

CITY OF STURGEON BAY  
JOINT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE / BOARD METING MINUTES  
Wednesday, April 26, 2023  
Council Chambers, City Hall, 421 Michigan Street  
5:00 P.M.

A meeting of the Joint parks and Recreation Committee / Board was called to order at 5:00 P.M. by Chairperson/Ald. Bacon in Council Chambers, City Hall, 421 Michigan Street.

**Roll Call [1]:** Members present were Chair/Ald. Helen Bacon, Ald. Gary Nault, Randy Morrow, Debbie Kiedrowski, Jay Renstrom, Thomas Hemminger, and Municipal Services Director Mike Barker. Chris Larsen entered meeting at 5:14 Ald. Kirsten Reeths was excused. Also, in attendance was City Administrator Josh VanLieshout and Fire Chief Tim Dietman. Ald Bacon stated that Ald. Gustafson is no longer on the Parks and Recreation Committee, he has been replaced by Ald. Reeths and she is excused from tonight's meeting.

**Adoption of the Agenda [2]:** Motion was made by Renstrom and seconded by Nault to adopt the following agenda:

1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda.
3. Review of Minutes from February 22, 2023.
4. Review of Local Arts Board Minutes from March 08, 2023.
5. Discussion and gathering of public input for the revision of the City of Sturgeon Bay's Aquatic Weed Management Plan led by Onterra, LLC. After brief discussion, Onterra will go to Community Room for public input.
6. Public Comment on Agenda Items.
7. Consideration of accepting donation of an automated external defibrillator (AED) for seasonal usage at Sunset Park (Jay Renstrom).
8. Consideration of change to Fishing Tournament Rules.
9. Chair's report
10. Director's report
11. Adjourn

**Review of Minutes from February 22, 2023 [3]:** No comments or changes

**Review of Minutes from the Local Arts Board meeting on September, 14, 2022 [4]:** No changes.

**Discussion and gathering of public input for the revision of the City of Sturgeon Bay's Aquatic Weed Management Plan led by Onterra, LLC. After a brief discussion, Onterra will go to Community Room for public input. [5]:** Ald. Bacon introduced Tim Hoyman from Onterra. Tim gave a presentation on his intentions and plans on developing the City of Sturgeon Bay's 2024 plan. He used visual aids from the City's current aquatic plant management plan to assist in his explanation. He discussed the following:

- Onterra focuses on creating realistic achievable plans that can be followed and implemented.
- The process and timing of aquatic plant surveys from the bay.
- The bay has both invasive and native aquatic plants that can be troublesome.
- He expects to find most of the same invasive species such as curly leaf pondweed, Eurasian water milfoil, and starry stonewort, phragmites, and purple loosestrife.

- Bradley Lake will be added to the plan for the first time. There will only be one survey in this lake. This will be good to establish a baseline and possibly even begin some sort of treatment.
- QR codes will be posted at sites such as boat launches and marinas which will give water users easy access to the online “Bay Users” survey; a web link will be provided to the City to list on our website and social media.
- The online survey is a progressive survey meaning that an answer to a question could change the next question. This is to get the best information for the person’s usage. The survey should take less than five minutes.
- He will send surveys to riparian owners even though there were very few replies for the current plan.
- He mentioned that there will be a planning committee made up of folks from the Parks and Recreation committee and DPW staff. Onterra will meet with the committee for some decision making for the plan.
- There may be changes/updates to the mechanical and chemical control measures recommended in the plan.
- Once there is a first draft, it will be submitted to the WI DNR, they will have fisheries personnel and biologists that will review. This typically brings on discussion of protecting habitat and keeping the waterway open for use.
- After the first draft has been reviewed by the DNR and discussions take place, changes will be made to the draft and another public meeting will take place. At this point maps will be posted and the first draft will be available for viewing.
- The project should wrap up in spring of 2024, the goal is to have it completed in time for applying for permits for next summer.

Nault asked if any information gathered this summer could be used to guide our efforts this summer. Hoyman said no.

Tim Hoyman left Council Chambers and proceeded to the Community Room. After being there for 25 minutes and nobody being present, he departed. Nobody provided public input during the first meeting.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items [6]:**

1. Paul Kwiatkowski, 9441 Gibraltar Woods Ct, Gibraltar, WI, spoke on agenda item 8.
2. Kyle Carpenter,
3. Hunter VanDuyse, Green Bay, WI spoke on agenda item 8.
4. Neil Wisinski, Stephens Pt, WI spoke on agenda item 8.
5. J.J. Malvitz 8728 County C Sturgeon Bay, spoke on agenda item 8.
6. Mark Holey, 410 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave, Sturgeon Bay, spoke on agenda item 8.
7. Jimmy Doring, 527 S. Oxford Ave, Sturgeon Bay, spoke on agenda item 8.

