

CITY OF STURGEON BAY  
JOINT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE / BOARD METING MINUTES  
Wednesday, May 24, 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, Ald. Kerry Reeths, Tom Hemminger, Debbie Kiedrowski, Randy Morrow, and Municipal Services Director Mike Barker. Chris Larsen entered meeting at 5:10 p.m. Jay Renstrom was excused. Also in attendance, was City Administrator Josh VanLieshout.

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

1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Review of Minutes from April 26, 2023.
4. Review of Local Arts Board Minutes from April 12, 2023.
5. Public Comment on Agenda Items.
6. Discussion and consideration of wind phone proposal.
7. Discussion and consideration of Local Arts Board's proposal.
8. Update on status of Otumba playground.
9. Chair's report.
10. Director's report.
11. Adjourn.

**Review of Minutes from April 26, 2023 [3]:** No comments or changes

**Review of Minutes from the Local Arts Board meeting on April 12, 2023 [4]:** No changes.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items [5]:** No Comments.

**Discussion and consideration of wind phone proposal [6]:** Joshua Gregory, 1036 Superior Street, presented for the consideration of an installation of a wind phone at a city park. He discussed the following:

- The background behind wind phones which originated in Japan in an area that was hit hard by a tsunami. Many people were killed and survivors used wind phones as a way to deal with their grief.
- Wind phones are phones put out in nature that are disconnected that allow people to say what they wish they could to a dead relative. They are used as tools for mental health and processing grief.
- The reason it was important to him after losing his mother who was a local first responder and disaster program manager.
- His intent to construct and maintain the wind phone including the removal of any memorials left behind. He intends to work with FLS Banners to create proper signage to accompany the phone.

- The location of the wind phone and both Sunset and Big Hill Park were discussed as well as the potential for vandalism.

Morrow made a motion that we approve installing the wind phone and give Barker the leeway to determine which park to place it in and Barker will present to the Joint Parks and Recreation Committee and Board what was decided and what the design plan is. Kiedrowski seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**Discussion and consideration of Local Arts Board's proposal [7]:** melaniejane, a member of the Local Art Board, introduced the Local Art Board's proposal to increase the size of the Local Art Board's size from five members to seven. She noted it would increase the board's connections and help the board to achieve more. melaniejane read a message from Local Art Board member Margaret Lockwood discussing the expansion of the art scene in Sturgeon Bay and in favor of adding two additional members to the Local Arts Board.

Stephanie Trenchard, another member of the Local Arts Board also spoke. She noted the fact that the city has an arts board shows we value art and culture. Sturgeon Bay is becoming known for its art and having a strong arts board shows that we do value art. Trenchard read off a list of similar sized tourist destination cities and their number of members on arts boards. She thinks we have room to grow and diversify.

Ald. Nault questioned if terms of Local Arts Board members are staggered. Ald. Bacon answered affirmatively.

City Administrator VanLieshout explained how nominations to potential board members are made. He said they are ultimately made by the mayor and approved by Common Council, but that the Local Arts Board could make recommendations.

Morrow made a motion to approve the proposal from the Local Arts Board to add two members to their board. Nault seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**Update on status of Otumba playground [8]:** Barker noted all the playground equipment has been installed, the curbing is done, as well as backfilling around the new curb. There is a lot of grass growing there. Barker said the rubber mat will start to be installed next week. It does take some time for the mat to cure and the grass needs a bit of time before the area is opened up to the public. There is a grand opening celebration scheduled for June 16th at noon; that is when the fence will be taken down. Other than planting some trees and resurfacing the tennis court Otumba Park's renovations are considered done. Work on the tennis courts will mostly likely begin spring 2024. The Parks and Recreation Board has received two bids on the tennis court project so far. Ald. Bacon questioned if there would be pickleball lines. Barker said there would not.

**Chair's Report [9]:** Ald./Chair Bacon, Barker, and Vanlieshout will be meeting with local artist Nathan Hatch about the potential site of his sculpture.

The Walkable Arts Map created by City Planning/Zoning Administrator Stephanie Servia is pretty much done. The plan is to print 100 copies and put them at City Hall and Destination Sturgeon Bay. These maps will have a QR code that brings people to a website. City Administrative Assistant Suzanne Miller has composed a written description and links to click on about the art and/or the artists found in the pamphlet.

**Director's Report [10]:** Barker did not give a report, but did answer questions. Morrow questioned Barker as to the when pedestrian crossing signs will be put at cross walks. Barker noted they should be out before Memorial Day.

Morrow asked if there would be any park space on the west side by the granary project. Barker replied there will not be any discussion about park space there until we know how it's going to be developed.

**Adjourn [11]:** Motion to adjourn by Reeths and seconded by Kiedrowski. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katie DeKeyser".

Katie DeKeyser  
Recording Secretary