

CITY OF STURGEON BAY
JOINT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE / BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 27, 2024
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: Members present were Chair/Ald. Helen Bacon, Ald. Kirsten Reeths, Ald. Gary Nault, Tom Hemminger, Jay Renstrom, Randy Morrow, Shauna Blackledge, Debbie Kiedrowski and Municipal Services Director Mike Barker. Also present were City Administrator Josh VanLieshout and Municipal Services Secretary Stephanie Gomez.

Adoption of the Agenda: Motion was made by Randy Morrow and seconded by Jay Renstrom to adopt the following agenda.

1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Review of Minutes from January 24, 2024
4. Public Comment on Agenda Items
5. Consideration of Changes to Fishing Tournament Rules in City Parks.
6. Discussion of Big Hill Park stairs along N. 8th Ave.
7. Chair's report
8. Directors Report
9. Adjourn

Review of Minutes from January 24, 2024

Public Comment on Agenda Items: No public comments

Consideration of: Changes to fishing tournament rules in City parks.

City Administrator VanLieshout spoke about how the DNR felt the City's fishing tournament rules were more of a regulation on fishing which the City does not have a right to do. The City came back clarifying that the fishing tournament rules were meant to regulate the use of the City parks. The DNR understood but requested that the language be changed in a way that expresses the intent of the rules are to accommodate the use of the parks by the community. The language of the rules was changed to be more concise, and both the City and DNR agreed upon the new language of the rules. Members of the Committee agreed that they liked the new language of the fishing tournament rules and the support from the DNR.

Motion by Randy Morrow, seconded by Jay Renstrom, to approve the changes to fishing tournament rules in city parks. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion of: Big Hill stairs along N. 8th Ave.

Municipal Services Director Mike Barker explained that the City has two options to fix the stairs. Option 1 is to replace the steps and do a beautification project at a cost of around \$50,000 to \$60,000. Option 2 is to only do a beautification project using big stones as a border around what is planted at a cost of \$5,000 to \$6,000. Ald. Reeths and Shauna Blackledge expressed that they felt that stairs were not necessary, and a path would be sufficient. They felt the money would be better allocated to other park projects. Mike Barker and Tom Hemminger both agree that the \$50,000 to \$60,000 to replace the steps would be better used elsewhere. Randy Morrow, Jay Renstrom and Debbie Kiedrowski would like to see the steps replaced.

A directive was made to Municipal Services Director Mike Barker from Randy Morrow to put money in the 2025 budget for a project to replace the steps at Big Hill Park.

Chair's Report: Ald. Bacon spoke about different artists and speakers coming to Sturgeon Bay in April and May.

Director's Report: Municipal Services Director Mike Barker spoke about the bid he had out for the work on the Sunset Park pavilion. He stated that he should be getting the totals back this week with hope to start the improvements in the fall. Some of these improvements include adding a cover of cultured stone, building a fire pit/grill, adding a concrete patio and sitting wall, and an upgrade to the bathrooms and lighting. He also stated that the Aquatic Plant Management Plan Update Ad Hoc meetings have wrapped up, and they were productive.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Ald. Nault and seconded by Ald. Reeths. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Gomez
Municipal Services Secretary

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N

TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL:

We, the Parks and Recreation Committee / Board, hereby recommend to Council to change the fishing tournament rules in the City parks.

Respectfully submitted,

JOINT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE AND BOARD

By: Ald. Helen Bacon, Chr.

RESOLVED, that the foregoing recommendation be adopted.

Dated: March 28, 2024

* * * * *

Moved by Alderperson _____, seconded by Alderperson
_____ that the said recommendation be adopted.

Passed by the Council on the _____ day of _____, 2024.

**City of Sturgeon Bay
Use of City Parks for Fishing Tournaments**

These regulations have been established to secure open and safe access to the waters of this state at City Parks.

Purpose:

The City recognizes the desirability of fishing tournaments and their impact on the City's economy and notoriety. The City also recognizes the increased use of its park facilities caused by these tournaments in terms of limiting other park users' access to the waters via the City Parks by creating congestion, exclusive use of large areas of Park property, crowding at parking and launch facilities, and other impacts on the use of the City Parks during tournaments. To plan for, address, and mediate these impacts, the City needs prior notice and an opportunity to prepare for the Tournaments, and some general rules regarding the use of Park Property by tournament participants in addition to those normally applied to the use of City Parks when the Park is not subject to high volumes of users. The City recognizes that it does not have the authority to regulate fishing practices on the waters of the state and issues these rules to address the use of its Park property to complement and enhance access to the waters by all City Park users.

Definition:

Fishing Tournament. Any event in which caught fish are scored, weighed, tabulated or calculated on site, and/or a prize of any kind (monetary, merchandise, or recognition by plaque or trophy) is given to a person or persons, and use of the facility requires any arrangements above and beyond the normal function of the facility (tent construction, heightened use of parking facilities, extra electricity, high number of boat launchings, etc.) shall be considered a fishing contest or tournament that will require the issuance of a City Park Permit before the tournament commences. The City Park Permit is issued independently of any required DNR permit. Tournaments or outings with twenty (20) or more boats expected to be registered must receive a City Park Permit from the City. All contests or tournaments held at any City facility shall abide by rules set by the Park and Recreation Department of the City of Sturgeon Bay.

Park Permit Required.

1. Individuals or groups wishing to hold a fishing tournament at a facility owned by the City of Sturgeon Bay must first be issued a permit from the DNR (if required by DNR rules) and follow all DNR regulations (DNR Service Center phone # (920) 746-2860). Those wishing to hold tournaments that do not require DNR licensure shall nonetheless be required to obtain a City Park Permit as provided by these rules.
2. All individuals or groups wishing to hold a fishing tournament at a facility owned by the City of Sturgeon Bay must receive the proper permits from the City of Sturgeon Bay, submit required insurance and indemnification, and pay all associated fees. Tournament officials must contact the City's Director of Municipal Services at least thirty (30) days prior to the tournament. Tournaments affecting the normal operations of the City Park facility as determined by the Director may require approval by the Park & Recreation Committee.
3. Tournament officials are required to do a walk-through of tournament activities with the Director of Municipal Services or his designee during normal working hours (Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) a minimum of 24 hours prior to the tournament.

4. The responsible contact person for the tournament must be identified to the Director of Municipal Services prior to the tournament during normal working hours.
5. A map or sketch of the layout of the tournament activities must be provided to the Park & Recreation Department prior to the required walk-through.
6. Any changes to pre-tournament arrangements or the map must be approved by the Director of Municipal Services during normal working hours and prior to the start of the tournament.
7. The issuance of the permit may be subject to reasonable conditions to minimize the tournament's impact on the Park with the goal of mitigating any hinderance to the public's use of the Park facilities, including the launch site.

General Rules:

1. City Park property shall not be used as a weigh-in site. While launching from City Park property shall be allowed for permitted tournaments, the congestion and increased volume of use of the Park property by tournament participants for weigh-ins shall not be permitted.
2. No permits for any tournament will be issued for the July 4th weekend (3 days), the weekend after the 4th of July holiday weekend, the last weekend in July, and the first weekend in August.
3. Parking for trucks and trailers shall be at the southernmost portion of the parking lot to reduce congestion in the main parking area.
4. If the tournament has more than 100 boats registered or expected to register and is to be held during a weekend, the tournament director may be required to arrange for off-site parking or consider allowing boats to launch from other boat ramps.
5. Co-anglers shall park two vehicles per parking spot to reduce the number of spaces used or should park off-site.

The Park & Recreation Committee has authority to suspend or modify any of the above rules and regulations.