



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services

Joey LeGath, Pamala Handrow, Terry McCarthy, Ken Lumpkin, Kristen Kaprelian, Michael Frontier, Keith Hemmig, Melissa Kaprelian-Becker, Amy Schaal

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

5:15 PM

City Hall Annex, Room 130

Call To Order

Acting Chairman McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:17 PM.

Staff present: Donnie Snow, Tom Molbeck, Sherri Ruud

Guests: Ald. Sandy Weidner, Dr. Julie Kinzelman, Dottie-Kay Bowersox, Lynn Tracy, Jay Christie, Nancy Anderson and Robbie Robinson.

PRESENT: 6 - Terry McCarthy, Michael Frontier, Pamala Handrow, Keith Hemmig, Kristen Kaprelian and Amy Schaal

EXCUSED: 3 - Ken Lumpkin, Joey LeGath and Melissa Kaprelian-Becker

Approval of Minutes for the August 10, 2011 Meeting

A motion was made by Pamala Handrow, seconded by Kristen Kaprelian, to Approve the Minutes. The motion PASSED by a Voice Vote.

Public Input

No public input.

Director's Report

The report was distributed.

Director Snow addressed the tragic drowning at North Beach in August. The response and the efforts of the lifeguards to save the other two young boys were heroic given the conditions that day. Director Snow has sent letters of commendation to all the lifeguards involved in the rescue. It was noted that the area the boys were swimming was an unprotected area. A few of the lifeguards were injured during the rescues; due to these injuries, and the number of other lifeguards who had already returned to college, there were not enough lifeguards to safely guard the beach the last weekend of the season. A representative of the United States Lifesaving Association, Great Lakes Region, will be touring the beaches to determine if anything can be done to make them safer.

Bids have been received to renovate the Laurel Clark Fountain by Scherrer Construction Company.

There was discussion regarding the North Beach Bathhouse Concession Service bidding process.

A motion was made by Pamala Handrow, seconded by Michael Frontier, to Receive and File the report. The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: 4 - Michael Frontier, Pamala Handrow, Keith Hemmig and Amy Schaal

NOES: 1 - Kristen Kaprelian

EXCUSED: 3 - Ken Lumpkin, Joey LeGath and Melissa Kaprelian-Becker

NON VOTING: 1 - Terry McCarthy

Minutes of the August 15, 2011 Board of Cemetery Commissioners

A motion was made by Pamala Handrow, seconded by Kristen Kaprelian, to Approve the Minutes. The motion PASSED by a Voice Vote.

Zoological Society Report

Jay Christie appeared. He advised that the cool and wet weather in May significantly reduced attendance and per capita spending. Normal weather in June and August resulted in more predictable numbers, but the very hot weather in July reduced attendance as well.

There were over 100 participants for the Cigar Smoker; this is the first time the event drew over 100 participants. Unfortunately, the Zoo Debut had under 150 attendees for the first time. The Zoo is looking forward to hosting the Great Lakes Brew Fest this weekend.

A motion was made by Michael Frontier, seconded by Kristen Kaprelian, to receive and file the report. The motion PASSED by a Voice Vote.

[11-6596](#)

Subject: Communication from Lynn Tracy regarding a proposed Dog Beach.

Recommendation of the Board of Health on 07-12-11: That this item be deferred until September.

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services on 7-13-11: To defer to the September meeting.

Recommendation of the Board of Health on 09-13-11: That no dog beach be allowed at the Michigan Boulevard Beach, Zoo Beach or North Beach.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services on 9-14-11: To receive and file the communication from Lynn Tracy regarding a proposed Dog Beach at Zoo Beach, but to consider alternate sites along Lake Michigan.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Dottie-Kay Bowersox and Dr. Julie Kinzelman from the Health Department appeared. Dottie-Kay Bowersox advised that this item was discussed at the September 13, 2011 meeting of the Board of Health. Due to the associated health risks to both humans and dogs in allowing a dog beach at the proposed site, the Board of Health recommended that no dog beach be allowed at the Michigan Boulevard Beach, Zoo Beach or North Beach. Dottie-Kay also advised that the Johnson Park Dog Park on Highway 38 has access to a pond and the river for those people who wish to have water access for their dog. Other areas along Lake Michigan were discussed at the Board of Health meeting as well.

