

CITY OF STURGEON BAY
JOINT PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, August 28, 2019
Memorial Field Warming House, 307 South 14th Ave, 5:00 p.m. rain or shine.
Resume in Council Chambers, City Hall, 421 Michigan Street, 5:45 p.m.

A meeting of the Joint Park and Recreation Committee / Board was called to order by Chairperson Hayes at Memorial Field. Reconvened at 5:50 in Council Chambers, City Hall, 421 Michigan Street.

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

1. Roll call
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Public comment on agenda and non-agenda items
4. Approval of minutes from July 24, 2019
5. Consideration of: Boat Launch discount for seniors
6. Consideration of: Purchase of property at Otumba Park.
7. Consideration of: Approval of Beach Ad Hoc Committee recommendations.
8. Discussion of: Renaming Bullhead Point
9. Discussion of: Dog Free Park
10. Discussion of: Update on bike trail at Big Hill Park
11. Discussion of: Park assessments on Memorial Field Complex, Market Square & Martin Park
12. Directors Report
13. Future Agenda Items: Park assessments on Otumba, Sawyer & Nautical Dr. Launch Ramp
14. Adjourn

Public Comment: Claire Morkin, 110 N Joliet and Scott Moore, 947 Pennsylvania St. spoke in public comment.

Approval of Minutes from July 24, 2019: Moved by Ald. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Renstrom. All in favor. Carried.

Consideration of: Boat Launch discount for seniors:

Ald. Nault requested it be tabled for a future meeting when the gentlemen that wanted to speak on the matter was able to come and speak, he could do so in public comment. Mr. Barker did pull some numbers and didn't feel it would make a big impact on fees collected. Mr. Morrow agreed and also asked about adding a Veterans rate at the same time. Mr. Renstrom questioned about how it would be administered. It was stated on an honor system, as it is currently. Ald. Nault stated the details could be worked out at a later time. No action taken at this time.

Consideration of: Purchase of property at Otumba Park:

Discussion took place regarding the property and the Otumba Park plan. Mr. Husby stated we have purchased property in the past and that it does fit into the Otumba Park plan. Mr. VanLieshout stated the property owner approached the City about purchasing the property. Mr. Morrow made a motion to recommend to Finance to go ahead and negotiate the property purchase at Otumba Park. Mr. Renstrom seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Consideration of: Approval of Beach Ad Hoc Committee recommendations:

Mr. Morrow reviewed the recommendations from the Beach Ad Hoc Committee. Discussion took place regarding the ideas, safety of swimmers and the costs for the recommended items. Ald. Nault also suggested a swim platform at Otumba Park beach area would be a nice addition and, would add additional visibility to the swim area. Mr. Morrow made a motion to approve the Beach Ad Hoc Committee recommendations and to also include a swim platform at Otumba Beach. Mr. Husby, seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Discussion of: Renaming Bullhead Point:

Discussion took place regarding the name, the history, and why it should stay or change names. Ald. Nault would like to see it stay as Bullhead Point. Mr. Morrow mentioned that Google maps has it listed as Shipwreck Point, but that anyone can name a spot and tag it in Google maps. Mr. Renstrom stated it's a great location for snorkeling. Ald. Hayes wants to make sure that the correct name gets used with the Way Finder sign project. Ald. Hayes directed staff to email the Sturgeon Bay Visitor Center that the name is to stay Bullhead Point. Mr. VanLieshout, stated he would send an email.

Discussion of: Dog Free Park:

Discussion took place regarding the request for a dog free park. Mr. Morrow gave some history on why the past Park & Recreation Committee / Board decided to allow dogs in the parks. It was stated to Ald. Hayes that the past administration mentioned that Cherry Blossom and Martin Park could be possible dog free parks. Ald. Bacon questioned how that could be dog free with the Ahnapee trail running through it. Mr. Morrow, was concerned that we can't protect someone from such a severe allergy. Ald. Hayes, requested it be moved to next month's agenda to be a consideration of, so a final decision can be made on a dog free park.

Discussion of: Update on bike trail at Big Hill Park:

Ald. Hayes stated he met with one of the friends of Big Hill Park and went over the concerns from Council and the neighbors. Advised him to reach out to the neighbors. They decided a letter would be drafted and given to the neighbors of Big Hill Park. The group is also willing to put money into a sign for the trail, which would have the information on the trail usage and a map of the trail layout. Mr. Morrow concerned that the signs go through Mr. Barker so they can match up with the Way Finder sign project. Ald. Reeths, requested permission to address the Committee/Board. Ald. Hayes granted. Ald. Reeths spoke on the concerns from the neighbors and that they were not informed of the trail, and the concern over kids using it not for good things. She did take photos and you can't see anything through the summer foliage on the trees. She does feel that the park needs to be monitored better. Ald. Hayes stated they will need to redo/refresh the trails every spring. They should be informing the neighbors when this is taking place. Mr. Barker doesn't feel that it is necessary every year to re-inform the neighbors of the trail maintenance. Ald. Bacon questioned if we need some sort of contract with the user groups that want to make changes to a park, and how do we keep them accountable to the requirements asked of them. Ald. Hayes asked if there is a change needed on the adopt-a-park form to keep the groups accountable. Ald. Nault, stated that it seems like every time we add something to a park the neighbors complain that the park is getting used. Mr. Renstrom, mentioned that it seems to come back to communication to the neighbors when items get added into the parks. Ald. Hayes stated we have a lot of parks and need to be proud of them. We want people out and using the parks. The bike trail group does need to follow thru and get the letter sent out to the neighbors of Big Hill Park. Mr. Renstrom, stated we should use the bike trail and Pickleball as a learning moment to get better communication out to the neighbors who live by parks of possible changes.

