



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, June 13, 2007

5:15 PM

City Hall Annex, Room 130

Call To Order

PRESENT: 9 - Gaynell Dyess, Liz Mendez, Aron Wisneski, Robert Hayes, Terry McCarthy, Don Nielsen, Michael Frontier, Jim Kaplan and Debbi Embry
ABSENT: 2 - Van Carson and Endel Williams

Approval of Minutes for May 9, 2007 Meeting

to Approve the Minutes

Public Input

Ruth Gedwardt appeared and asked that she be notified when the flag will be placed on Monument Square. Further, she said that Veteran organizations are interested in the information as well.

07-0749

Subject: Director's Report

Receive and file

Snow said that a timeline is not in place at this time for placement of a flag at Monument Square but all enhancements are being worked on at this time.

Kaplan asked about the cannons being returned to Monument Square. Snow said the plans did not call for the cannons being returned to the Square.

Receive and file.

07-0748

Subject: Minutes of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners

Receive and file

Receive and file.

Zoological Society Report

Receive and file.

PUBLIC HEARING

07-0024

Subject: Request of the Alderman of the Seventh District to meet with the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services to request to change the name of Cheska Park to Vidian/Cheska Park.

Staff recommendation: No recommendation at this time.

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services 2-14-07: that the request be deferred.

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services 6-13-07: that the request be approved.

Fiscal note: \$200.00 for signage

A Public Hearing was held.

Snow noted that staff sent a City Watch notification to the citizens in the area and the Board has received a recommendation of the Naming Committee.

The following citizens spoke in regard to the request:

Ald. Ray DeHahn - spoke of former Ald. Vidian and how he worked relentlessly to get Cheska Park.

Gary Vidian - spoke of his Father's dedication to the City and that his family would be honored to have their name with the Cheska name at the park.

Judge Dennis Barry - said that the Cheska family would be very happy to have the name changed to Vidian/Cheska Park.

Bob Morrision - spoke of the Ald. Vidian's impeccable work for many years as Alderman of the district.

Mendez and Embry said that in hearing the information this evening they would support the request.

Nielsen moved to approve the request to change the name of Cheska Park to Vidian/Cheska Park. Passed unan.

Recommended For Approval

07-0569

Subject: Communication from the Mayor of the City of Kenosha requesting a long-term loan of two Civil War cannon barrels to the Kenosha Public Museums for display with the Civil War Museum of the Upper Middle West.

The item has been referred to the Board of Parks & Recreation & Cultural Services and Landmark Preservation Commission.

Recommendation of the Finance & Personnel Committee on 05-21-07: The item be deferred.

Recommendation of the Finance & Personnel Committee on 06-11-07: The request from the Mayor of the City of Kenosha be denied and that the cannons remain in Racine.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Snow said that the Finance & Personnel Committee denied this request at their meeting and where the cannons should be placed has not yet been determined.

Paul Smedegaard appeared and read from an article regarding the cannons and Monument Square. He felt the cannons should be back at Monument Square.

Snow reminded the Board that the issue on this agenda is if the cannons should be loaned to the Kenosha Public Museum.

Motion made by Kaplan to deny request. Passed unan.

Further discussion was held regarding the condition of the mounts. Kaplan said he contacted the Johnson Family and they do not have an objection if the cannons were placed back at Monument Square. Nielsen suggested looking at the enhancements planned for Monument Square to see if the cannons could be included in the enhancements. The question of placing the cannons back on Monument Square will be on the July agenda.

Recommended For Denial

07-0613

Subject: Communication from Jan Roland, President of Racine Habitat for Humanity, requesting the transfer of the north side of Jones Park to Habitat for Humanity to build homes.

(Also refer to Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services.)

Recommendation of the City Plan Commission on 5-30-07: That this item be deferred.

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services 6-13-07: that the request be approved.

Fiscal note: None

Snow handed out a view of the park.

Jan Rowland appeared and said that Habitat for Humanity is looking to obtain part of Jones Park to build. Further, he said Habitat gives home loans for the purchase of these homes. Habitat has a commitment from Johnson-Diversey employees to help build/rehab these homes. He said he has been watching the park and that there is not a lot of activity at this park. Discussion was held regarding homes that are in close proximity to parks. Snow said sometimes there can be problems in this area.

Mike Frontier excused at 6:15 p.m.

Kaplan said that he feels bringing more families into this area would be a good way to improve the area.

McCarthy said that this Board had a request before it for purchase of parkland in the past and denied the request. He asked if the Board should look at what is available before a decision is made.