Lynn Tracy appeared and advised that Sam Meyers Park was mentioned as a possible alternative for a dog beach.

Alderman Sandy Weidner appeared and stated that the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Board is independent of the Board of Health, and wanted to hear from staff as to their thoughts for a proposed dog beach.

Director Snow advised that depending on the location of a dog beach, fencing may be required. It would be up to the users of the dog beach to keep it clean and pick up after their dogs. If a dog beach is placed at Meyers Park, there is concern of high bacteria counts in the water for both humans and dogs due to the lack of water circulation because of the breakwater that was installed.

A motion was made by Michael Frontier, seconded by Pam Handrow, to receive and file the communication from Lynn Tracy regarding a proposed Dog Beach at Zoo Beach.

A motion was made by Keith Hemmig, seconded by Kristen Kaprelian, to amend the previous motion to receive and file the communication from Lynn Tracy regarding a proposed Dog Beach at Zoo Beach, but to consider alternate sites along Lake Michigan. The motion PASSED by the following Roll Call Vote:

AYES: 4 - Pamala Handrow, Keith Hemmig, Kristen Kaprelian and Amy Schaal

NOES: 1 - Michael Frontier

EXCUSED: 3 - Ken Lumpkin, Joey LeGath and Melissa Kaprelian-Becker

NON VOTING: 1 - Terry McCarthy

11-6867

Subject: Communication from the 9th District Alderman to discuss the possibility of a dog park along the Root River at either Island or Lincoln Park.

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services on 9-14-11: To direct Staff to investigate the feasibility of a Dog Park at either Island Park or Lincoln Park.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Alderman McCarthy advised it was his desire to have a centrally located dog park

with access to water. Proposed sites are Island Park across from the softball diamonds, or Lincoln Park North of the salmon weir. The dog park would be funded by private donations and maintained by volunteers.

Director Snow advised that he spoke to the DNR regarding the possibility of a dog park along the river, and the DNR is not opposed to it. There are concerns, however, about river bank erosion and high bacteria counts in the river water due to the shallowness of the water. There are no areas for dogs to swim in the proposed areas, as the water is normally shallow.

Dr. Julie Kinzelman advised there are now water quality studies being conducted in the river.

A motion was made by Michael Frontier, seconded by Kristen Kaprelian, to direct Staff to investigate the feasibility of a Dog Park at either Island Park or Lincoln Park. The motion PASSED by a Voice Vote.

[11-6149](#)

Subject: [Direct Referral] City of Racine Park and Open Space Plan Update

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services on 3-9-11: Defer

Fiscal note: N/A

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services on 4-13-11: Defer

Fiscal note: N/A

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services on 6-9-11: Defer

Fiscal note: N/A

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services on 7-13-11: Defer

Fiscal note: N/A

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services on 7-28-11: Defer

Fiscal note: N/A

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services on 8-10-11: Defer

Fiscal note: N/A

Recommendation of the Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services on 9-14-11: To conceptually approve Chapters 1-6 of the City of Racine 2035 Park and Open Space Plan.

Fiscal note: N/A

Nancy Anderson and Robbie Robinson from SEWRPC appeared. All recommendations have been included in the report, and it is now ready to be presented to the public. In addition, eventually a resolution will also be required to adopt by Council.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, October 12, from 5:15 PM to 6:00 PM, followed by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Board meeting.

A motion was made by Pamala Handrow, seconded by Kristen Kaprelian, to conceptually approve Chapters 1-6 of the City of Racine 2035 Park and Open Space Plan. The motion PASSED by a Voice Vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 12

If you are disabled and have accessibility needs or need information interpreted for you, please call the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department at 262-636-9453 at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.