

CITY OF STURGEON BAY  
JOINT PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, September 25, 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 5:34 p.m. by Chairperson Hayes in Council Chambers, City Hall, 421 Michigan Street.

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

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Moved by Ald. Nault to approve amended agenda seconded by Ald. Bacon. Amended agenda move #5. Presentation / Update on Graham Park to the October meeting.

1. Roll call
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Public comment on agenda and non-agenda items
4. Approval of minutes from August 28, 2019
- ~~5. Presentation / Update on Graham Park~~
6. Discussion of: Potential upgrade at Sunset Park
7. Discussion of: Hiring a company to design a new pavilion at Sunset Park
8. Consideration of: Dog Free Park - Cherry Blossom
9. Discussion of: Partnership with Boys & Girls Club - STEM at Martin Park
10. Discussion of: Sign area at Martin Park
11. Discussion of: Park assessments Otumba Park, Sawyer Park & Nautical Dr.
12. Directors Report
13. Future Agenda Items
14. Adjourn

All in Favor. Carried.

**Public Comment:** Rose Wodack, 421 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., spoke in support of a dog free park. Chris Kellems, 120 Alabama St., spoke on Sunset Park and Nautical Dr. Kelly Avenson 46 E. Pine St., spoke in regards to a dog free park at Cherry Blossom and the concern that the area doesn't have sidewalks. Claire Morkin, 110 N. Joliet, spoke on Otumba Park.

**Approval of Minutes from August 28, 2019:** Moved by Ald. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Renstrom. All in favor. Carried.

**Discussion of:** Potential upgrade at Sunset Park – Ald. Hayes asked the Committee / Board to prioritize or establish if anything needed to be added to the 2020 budget. Mr. Barker stated he was looking for the subsequent year's priorities. Discussion took place among the Committee / Board on the priority of items to be upgraded. Ald. Bacon stated that getting the dredging done at Little Lake was a great start to Sunset Park. Additional discussion took place, on updates to the pavilion, paths along Little Lake and additional water access points that would be top priorities in the subsequent years.

**Discussion of:** Hiring a company to design a new pavilion at Sunset Park – Discussion took place in regards to replacing or fixing up the pavilion at Sunset Park and the cost associated with both options. Mr. Husby mentioned that the pavilion at Sunset Park is a dedicated named building and would need to be reviewed if replacing the pavilion. After discussing all the different possibilities, the Committee / Board agreed to have the bathrooms updated, so they are ready for next season.

**Consideration of:** Dog Free Park - Cherry Blossom: Ald. Hayes stated we heard from the alderperson from that district and from Rose Wodack. Ald. Bacon stated that she wasn't sure that Cherry Blossom is the right park to be dog free. She does feel that there should be an area that is dog free. Mr. Morrow was also concerned about Cherry Blossom becoming a dog free park, he is aware that there is a client of the Sunshine House that does have a service dog, and they use the park for events. He thought we should review the ADA rules and make sure we aren't breaking any laws. Ald. Hayes stated that he feels we need to accommodate for a dog free park and that there are other parks that people with service dogs could attend so they are accommodated for their disability as well. Mr. Husby agrees that we should have a dog free park. Mr. Larsen asked if documentation was shown to verify the severe 17 second deadly allergy to dogs and that we are not just taking someone's word. Ald. Nault, asked if we have asked the past City Administrator if he did offer 2 dog free parks, because we have taken her word for that. Mr. Morrow would like to make sure that we understand from a legal standpoint the American Disability Act laws.

Motion made by Ald. Bacon to Identify Cherry Blossom Park as a dog free park in accordance with ADA federal law for accommodations of disabilities. Jay Renstrom seconded.

Discussion continued. Ald. Nault requested if it passes that we put up signage to inform people and give the location of the Shiloh Dog Park. Mr. Morrow was still concerned as the Sunshine house does use that park for events and now their employee who has a seeing eye dog can't attend those events. Ald. Hayes stated maybe they can move those events to other parks. Discussion took place stating that a guide dog can go anywhere. Mr. Morrow stated that it was just stated that the right to breath trumps the right to see. Ald. Hayes stated he would ask the City to review the ADA laws. Mr. Renstrom said the issue he sees with Cherry Blossom is that the Anaphee trail borders the park and that a fence won't stop the proximity or dander from getting the park. Ald. Hayes stated that was the park that was identified in the past, as the park that was offered as dog free.

Vote taken. 7 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion Carried

**Discussion of:** Partnership with Boys & Girls Club - STEM at Martin Park – The Boys & Girls Club President is willing to come to discuss possible options for some STEM items at Martin Park. Ald. Hayes wanted to start the discussion and see if it is something that the Committee / Board wants to pursue for Martin Park. Ms. Kleist asked how much of the Park is needed. Ald. Bacon stated the items are smaller and could go along the edges. Mr. Morrow concerned about safety on the edges for the kids, suggested maybe it could go back by the bathrooms. Ald. Hayes asked if the items are installed permanently or are they moveable and get changed out. Ald. Nault asked for it to be tabled until we hear more from the Boys & Girls Club on STEM. The Committee / Board agreed and is interested in getting more information regarding STEM.

