



City of Racine Meeting Minutes

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services

*Alderman Aron Wisneski, Alderman Jim Kaplan
Gaynell Dyess, Van Carson
Liz Mendez, Endel Williams
Robert Hayes, Terry McCarthy
Don Nielsen, Michael Frontier
Debbi Embry*

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

5:15 PM

City Hall Annex, Room 130

Call To Order

PRESENT: 6 - Gaynell Dyess, Aron Wisneski, Robert Hayes, Terry McCarthy, Michael Frontier and Debbi Embry

ABSENT: 2 - Van Carson and Endel Williams

EXCUSED: 3 - Liz Mendez, Don Nielsen and Jim Kaplan

Also present: Ruth Gedwardt, Jay Christie, Wolf Korndoerfer, Ald. Gregory Holding, Ald Jeff Coe, Frank Tingle

Staff present: Donnie Snow, Jack Schumann, Tom Molbeck, Cathy Petrouske

Approval of Minutes for August 8, 2007 and August 16, 2007 Meetings

to Approve the Minutes

Public Input

Ruth Gedwardt appeared and said that the stairs at the statue in Monument Square are being used by skateboarders and people eating. She requested that they be cemented in so that they will not be used for these purposes.

Director's Report

Frontier asked if staff had heard anything further regarding the article in the Journal Times about state funding being cut. Snow said he had not, but said that staff was told not to exceed a 1% increase in the 2008 budget over the 2007 budget.

The Report was Received and Filed

Minutes of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners

The Report was Received and Filed

Zoological Society Report

McCarthy asked about the Zoo re-certification. Jay Christie was present and said that they should be notified by this Sunday, September 16th.

The Report was Received and Filed

07-1150

Subject: Direct Referral: Communication from Melissa Warner in regard to proposed Zoo parking at Lakeview Park.

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services 9-12-07: that the communication be received and filed.

Fiscal note: N/A

Snow said that Melissa Warner sent communications regarding the Zoo's request to make parking at Lakeview Park and in general ways in which parkland is disposed of. This was also discussed at the Committee of the Whole. Wisneski said that the Committee of the Whole was concerned with turning parkland into parking. Wolf Korndoerfer appeared and said that this area is right across from the new entrance to the Zoo. Often folks do not like to park in the remote lot and park on Main Street which can be unsafe. The request has been reduced from 80 spaces to 40 spaces. Christie said the request is not just for special events but for all the time. Snow said the Board is bound by its previous decision unless the item was referred back.

Wisneski moved and Dyess seconded to receive and file the communication. Passed unan.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

07-1050

Subject: Request of the Alderman of the Eleventh District for improved signage at the City of Racine Dog Park, welcoming visitors and stating that this is a City of Racine park and promoting Racine's downtown and other attractions.

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services 9-12-07: that the request be approved.

Fiscal note: to be determined

Ald. Holding appeared and said that when he went to the Dog Park he did not realize that this was a City-owned park. He feels that improved signage could be a good marketing opportunity for the City. He spoke with Devin Sutherland of DRC and they may be interested in paying for some advertising. Wisneski said that he thinks this is a modest and reasonable request and perhaps staff could see if private entities may want to pay for the signage. Snow said staff will work with DRC and anyone interested. Snow did not think there could be businesses listed on the sign.

McCarthy moved and Embry seconded to approve with conditions the request of the Alderman of the Eleventh District for improved signage at the City of Racine Dog Park, welcoming visitors and stating that this is a City of Racine park and promoting Racine's downtown and other attractions.

- 1) *PRCS Staff to work with DRC to come up with a plan and timetable for implementation.*
- 2) *DRC sponsor the sign to the entrance to the park.*
- 3) *Work with the town of Caledonia to determine type and size of signage allowed in this area.*

Passed unan.

Recommended For Approval

07-1143

Subject: Direct Referral: Request of the Alderman of the first district to meet with the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services to discuss a change in the hours of the operation of the Pershing Park boat launch parking lot.

