

CITY OF STURGEON BAY  
JOINT PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, December 4, 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 5:30 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, Chris Larson, George Husby and Jay Renstrom. Randy Morrow was absent. Also present Municipal Services Director Mike Barker, Josh VanLieshout, Marty Olejniczak and Municipal Services Secretary Lynnae Kolden.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Moved by Ald. Nault to adopt the following agenda, seconded by Ald. Bacon.

1. Roll call
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Public comment on agenda and non-agenda items
4. Approval of minutes from October 23, 2019
5. Presentation by Boys & Girls Club on STEM at Martin Park
6. Discussion of: Ballfield ideas from Jim Parent
7. Discussion of: ADA Compliant Exercise Park
8. Discussion of: Sunset Park / Dredging options
9. Discussion of: Park assessments: Woods West, Woodside Wildflower Preserve & West Waterfront Park
10. Directors Report
11. Future Agenda Items
12. Adjourn

All in Favor. Carried.

**Public Comment**

Scott Moore, 947 Pennsylvania St., spoke on the concern of the space on the Westside Waterfront dock face usage. Chris Kellems, 120 Alabama St., spoke on the concerns of Little lake and Sunset Park and would like to make sure the shoreline is looked at due to the high water. Mitch Anderson, 3558 N Lake Michigan Dr., spoke on ballfields and his experience with installing and maintaining memorial field and other fields. He offered his assistance regarding the ballfields, and is concerned with the location, lights, drainage and more space for the ballfields. Rich Soukup 819 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., spoke on his support of the Westside ballfield. Scott Fittshur, 5712 Salona Rd. spoke on the outdoor ice-skating rink and possible or potential improvements for the ice surface in the future.

**Approval of Minutes from October 23, 2019:** Moved by Ald. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Husby.

All in favor. Carried.

**Presentation by Boys & Girls Club on STEM at Martin Park:** Mr. Stezenski-Williams from the Sturgeon Bay Boys & Girls Club, spoke on the STEM at Martin Park. He stated that the Boys & Girls Club doesn't currently have the resources with fundraising or staff to assist in the project. They would be willing to help with feedback, he also stated the kids do use the park almost daily when the weather permits. He thought a STEM type of park would be a great addition to Martin Park. Ald. Hayes, stated he would like to see STEM in a City Park, requested it to be added to the Outdoor Recreational Plan for a future park improvement.

**Discussion of Ballfield ideas from Jim Parent:** Ald. Hayes mentioned that Jim Parent was unable to attend the meeting, but would like to continue the discussion on ballfields. Mr. Husby, stated there are a number of concerns. 1. Lights, he feels that we should contact the light company right away and discuss moving, storage and installment of the lights. The lights are very high tech, each light gets programmed separately for optimal lighting. 2. Field usage, is the field going to be used by the high school & other leagues. The West Side field was used in the past until the other fields were ready to go, since it dried out sooner than other fields. 3. Location. 4. Ballfield Dirt / Outfield Grass, how the field is designed, i.e. under ground watering. 5. Dugouts, will they be dug in and have drain tile or up high blocking views. 6. Fencing, maybe reuse the current fencing. 7. Sun, issue with the sun in the face of the batter, catcher or players. Chris Larson, maybe consider a turf vs. the dirt infield for less maintenance. Ald. Hayes thanked everyone for the input and encouraged them to keep talking about the ballfields. He stated he would have it listed on the next agenda too.

**Discussion of ADA Compliant Exercise Park:** Ald. Bacon, spoke on the needs of ADA / STEM items with in the parks. Would like to get the conversation started on looking into the future options and needs of an ADA park. Suggested that the group look at the website for the Magical Bridge playground and all the options available for all different ADA requirements. Ald. Bacon recommends that the Outdoor Rec Plan recognizes an ADA park for future developments.

**Discussion of Sunset Park / Dredging options:** Mike Barker, reviewed the options in the executive summary regarding the dredging options. Discussion took place amongst the Committee / Board on the options. Mr. Larson, asked if the dredging would mitigate the highwater issue currently at Sunset park. Mr. VanLieshout stated, no that both the bay and the lake work together with the water levels. Mr. Larson stated that some serious issue has come up with the highwater and that the shoreline needs to be stabilized. Mr. Renstrom and Ald. Bacon, questioned if the dredging could even be done with the high lake water levels and would it change the dredging options. Discussion continued on the highwater and possible shoreline issues facing the city in the future. Ald. Nault, stated that Little Lake has been on the plan for many years. Stated that the shoreline could possibly be fixed with coastal grants or other funds available due to the damage of the highwater. Ald. Hayes recommended to move forward with the original dredging project and release the \$207,210.00 for FOTH. Under the condition that council strongly consider reallocation of funds to address waterfront erosion at multiple City sites. That can be determined at a later date.

**Discussion of Park Assessments:**

**Woods West:** Mr. Renstrom, questioned if this would be a good park for the softball field. Ald. Nault, mentioned that it wouldn't be a good fit for softball, there is no water or sewer into the park and the ground is very uneven. The neighbors he spoke with regarding wildflowers, didn't want the ballfield revived or the wildflowers planted. Mr. Larson, mentioned that maybe we could plant more seedling type trees and mow the area less. Ald. Hayes, mentioned a possible solar panel farm to generate funds. Also agreed with Mr. Larson more trees less mowing and signage would be good for the park.

**Woodside Wildflower Preserve:** Ald. Hayes, stated that the park is not adoptable, has a trail through it with a creek. Some of the trees have markers on them. Chris Larson, stated the park is pretty free of invasive species and that it should be monitored and taken care of to not get them. And the trees are marked with the names of the trees. Ald. Bacon, mentioned the school uses the park a lot for nature walks and education opportunities for the students. Ald. Hayes, stated that maybe a crosswalk could be painted on the street and better signage for the park.

**West Waterfront Park:** Ald. Hayes, provided a map of the park outline within the West Waterfront proposal. He would like to review the park section with in the proposal and give any recommendations from the Park & Recreation Committee. Discussion took place in regards to the OHWM (ordinary high-water mark), the tug operations and the needs of the working waterfront, signage on the history of the waterfront, benches with possible renewable energy sun shades, art pieces to be maritime in nature and lighting of the promenade. Ald. Nault recommends that the Committee / Board endorses the West Waterfront plan. Discussion continued on the possible development with the Maritime Museum. Through discussion the Committee / Board agreed to the endorsement of the West Waterfront proposal. Ald. Hayes recommended to Council to support the West Waterfront Redevelopment Plan recommendations.

**Directors Report:** Mike Barker, stated that Sunset was under water. Concerned that a 1/3 of the trees planted won't make it due to the highwater, monitoring the damage and concerned we won't be able to see all the damage until spring.

**Future Agenda Items:** Review Board / Committee terms, Review the Outdoor Rec Plan - definitions of the park types and maps. Ballfields and Ice rinks.

**Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 @ 5:30 PM - City Hall**

Motion to adjourn by Ald. Nault, seconded by Mr. Renstrom. All in favor. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynnae Kolden  
Municipal Services Secretary