**Consideration of accepting donation of an automated external defibrillator (AED) for seasonal usage at Sunset Park (Jay Renstrom. [7]:** Renstrom (President of Door County Pickleball Club) is offering do donate an AED to be mounted near the pickleball courts at Sunset Park. He mentioned that a pickleball player had a cardiac event last year while playing pickleball. He found an opportunity through DFIBS for Door County, they received a donation to provide AEDs throughout the county. Renstrom applied for an AED for the Door County Pickleball Club and the club was selected to receive two AEDs with outdoor, weatherproof storage boxes. The club would like to offer one to the City for placement at Sunset Park. Door County Pickleball Club will remove it at the end of the season and re-install in the spring. It should be mounted in the open in the hope that it could lessen the opportunity for vandals since it will be highly visible. Morrow made the motion to accept donation of the AED and mount it near the pickleball court, seconded by Kiedrowski. All in favor, carried.

### **Consideration of change to Fishing Tournament Rules. [8]**

Ald. Bacon stated that there was some confusion from the motion and change to the motion at the last meeting so it was requested that it be brought back to the committee level to ensure that everyone knew exactly what was being voted on. Discussion took place. Hemminger stated that there is a great deal of passion on both sides of the viewpoint and he believes in the science. After hearing discussions concerning the topic, he believes that the less a fish is handled the better its chance of survival is. Kiedrowski stated that she has heard and read a lot of information concerning the topic. She mentioned that there is already a tournament that runs a weigh on the water format and is successful. She believes that catch and immediate release is the best for the fish. Renstrom asked why it was returned to the committee and asked if it could be returned to the committee again? VanLieshout stated that it could be returned to the committee but hopefully this clears up any questions or concerns that they have. Renstrom said that he has not changed his mind and supports change. Nault stated that the initial recommendation for change was to institute it throughout the entire season, he recommended to shorten it to the small mouth bass spawn. He has heard that the bass population is great but guides and other fishers have reported a dwindling population. He said that there were over 1000 fewer boat launches last year, this is an indication of the fishing quality. People against change bring up lost revenue to the local businesses, one of the larger bass tournaments left 7 years ago and businesses are doing fine. Smallmouth bass are one of the only fish in the area that are not supplemented by stocking efforts many of the other fish also have closed seasons during the spawn, the smallmouth bass are not protected. He stated that other areas are not allowing traditional tournaments at their boat ramps. He encourages folks to try the new technology, says it is easier for organizers. He spoke on the largemouth bass disease and how it is contracted by contact. He said to make the change most effective it would have to include the month of May. Larson stated is supports change to the rules due to the fact that it does not make sense to him that people are targeting fish while they are in the spawning process and removing them from the area. It would be hard to believe that it would not harm the fish population. He mentioned that they are not banning fishing tournaments, we are banning tournaments that remove fish from the nest. Morrow asked why this came back to the committee level, Chair Bacon said that some were confused about the motion and the amendment to the motion. Barker stated that the proposed rules in the agenda package were changed after the last meeting which required "weigh-on-water" format for the month of June. If there is any recommendation that that is made this evening, make sure you realize this. Morrow made a motion to recommend a change to the current fishing tournament rules "no fishing tournament will be permitted at a City park during the month of May and June unless "weigh-on-water" format is used, Hemminger stated that he would like to see this format used for all fish species throughout the year. Renstrom seconded. All in favor, carried. Nault abstained.

**Chair's Report [9]:** Chair Bacon discussed sculptures going into parks. Walkable Sturgeon Bay will be identifying public art to the walking route.

**Director's Report [10]:** Barker mentioned that Arbor day will be on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup>, he has scheduled a tree planting at the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Quincy with Sunrise Elementary. They will be planting 5 plum trees. All restrooms have been opened for the year, Sawyer restroom was closed for a few days due to someone cleaning fish in the shower. The Parks department is still looking for seasonal help, we are about 6 people short in the Parks and 3 short for the water weeds program. Otumba tennis courts is out for bid, the bid opening will be May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Adjourn [11]:** Motion to adjourn by Larson, second by Renstrom. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm.