



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, July 11, 2007

5:15 PM

City Hall Annex, Room 130

Call To Order

- PRESENT:** 6 - Gaynell Dyess, Aron Wisneski, Terry McCarthy, Don Nielsen, Michael Frontier and Jim Kaplan
- ABSENT:** 3 - Van Carson, Liz Mendez and Endel Williams
- EXCUSED:** 2 - Robert Hayes and Debbi Embry

Approval of Minutes for June 13, 2007 Meeting

to Approve the Minutes

Public Input

No Public Input

Director's Report

The Report was Received and Filed

Minutes of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners

The Report was Received and Filed

Zoological Society Report

No Report

07-0866

Subject: Communication from President & CEO of the Racine Zoological Society requesting the operating agreement between the Racine Zoological Society and the City of Racine be extended for an additional two years.

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services 7-11-07: that the request be approved.

Fiscal note: N/A

Snow explained that the present contract is in place until 2010 and that the request is to extend the contract two more years. Further he said that the City enjoys the agreement with the Zoological Society and would recommend approval.

Jay Christie appeared and said the reason for the request is to satisfy concerns of the AZA Accreditation Team. He said that losing accreditation would be devastating. Christie said that the Zoological Society took over the day to day operations of the Zoo in 1988 or 89 and the Zoo has become more self-sufficient.

McCarthy said that the Board has not seen a copy of said contract. Snow said that usually contracts do not come to the Board but if there are issues staff would ask for input from the Board.

Frontier moved to approve the request of the Racine Zoological Society to extend the operating agreement between the Racine Zoological Society and the City of Racine for an additional two years. Passed unan.

Recommended For Approval

07-0817

Subject: Communication from the 4th District Alderman requesting the two (2) civil war cannons rightfully be returned to Monument Square.

(Also refer to Board of Parks & Recreation)

(Also refer to Landmarks Preservation Commission)

Recommendation of the Finance & Personnel Committee on 7-9-07: The item be deferred.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services 7-11-07: that the request be deferred.

Fiscal note: N/A

Ald. Kaplan said that he received several phone calls asking that the cannons be returned to Monument Square. He tried to contact Helen Johnson Leipold concerning the matter and received a call back from a representative of the Johnson family stating they would not have a problem if the cannons were returned to the Square. He said he would like to restore some respect to the Square.

Devin Sutherland appeared and passed out a letter (on file in PRCS office) regarding the process that took place for the redesign of the Square and the condition of the cannons when they were there. Further he said that there were public meetings and the matter came to this Board twice. The intent was to make the Square a gathering place and it was never the intent to return the cannons to the Square.

Ald. Anderson appeared and also presented a letter regarding a possible alternative for the cannons, that being Roosevelt Park (on file in PRCS office).

Frontier moved to receive and file the request. Motion died due to lack of a second.

Wisneski said that there seemed to be massive miscommunications regarding this matter. He said that there was adequate time for public input but some of the public did not know the cannons would be removed. Snow said that there were concise plans and drawings at every public meeting.

McCarthy asked if the designer could take another look at the possibility. Snow said yes, but it will be at a cost.

Motion made by Kaplan and seconded by Dyess to defer the request until the August meeting or until there is a report of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Passed unan.

Deferred

Weed Out! Racine spring 2007 report. Melissa Warner invited to the meeting.

Melissa Warner appeared and passed out a Weed Out Racine brochure and gave a report to the Board. There were 295 volunteers. She expressed that the job is not finished and that the invasive plants are a serious problem. She asked for personal support from the Board.

Miscellaneous

McCarthy spoke about last minute communications or information that is not received prior to the meeting. He said he would like to be able to review as much as possible prior to the meeting. Snow said that typically items are on the agenda.

Frontier asked if there were any concerns regarding the Oasis. Snow said that he had some feedback that things were much better. Kaplan said he had a resident of the area raise concerns and asked for a copy of the contract.

McCarthy said he would like to bring an item to the Board regarding formalizing the process for divesting parkland. Snow said he is researching how other communities handle this.

Adjournment

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 6:32 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 this meeting.