

JOINT PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, December 12, 2018

A meeting of the Joint Park and Recreation Committee / Board was called to order at 5:32 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, Leif Hagman, Chris Larsen, Marilyn Kleist, George Husby and Municipal Services Secretary Lynnae Kolden were present.

Adoption of the Agenda: Moved by Ald. Avenson, seconded by Leif Hagman.

1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of Minutes from October 24, 2018
5. Staff Report
6. Update on Little Lake and Foth
7. Consideration of: Creation of an ad hoc committee on Sturgeon Bay beaches
8. Consideration of: Plan for an urban park at 1116 Egg Harbor Road
9. Discussion of: Improvements to Dog Park
10. Future Agenda Items
11. Next Meeting date: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 @ 5:30pm
12. Adjourn

All in Favor. Carried.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes from October 24, 2018: Moved by Ald. Hayes, seconded by Ald. Avenson. All in favor. Carried.

Staff Report: Mike Barker reported that the Parks Department was able to remove most of the leaves out of the parks this fall, which will help in the spring. He stated the City also received a grant for 71 trees to be planted at Sunset Park, and that the grant has restrictions on certain trees. He is currently looking into the varieties of trees available, including some fruit trees.

Update on Little Lake and Foth: Mike Barker spoke on the NOAA grant. The City didn't receive the grant, however, there was an opportunity to speak with people to help make the application stronger. The City spoke with them, and will be speaking with them again in the next few weeks. The application is due February 4th, 2019, and will be resubmitted. The City will not hear anything until late summer, and has not gotten a plan B from Foth. Chris Larsen questioned if Foth had been paid in full. Mike Barker stated no, they are still doing research and other things on the project. He also mentioned that when more information was available that he would reach out to the Rotary Club. Ald. Hauser mentioned meeting with the Rotary Club in early January to talk with them about the project.

Consideration of: Creation of an ad hoc committee on Sturgeon Bay beaches: Mike Barker gave a little background on the beaches. He stated he has heard a number of complaints since he started in June. The beaches are small due to the high water levels and the dune grasses. He did remove about 8 feet of the grasses in September, to help make the beach bigger at Sunset Park. He also stated that the dune grass serves a purpose and was installed using grant money, so he doesn't feel that anymore can be removed. Chris Larsen stated that the grasses have helped keep the beaches open, and suggested a deep till to get the runners out of the sand. Ald. Hauser stated that the committee would look into all things pertaining to the beaches, including, things like kayak launches and swim platforms, etc. She also stated that Randy Morrow, who was absent, was willing to chair the ad hoc committee. Sending a recommendation to Council is the next step needed to get the ad hoc committee started. Ald. Avenson made a motion to recommend to Council the creation of the ad hoc committee on Sturgeon Bay beaches. Seconded by George Husby.

Ald. Hauser asked if any more discussion was needed. Ald. Hayes stated that he liked the idea of the ad hoc committee, but would like to see it not limited to just beaches. He would like to see the committee expanded to include the public spaces and the parks, and feels they could come up with a priority list of the things that need to be done. Ald. Avenson mentioned that we have the wayfinder project to help with the overall city and park recognition, and is worried about it getting too broad. She also felt that beaches had been brought up a number of times on its own, and deserves the focused group. George Husby would like it to stay just beaches for this committee, and have another committee look into the other things. He can remember when the beaches used to have 100's of people enjoying them, and now he doesn't see hardly anyone using them. Mike Barker agreed with the wayfinder comments

and that the ad hoc should look into the usage of water sports and include kayak launches. Ald. Hayes said maybe the committee could include the water related park activities, he just felt beaches alone is too restrictive. Ald. Hauser agreed on the comments to including the waterways in the committee, and also stated that the Outdoor Recreation Plan will need to be updated next year, and that would help with the priority of projects for the parks.

Ald. Avenson amended the motion: To recommend to Council to create an ad hoc committee on Sturgeon Bay waterfront parks with an emphasis on beaches. Seconded by George Husby. All in favor. Carried.

Consideration of: Plan for an urban park at 1116 Egg Harbor Road: Ald. Hauser gave background information on the property. It is 7.34 acres. The property is already being used as a park, there are mown trails and people are walking and biking in there. It is in an area that is in need of a park in the future. There are over 400 apartments within a ½ mile radius. The committee had approved earlier to have the city attorney find out if the sellers would agree to a right of first refusal. The sellers are not interested, so going forward a couple of options would be, to request staff to research the cost of maintaining the property as is, or to recommend to Council to have the city attorney negotiate an offer to purchase, and make it contingent on appraisal and contingent on City Council approval. George Husby asked if we had the resources for the upkeep of an additional park. Mike Barker stated the budget would need to be looked at, and that if we were going to do a park, to do it right from the start and provide bathrooms. Ald. Avenson asked if we could get the cost of a restroom, parking lot, and maintaining the upkeep of mowing the trails. Discussion continued in regards to the cost of the property, maintenance of a park and access options. Ald. Hayes is concerned about strapping the Parks Department with another park, when we have a list of things needed to enhance the other city parks. Chris Larsen stated the possible park is in a nice location, but agrees that we need to set the priorities. More discussion on the access points and costs took place.

Chris Larsen made a motion to direct staff to pursue the various estimates of vehicular access to the Peil property from Alabama & Egg Harbor Rd. Seconded by Ald. Hayes. All in Favor. Carried.

Ald. Hauser asked if at the same time the cost of road access is being explored did the committee want the city attorney to pursue on the property as well. Ald. Hayes wants to see the breakdown on the land vs. the structures. Ald. Avenson asked if there is a cost to have the city attorney pursue the options. Ald. Hauser stated the cost of the legal time. Chris Larsen stated he wanted to know the cost of accessing the property first.

Ald. Hauser made a motion to table the agenda item: Plan for an urban park at 1116 Egg Harbor Road. Seconded by Chris Larsen. All in Favor. Carried.

Discussion of: Improvements to Dog Park:

Bill Luer, 155 N. 9th Ave. – Spoke on behalf of the dog park group. They did get together with Ald. Avenson to discuss the usage and possible upgrades. They are looking to get a shelter and a port-a-potty. The group wants to know how to move forward and what they can do. Discussion continued on various shelter structures including recycled buildings, tents, and a greenhouse type structure.

Doug Drew, 544 Louisiana St.– Asked if the City could provide materials to help fill in some of the holes that dogs are digging, and also wanted to know what weed killers are being used, and whether or not we could use pet friendly ones. Mike Barker stated that he could provide some materials to fill in the holes, and will find out which chemicals are being used for weed control. Leif Hagman asked if it would be possible to keep track of the volunteer hours used to calculate the cost savings in those adopted parks. Ald. Hauser suggested the lead adopter keep track of the volunteer hours.

Future agenda items: Scott Fischer, 5712 Salona Rd. – Spoke on getting trails at Big Hill Park. He would like to have rake and ride trails put in by volunteers maintained with leaf blowers twice a year. It would be zero cost to the City. Ald. Hayes suggested putting together a proposal for the next meeting. Chris Larsen thought placement of the trail locations should not be located too close to the houses in that area. Mike Barker stated Brian Spetz would need to map the park for the trail flow, and felt it was a good idea, seeing there would be no cost to the City for the trails.

Next Meeting date: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 @ 5:30pm.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Ald. Avenson, seconded by Leif Hagman.
Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynnae Kolden
Municipal Services Secretary