

CITY OF STURGEON BAY
JOINT PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, July 24, 2019
Council Chambers, City Hall, 421 Michigan Street
5:30 p.m.

A meeting of the Joint Park and Recreation Committee / Board was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chairperson Hayes in Council Chambers, City Hall, 421 Michigan Street.

Roll Call: Members Ald. Hayes, Ald. Nault, Chris Larson, George Husby, Jay Renstrom, and also present Municipal Services Director Mike Barker, Municipal Services Secretary Lynnae Kolden, Marty Olejniczak, Chris Sullivan-Robinson and Josh VanLieshout. Excused Ald. Bacon, Marilyn Kleist and Randy Morrow.

Adoption of the Agenda: Moved by Ald. Nault seconded by Mr. Husby.

1. Roll call
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Public comment on agenda and non-agenda items
4. Approval of minutes from June 26, 2019
5. Discussion of: Tennis in the City Parks Sunset and Otumba Parks
6. Discussion of: Indoor Ice Hockey Facility
7. Discussion of: Park assessments Lawrence Big Hill, Little Creek Parkway and Westside Field / Park
8. Directors Report
9. Future Agenda Items
10. Adjourn

All in Favor. Carried.

Public Comment: Sara Pinkert, 942 Jefferson Pl., Lillian Brigman, 950 Jefferson Pl., Bill Bauernfeind, 908 Jefferson Pl., all spoke in regards to the bike trail at Lawrence Big Hill Park. Claire Morkin, 110 N Joliet, Jack Follick, 449 N 18th Ave., Dean Hoegger, 3731 Big Rock Pl. all spoke in regards to Tennis & Pickleball at the Parks. Chris Kellems, 120 Alabama St, spoke in regards to the Parks. Rose Wodack, 421 N 4th Ave, spoke in regards to dogs in the Parks. Errin Kolden, 349 N 19th Ave, spoke in regards to an indoor ice rink.

Approval of Minutes from June 26, 2019: Moved by Ald. Nault, seconded by Mr. Renstrom. All in favor. Carried.

Discussion of: Tennis in the City Parks Sunset and Otumba Parks: Mr. Husby mentioned that the instructional program for Tennis got turned over to the YMCA for the use of the facilities, about 5 years ago. Mr. Renstrom stated that the Pickleball club would like to get a youth program started and they are working with the YMCA to get an instructional adult & youth program for next year. Ald. Nault stated there is a fee to be a YMCA member or non-member and to attend the classes. Ald. Nault feels the use of the Parks has gone down due to the cost of the YMCA programs. Ald. Nault asked for some more time and compromise from the Tennis & Pickleball players and to work together with the usage of the courts. He also realizes that sound is still an issue for some, and asked about the lower sound paddles and balls. Mr. Renstrom stated some players are already using the lower sound paddles and balls. He also mentioned that the Pickleball club Facebook page is growing and does have the hours of suggested play and code information for the nets. The Pickleball club also is hoping to put money towards the windscreen or other items, depending on the improvements being done. Ald. Hayes would like to see the preferred playing times listed at Otumba to help with the issues.

Discussion of: Indoor Ice Hockey Facility: Mr. Husby mentioned that Door County Skate club did raise some funds, but didn't raise enough funds, they did disband and distributed the funds to various organizations. Ald. Hayes feels this is more of a county program. Casey Stacewicks a Madison hockey dad plans on moving here next year. He spoke on the positives for the community and the children that are involved in ice sports. Feels that the interest will happen once there is consistent ice. He also understands that there is a big difference in what is needed and what is wanted in an indoor ice facility. Ald. Hayes requested a more formal proposal.

Discussion of: Park Assessments

Lawrence Big Hill: Better signage is needed. Ald. Nault stated we need to bring the bike club back to address the concerns and to review the rules. Mr. Larsen stated that he walked the trails and that we would need to monitor and keep the trails up and watch for erosion. Mr. Renstrom stated he also walked the trail and thought it was very nice. Ald. Nault & Ald. Hayes both mentioned it would be nice to combine the two Parks (Garland & Big Hill) with a crosswalk on the street.

Little Creek Parkway: 90% of this Park is still woods, there are a lot of Ash trees that need to be removed. Ald. Hayes questioned if we had an agreement with the funeral home for the memorial trees down there. Mr. Barker stated he does receive about 8 – 10 requests for memorial trees / benches. Ald. Hayes would like to see a procedure for getting a memorial in the Parks.

Westside Field / Park: Mr. Olejniczak spoke on a possible development of the adjacent property for a housing unit. Wanted to know if it would be possible or not as it would affect the softball field and wanted the committee / board to be aware of the possibility and get any feedback. Mr. Larsen stated that it's a very nice field and a lot of volunteer hours and funds have gone into making it a great field. Mr. Barker stated that there would be a big pushback. Stated if they gave up the ball field the new one would have to be really nice. Ald. Nault did grow up playing ball there but is also aware we need housing. He stated to sell the whole lot and do a really nice field elsewhere. He also mentioned that it is the only ball field on the westside. Mr. Olejniczak stated that the housing development project is contingent on the developer getting tax credits for the project. Mr. Renstrom stated there does need to be a trade off for the field being relocated. Mr. Husby stated that the lights were put in 7years ago. He also mentioned that the High school does use the field in a pinch when the eastside fields are not ready in the spring. Mr. Olejniczak did speak with the SBU and the head of the softball group. Ald. Hayes asked if we would have to sell the property or if it could be gifted. Mr. VanLieshout stated that they hadn't gotten that far in the conversation, it's in the very preliminary stages. Ald. Hayes stated that it sounds like a soft green light on the project from the committee / board. Maybe even restart the Aloha tournament at the new field and a possible pump track or other uses with the leftover land from the project. Mr. VanLieshout stated to best summarize we would need equal or better replacement field. He also stated that we are not walking away from softball.

Directors Report: Mr. Barker stated that we are picking up storm damage and getting ready for Tall Ships. He also stated that we broke ground for the new swing set at Garland Park and hope to have it in place soon if the weather cooperates. The fishing dock behind Sonny's is completed.

Future Agenda Items: Parks – Market Square, Martin Park, Memorial Field Complex (Mr. Husby is going to explain the field and Complex area during the walk through at 5:00PM). Renaming of Bull Head Point. Senior Citizen Launch pass.

Next Meeting date: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 @ 5:00 PM – Memorial Field Complex @ 5:45 PM – City Hall

Motion to adjourn by Ald. Nault, seconded by George Husby. All in favor. Carried
Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynnae Kolden
Municipal Services Secretary