**Discussion of:** Sign area at Martin Park – Mr. Morrow brought up concerns over all the different types of banners and the way they are installed in the parks. Discussion took place regarding the four different locations within the City for banners to be displayed. There is concern that the banners are getting all tattered and torn in the wind, and don't look good for the duration of the banner placement along with the safety of tying the banners to the support poles. Mr. Morrow suggested that the banner guidelines need to reviewed and tightened up, so that banners are all the same size and will work well with the Way Finder Project that the City is doing with the SBVC. He also stated that the corner at Martin Park may be a great spot for a digital type of sign that could be more like an art piece. Ald. Nault stated that the SBVC is looking into digital Signs, four digital signs may be too expensive, so it was suggested to have the City install one digital sign out on the highway, and to have a wood frame built to put the banners at the other four locations. There is also concern over advertising out of town events within the City at the four banner locations. Ald. Bacon stated that the ADRC has a digital sign and they are not allowed to scroll messages for traffic safety reasons. The Committee / Board made a recommendation to CP&S to work with SBVC Way Finder project to identify unified sign standards for banners within the City parks and to direct it to the Aesthetic Design Committee after they have the standards.

#### **Discussion of: Park Assessments**

**Otumba Park:** Ald. Hayes reviewed the park details. Discussion took place on the concrete plaza area and if it still needs to be established or removed. The Committee / Board agreed to remove the concrete plaza area due to damage from fires on the concrete slab. Mr. Morrow asked that we update the plan with the additional swim area and platform that was approved from the Ad Hoc Beaches committee. Ald. Hayes questioned if the shelter needs to be expanded or updated. Ms. Kleist, asked about the bathrooms and if they needed to be updated or replaced. Ald. Hayes asked about the need for a ½ wall at the courts. Mr. Renstrom mentioned a ½ wall would be great for both the tennis and pickleball players. Ald. Nault asked if the park could be spruced up in the spring by painting and mulching. Discussion took place that this is a great thing to ask the friends of the park groups (park adopters) to help with.

**Sawyer Park:** Ald. Hayes reviewed the park details. Discussion took place regarding Sawyer Park being very clean and needs to stay that way like it's new. Ald. Nault mentioned that the park was all paid for and maintained by the dock fees collected each season. Mr. Larsen stated that he doesn't feel that this park should have play equipment with all the boats coming and going. Ald. Bacon questioned if the pavilion could get air conditioning. Discussion continued about the possible options for air and / or heating the pavilion. Ald. Nault discussed the dock master's responsibilities to clean up water weeds, bathroom, fish cleaning tables and collecting the launching fees and the others things they help with around the park. He is concerned that we should have more dock masters and cover more hours throughout the season. Tournaments need regulations and supervision on how they set up in the park to not impede on the pavilion and the boat launch area and to only hold one per a weekend. There are a few trees that need to be cut down. Signage would be helpful for the different areas: prep area, tie down area, fish cleaning tables & thank you as you leave. Mr. Morrow has concerns over people crossing the street by the bridge, since they fish around there, maybe we could add more flashing lights at the crosswalk area to make drivers coming off the bridge more aware of the crosswalk area. Mr. Renstrom, asked about the bait & ice machine and what came of the machines and if they are getting used. Ald. Nault mentioned that the ice machine is out of sight and it doesn't give a receipt. Also, that the bait machine never showed up. Mr. Barker is going to reach out to them about both the bait & ice machines.

**Nautical Drive:** Ald. Hayes reviewed the details of the area. Ald. Nault stated that there is no longer a lease agreement with the Sturgeon Bay Yacht Club / Marine Center, the launch is in bad shape and there is an underwater hazard just off the ramp that should be marked. It was stated the Swan owners do have a lease and they have been keeping the area cleaned up, but the sidewalk needs repair or replacement. Ald. Hayes questioned if this was a good property to sell. Discussion continued regarding the usage, upkeep and lease agreements. Mr. Barker was going to check into the lease agreements.

**Directors Report:** Mr. Barker stated that the tree planting is finished at Sunset Park and the paperwork for the grant was submitted. The swim buoy permit has been submitted. Seasonal workers are finished for the season. Mr. Morrow questioned why the iconic tree at Martin Park was removed. Mr. Barker stated due to safety, the tree had to be removed. Mr. Morrow was surprised with how many people noticed that the tree was removed and suggested maybe posting something when removing such an iconic tree.

**Future Agenda Items:** Update on Big Hill. Ald. Hayes will invite the Bike Group back for an update. Ask SBVC back to review the Way Finder Project for the parks. The Presentation / Update on Graham Park. Invite the Boys & Girls Club for information on STEM. Next Park Assessments: Shiloh Dog Park, Skate Park & West Waterfront. Ald. Hayes will invite someone from the West Waterfront Committee.

**Next Meeting date: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 @ 5:30 PM – City Hall**

Motion to adjourn by Ald. Nault, seconded by Mr. Renstrom. All in favor. Carried  
Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynnae Kolden  
Municipal Services Secretary