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services 9-12-07: that the request be approved.

Fiscal note: N/A

Ald. Coe appeared and said that boaters are paying a fee to launch their boats at the boat launch and are having a hard time finding a place to park because of non-boaters using the parking lot. He felt that other parking in the lot should be held off until 9:00 p.m. Wisneski said that if there were restrictions on this lot non-boaters would make more use of the parking ramp.

Frontier moved and Dyess seconded that the hours for parking in the boat launch parking lot be extended to 9:00 p.m. for use by those using the boat launch beginning next Spring. Passed unan.

Recommended For Approval

07-0876

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 9th District wishing to draft a resolution to expand current recycling rules to include public and private events.

Also refer to Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services on 8-8-07:
Defer

Fiscal Note: N/A

Recommendation of the Public Works & Services Committee on 8-14-07 and 8-28-07:
Defer

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services 9-12-07: Defer

Fiscal note: N/A

Wisneski moved and Dyess seconded to defer. Passed unan.

Deferred

07-1109

Subject: Request from Frank Tingle to make a donation to the City tree fund to offset airplane travel carbon emissions.

Recommendation of the Finance and Personnel Committee on 9-10-07: The City of Racine accept the donation. A revenue fund for the donation of funds to purchase trees will be set up through the Parks & Recreation Department.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services 9-12-07: that the request be approved and the donation accepted.

Fiscal Note: minimal staff costs

Frank Tingle appeared and said that he flies extensively around the country for business and he would like to make a contribution to the tree fund to offset airplane travel carbon emissions. He said hopefully other companies in Racine will do the same. Further he said that the donations should be an augmentation to the tree fund. Wisneski asked if the City Forester would be able to fit the planting into his schedule. Snow said he would or they would be contracted plantings. Tingle said it was the intention to donate the trees at the \$50 program rate.

Frontier moved and Wisneski seconded to approve and accept the donation as augmentation to the tree program. Passed unan.

Recommended For Approval

07-0808

Subject: (Direct Referral) Cemetery Board and Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services to meet with Donnie Snow, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, to review and recommend resolution of apparent conflicts in their functional operations as set forth in the Code of Ordinances.

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services 8-8-07: that the item be deferred.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services 9-12-07: that the item be deferred.

Further recommend that the item be referred to the Board of Cemetery Commissioners

Fiscal note: N/A

Wisneski moved and it was seconded by McCarthy to defer until the Cemetery Commission's recommendation is received.

Further recommend that the item be referred to the Board of Cemetery Commissioners.

Passed unan.

Deferred

07-1145

Subject: Direct Referral: Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Procedure for Disposing of Excess Property

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services 9-12-07: that the plan be approved.

Fiscal note: N/A

Snow said that he has done research as to what other communities have done. Further, he asked that the plan be approved. Discussion was held about the City Council has authority to use other means for disposition, but Snow said the Council does have this authority. Snow said that staff has talked about the fact that there is parkland that does not have value as parkland, therefore staff could recommend to the Board small areas that could be sold. Snow said he feels this is a powerful document in favor of preserving parkland. McCarthy said there needs to be a document that carries power. Snow said he talked with Public Works Commissioner Rick Jones and he liked this document.

Frontier moved and it was seconded by Embry to approve the procedure for disposing of excess parkland as drafted. Passed unan.

Recommended For Approval

Miscellaneous

Frontier said that he talked with Mr. Curtin of the Oasis and neighbor Mr. Rooney and they had a better summer this year.

Snow pointed out that there were budget hand outs on the table. The number of positions in the PRCS department are proposed to be 65.95 compared to 68.05 in 2007. The increase in the Director's budget are due to salaries and fringes.

McCarthy said that he spoke to the Mayor about members of this Board who rarely attend meetings because sometimes there is barely a quorum. Snow said he has submitted an attendance report to the Mayor but replacement has not occurred.

Adjournment

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

If you are disabled and have accessibility needs or need information interpreted for you, please call the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department at 636-9453 at least 48 hours before this meeting.