturgeon Bay. Mr. Luer spoke in regards to the Dog Park and questioned how he could get these items of a shelter, bathroom & water started at the Dog Park. Ald. Avenson mentioned she would add it to the next agenda for discussion. Ald. Hayes mentioned the Adopt-a-Park program and suggested the group interested in doing that take a look into that. Randy Morrow agreed that it needs to be added to the next agenda, so the committee/board can give it the proper attention. Chris Larsen mentioned that in the 5 yr. Recreation Plan that it does list a shade structure & water for the dog park.

**Approval of Minutes:** from September 26<sup>th</sup>, Moved by Ald. Avenson, seconded by Marilyn Kleist.  
All in favor. Carried.

**Staff Report:** Mike Barker spoke in regards that two parks have been adopted so far, the Skate Park & the Dog Park. Also he stated no change for Little Lake plans, as we are waiting for the scaled back version of the plan. But that we are resubmitting for the NOAA Grant.

**Chair's comments:** None

**Consideration of: Woods West native grasses restoration / mowing reduction:** Mike spoke on the Woods West Park and that the location would be ideal to try the native grasses project. He stated we may want to scale back from an acre to ¼ acre to make sure it works. He was concerned about staffing and the weeding requirements the first few years to get the native grasses established. Mentioned that the grass ordinance requires 100 ft. of mowed area next to adjacent property, and this park has enough space to accommodate

that ordinance. Ald. Avenson questioned if it would be better at Sunset, for more visibility to help encourage more native grass planting areas. Chris Larsen mentioned that Woods West is a good spot for success. He didn't feel we needed to plan on weeding too much, and stated a few walking paths through the grasses would be a nice addition. Randy Morrow agreed. Ald. Hayes agrees with Ald. Avenson on Sunset Park and asked what are the plans to take it to more parks? Mike stated he wanted to make sure it would work first and what it will take to get the native grasses established. He would like to do 3 to 5 acres in the future.

Motion by Ald. Avenson, to move forward with the Woods West native grasses restoration / mowing reduction up to 1 acre with a few walking paths. Seconded by Chris Larsen. All in favor. Carried.

Ald. Hayes requested photos to document the project.

**Consideration of: Letter of Support for the Grand Traverse Islands National Park:**

Randy Morrow wasn't sure why we were being asked for the letter of support. Ald. Hayes reviewed a few points from the presentation on the request for the letter and explained why it was being requested. All stated it was a very good presentation and could be an asset for Sturgeon Bay & Door County to have the Grand Traverse Islands as a national park.

Motion by Ald. Avenson to recommend to Council to write a letter of support for the Grand Traverse Islands National park. Seconded by Ald. Hayes  
All in favor. Carried

**Future Agenda items:**

Dog Park shelter and bathroom  
Consideration of the Ad Hoc committee for the city beaches

**Next meeting:** Wednesday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 5:30 pm Council Chambers, City Hall.

Motion to adjourn by Ald. Avenson seconded by Mike Barker.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynnae Kolden  
Municipal Services Secretary