Discussion of: Park assessments:**Memorial Field Complex:**

Ald. Hayes thanked Mr. Husby for the tour at the Memorial Field complex, and asked Mr. Husby to go over the plan to review what was still needed or eliminated. Discussion continued regarding the parking and traffic into and around the fields. With concern of 14th Ave. and the foot traffic between the schools and the complex, the signs would need to be fixed and the press box repainted, he stated maybe the Booster Club would be willing to help with the painting. Mr. Barker stated the stairs needed to be fixed by the warming house and needed to improve access to the field house with a ramp. Ald. Hayes stated landscaping & parking lot updates.

Market Square:

Mr. Morrow, mentioned that the concrete is very slippery, the stamped part. Mr. Barker stated that it is sealed with a Non-slip sealant. Ald. Hayes, stated this would be a great park for an art installation location. Mr. Morrow said it would be nice to have some more seating around the park, like the swing benches at Sunset Park and landscaping. Ald. Bacon, stated she has been told that the farm market is one of the best in the county. Ald. Hayes stated that the other businesses in town do get a lot of extra foot traffic on Saturday mornings due to the farm market.

Martin Park:

Ald. Hayes stated this is an adoptable park. And that this park dates back to the 1880's. Ald. Bacon mentioned that the Boys and Girls Club does use the park and has mentioned that a STEM installation would be a nice improvement to the park. It would give the kids something to do during the concerts and other events in the park. Mr. Morrow said parking may become an issue in the future. He doesn't want to mess with this park too much, it's a very utilized park for the downtown area. He would like to make sure that we have an aggressive grass growing program at the park, the grass does get bare spots after events with the heavy usage. Ald. Hayes, questioned the vacant lots next door and if it would be property that we would be interested in, in the future if it came available.

Director's Report:

Pickleball lines were painted down at Sunset Park on the northern most tennis courts. The Door County Pickleball Club took the lead on the project; the City provided the paint. They look great and they did a great job. Garland park is too rocky for the swing, so we will be looking to put it in at Woods West Park. Also installed a toddler swing at Otumba Park. Most of the seasonal workers are done for the summer. Erosion is an issue at the train spur and Sunset Park. The Train spur does need to be addressed right away, a company will be coming in next week to see if the stone we have will work or if we will need to purchase other stone. Ald. Nault asked if there was anything to do with the banners at Martin Park, they get very tattered and torn with the wind. Ald. Hayes asked if there is a way to put up better signage pillars that would help make the banners look better. Mr. Morrow stated what about adding digital sign to Martin Park. Ald. Hayes stated it is a very important spot for banners in the City. Ald. Hayes asked that banners be added to Martin Park assessment plan.

Future Agenda Items:

Parks - Otumba Park, Sawyer Park & Nautical Boat ramp.
Consideration of: A dog free park.

Next meeting date: Wednesday - September 25, 2019 at 5:30 pm at City Hall.

Motion to adjourn made by Ald. Nault, seconded by Ald. Bacon. All in favor. Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynnae Kolden
Municipal Services Secretary

Beach Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations:

Otumba Park Beach:

- Improve signage, there is no sign notifying passersby of a beach in the park.
- Relocate sidewalk behind the planted bed to extend the beach. This is especially needed during times of high lake levels as we are experiencing now.
- Post signs at east side of the beach showing appropriate place to “hand launch” small water craft such as kayaks, canoes, and paddle boards.
- Improve “hand launch” area to make it easier to launch small craft.
- Inspect the end of storm water discharge pipe and identify options to install a grate over the end.
- Procure and install swim buoys designating this area as a swim area in an attempt to keep watercraft from entering.

ADDED: Install a water swim up platform out in the water at Otumba park

Sunset Park Beach:

- Improve signage, there is no sign notifying passersby of a beach in the neighborhood.
- Plant additional trees between beach and shipyard to provide a buffer.
- Locate additional picnic tables, benches, and trash cans near the beach.
- Arrange a beach clean-up day in the summer.
- Procure and install swim buoys designating this area as a swim area in an attempt to keep watercraft from entering.