Nielsen moved to approve the request of Habitat for Humanity for the transfer of the north side of Jones Park for the placement of four houses. Ayes 6: Kaplan, Wisneski, Mendez, Embry, Dyess, Nielsen. No's 1: McCarthy Passed.

Recommended For Approval

07-0562

Subject: Communication from a representative of the Downtown Rotary Club requesting a special events noise variance and permission to extend the curfew, use the 5th Street Parking Ramp, hang banners at Civic Centre and Festival Hall, use city streets for a parade, and operate a spotlight and run interactive games at Festival Park on May 19 & 20, 2007 in connection with the Rotary Post Prom.

Also refer to Police and Fire Commission, Transit and Parking Commission and Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services.

Recommendation of the Public Works and Services Committee 05-08-07: The request of the Rotary Post Prom Committee of the Downtown Rotary Club, to close:

Fifth Street, from Lake Avenue to Festival Park Drive,
Festival Park Drive, from Fifth Street to Sixth Street,
Sixth Street, from Festival Park Drive to Pershing Park Drive,
Pershing Park Drive, from Sixth Street to Eleventh Street, and
Eleventh Street from Pershing Park Drive to Main Street,

from 7:00 p.m., Saturday, May 19, 2007, to 4:30 a.m., Sunday, May 20, 2007, for the Rotary Post Prom, be approved.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that permission be granted with the following stipulations:

- A. A hold harmless agreement be executed;
- B. Proof of liability insurance be filed prior to the event;
- C. The setup and dismantling of barricades will be the responsibility of the sponsor;
- D. Any overtime and/or equipment and material loss will be charged to the sponsor;
- E. Sponsor shall pay a \$350.00 special event fee.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that permission be granted for the curfew to be extended to the attendees until 4:00 a.m., Sunday, May 20, 2007; approve use of the 5th Street Parking Ramp from 8:00 p.m., May 19, 2007 to 4:00 a.m., May 20, 2007 for 401 spaces at a fee of \$1.50 per space for a total cost of \$601.50; approve use of Lakefront Parking Lot #4 on May 19 & 20, 2007 at no cost, subject to execution of a hold harmless agreement; allow hanging of banners at Racine Civic Center and Festival Hall; permit use of search lights at Festival Hall site on May 19, 2007, and permit use of the following interactive games in the colonnade area of Festival Park until 3:00 a.m., Sunday, May 20, 2007: Laser Maize, Gladiator Joust, Inflatable Twister, Quarterback Attack, Pop-a-shot, and Dance Machine.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Public Works and Chief of Police provide limited assistance, in the interest of public safety, to implement this event.

Fiscal Note: There will be nominal costs to the various City departments, on a regular shift basis, to assist in implementing this event.

Recommendation of the Transit & Parking Commission 5-30-07: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services 6-13-07: that the request be received and filed.

Fiscal note: N/A

Recommended to be Received and Filed

Discussion - "No Dogs Allowed" - Ald. Kaplan

Ald. Kaplan said that he could not find any signage to indicate that dogs are not allowed on the beach or in parks. He also said that the bags in containers to be used to pick up dog refuse have not been replaced. Snow said these bags have never been supplied by the PRCS department. Kaplan said that he often sees people walking two or three dogs and not picking up after them and that he is concerned about protecting our parks. He also said that the North Beach Oasis would like to have a "doggie dress up day" but this does not send a clear message about the ordinance in this regard. Nielsen said that it is evident that there needs to be better enforcement. Kaplan said the City does have a dog park on Hwy. 38. Snow said that dogs are not allowed in any park that has play equipment or ball fields.

Review playground replacement schedule

Terry McCarthy requested information about playground replacement. Jack Schumann said there is a chart for the 41 parks for replacement and when the equipment meets the 20 year mark the equipment is looked at. The equipment is checked four times per year. McCarthy said he has been approached by a number of people regarding the equipment and that he thinks neighbors would be happy to help build playgrounds. Perhaps they would even be willing to do some fund-raising. Schumann said the department has had some donations of equipment in the past. Playground equipment competes with other budgetary items such as vans, etc. Nielsen said he felt there needs to be better exposure of the needs. Liz asked if this could come under the foundation, if established. Snow said the foundation would enhance parks but sometimes foundations do not cover items that should be in the budget. Nielsen said that the community needs to pay for services that they want.

Miscellaneous

Wisneski said that this Board seems to have long meetings and perhaps needs to meet more than once a month or have fewer members of the Board. He plans to look into some options.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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