

CITY OF STURGEON BAY
JOINT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE / BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 23, 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. Kerry Reeths, Tom Hemminger, Debbie Kiedrowski, Jay Renstrom, and Municipal Services Director Mike Barker. Ald. Gary Nault and Randy Morrow were excused. Also in attendance, was City Administrator Josh VanLieshout.

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

1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Review of Minutes from May 24, 2023
4. Public Comment on Agenda Items
5. Presentation by Ceara Brockman, Door County Department of Health and Human Services, discussion of potential communication board at Otumba Park
6. Consideration of approval of Nathan Hatch's *Horizon* sculpture
6. Chair's report
7. Director's report
8. Adjourn

Review of Minutes from May 24, 2023 [3]: No comments or changes.

Public Comment on Agenda Items [4]: No comments.

Presentation by Ceara Brockman, Door County Department of Health and Human Services, discussion of potential communication board at Otumba Park [5]: Ceara Brockman, Door County Department of Health and Human Services presented a non-verbal communication board for Otumba Park. Brockman is a case manager for Children's Door County Long-Term Support. She worked previously at Fox Valley Autism Treatment Program which is looking to donate a communication board to Otumba Park. She listed the following benefits of having a communication board at Otumba Park:

- Provides all children, as well as adults with disabilities, the opportunity to express themselves. Takes away a barrier to interaction.
- Raises awareness about special education.
- Promotes inclusion.
- Helps children to feel connected to those around them.
- Reduces the stress of verbal communication.

The board is utilized by kids pointing to whatever they are feeling/want. The boards are made by Tobii Dynavox who make personal communication devices, so many of the symbols are universally recognizable. The board is divided into sections. The board brought before the Parks and Recreation Board and Committee was divided into the following sections:

- Yellow represents pronouns.

- Green represents verbs.
- Blue represents adjectives.
- Purple represents "wh" questions.
- Orange represents nouns.
- Red represents flex verbs.

Brockman passed along some pictures of boards at parks along with visuals of the type of fasteners they used. She noted the board would need to be in a functional space, close to the playground. Municipal Services Director Barker recommended putting the board on the edge of the playground in the younger children area.

Renstrom asked if there was any way we could make the board specific to Otumba. Brockman replied that she could check with Stacie Ferg, Program Director at Fox Valley Autism Treatment Program, to see if they could add a picture of the Otumba Beach to the board.

The boards themselves would have no cost; the cost involved would be the installation of the boards. Barker estimated approximately \$100 to install the board. Brockman did not have a standard height recommendation for installation. She said she would prefer to have it at a height that it could be accessed by those in wheelchairs.

Consideration of approval of Nathan Hatch's *Horizon* sculpture [6]: Nathan Hatch, local sculptor, selected the west waterfront site as his first choice. The location is between the grain elevator and the water. This selection was approved by the Local Arts Board. Hatch chose the site because he believes it will have good visibility. Ald. Bacon did mention to Hatch that there will be a lot of construction going on in that location within the next two years. Hatch was willing to increase the time it would be there at no additional cost. Bacon said there is a clause in the contract that would make it renewable annually.

Renstrom moved to approve the acceptance of Nathan Hatch's sculpture at the location recommended by the Local Arts Board, seconded by Reeths. A vote was called, 5 members in favor, 1 opposed.

Chair's Report [7]: Ald./Chr. Bacon noted that Otumba was looking nice and asked Barker if there was any vandalism there. Barker said no, not at Otumba. Vandalism was then discussed. Kiedrowski asked if cameras could be installed in locations prone to vandalism. Renstrom followed up by saying that just the sight of cameras would deter people. Barker asked who would review the footage as the parks department is already shorthanded. Bacon mentioned potential confidentiality issues with installing cameras.

Renstrom suggested putting on our agenda for next month the consideration of installing cameras at Sunset and Otumba.

Director's Report [8]: Barker reported that college and high school age seasonals are all gone now.

Barker received a grant for Sunset Pavilion for \$50,000 for 2024. That will include covering the pavilion with stone, redoing the flooring in the restrooms and under the pavilion itself, installing a patio area with a firepit/grill, and trying to get at least a foot rinsing area if not a shower. Barker mentioned that there is additional funding from Destination Door County for around \$16,000 through lodging tax dollars. This will be used for waterfront landscaping.

Adjourn [9]: Motion to adjourn by Renstrom and seconded by Reeths. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katie DeKeyser".

Katie DeKeyser
Recording Secretary