MINUTES OF THE PARKS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020, 5:30 PM
CITY HALL, ROOM 310
Please Note Date, Time and Room Change

A. ROLL CALL.

Present: Chris Wery, Jesse Brunette, Andy Nicholson, Brian Johnson
Others Present: Dan Ditscheit, James Andersen, Ald. Mark Steuer

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Moved by Ald. Andy Nicholson, seconded by Ald. Brian Johnson to approve. Motion carried.
Yes- Chris Wery, Andy Nicholson, Jesse Brunette, Brian Johnson, No- None, Abstain- None

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Moved by Ald. Andy Nicholson, seconded by Ald. Jesse Brunette to approve. Motion carried.
Yes- Chris Wery, Andy Nicholson, Jesse Brunette, Brian Johnson, No- None, Abstain- None

D. REGULAR BUSINESS.

1. Consideration with possible action on the request by Ald. Steuer to reprioritize pickle ball as a high priority in the 2020 Parks Department "wish list" of projects.

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Andy Nicholson to open the floor for discussion. Motion carried.
Yes- Chris Wery, Andy Nicholson, Jesse Brunette, Brian Johnson, No- None, Abstain- None

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Brian Johnson to close the floor for discussion. Motion carried.
Yes- Chris Wery, Andy Nicholson, Jesse Brunette, Brian Johnson, No- None, Abstain- None

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Brian Johnson to approve the 2020 proposed park

projects and refer to the Finance Committee for review and approval as part of the citywide 5 year Capital Improvement Plan. Motion carried.
Yes- Chris Wery, Andy Nicholson, Jesse Brunette, Brian Johnson, No- None, Abstain- None

2. Consideration with possible action on the request by Ald. Brunette to relocate the annual Kiddie Karnival effective 2020 to other City parks, possibly Colburn Park.

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Brian Johnson to receive and place on file. Motion carried.
Yes- Chris Wery, Andy Nicholson, Jesse Brunette, Brian Johnson, No- None, Abstain- None

3. Consideration with possible action on the request by Ald. Brunette to study and prepare a report on the number of parks - City, County, School and Oneida owned - throughout the 12th District with the purpose of possibly locating property where the City can develop a new park.

Moved by Ald. Andy Nicholson, seconded by Ald. Brian Johnson to receive and place on file the report on the number of parks - City, County, School and Oneida owned - throughout the 12th District. Motion carried.
Yes- Chris Wery, Andy Nicholson, Jesse Brunette, Brian Johnson, No- None, Abstain- None

E. INFORMATIONAL.

1. Director's Report on updates and recent activities of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

2. The next Park Committee is scheduled for January 29, 2020.

F. ADJOURNMENT.

Moved by Ald. Andy Nicholson, seconded by Ald. Jesse Brunette to adjourn. Motion carried.
Yes- Chris Wery, Andy Nicholson, Jesse Brunette, Brian Johnson, No- None, Abstain- None

VERBATIM MINUTES

- We're good?

- We're recording.

- All right, Parks Committee will come to order, and we'll note that all members are here, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Nicholson, Alderman Brunette, and Alderman Wery. Can I have an approval of the agenda?

- So moved.

- Second.

- Motion by Alderman Nicholson, seconded by Alderman Johnson, those in favor?

- [All] Aye.

- Opposed, motion carried. Now, approval of the minutes.

- So moved.

- Motion by Nicholson.

- Second.

- Second by Brunette. Discussion? Those in favor?

- [All] Aye.

- Opposed, motion carried. Regular Business, number one. Consideration with possible action on the request by Alder Steuer, Mr. Presidente, to reprioritize pickle ball as a high priority in the 2020 Parks Department wish list.

- So yeah, so at the August 14th Park Committee, a motion was made to work with the pickelball group to see if they could increase their donation contribution to $25,000.00, and then to bring this back for consideration to fund the remaining portion of the project in the 2021 bond request. Since then we've had, Alderman Steuer and I, have had several meetings with this donor, or with this fundraiser, and he has committed to fundraising $25,000.00. He did run into, which is 10% of the construction cost, but he did run into a problem where there wasn't a city commitment. So as he was reaching out to individuals asking for money, they were wondering where the city's commitment was to the project because we didn't fund our portion. So, he just asked if we could reconsider, and this came to Alderman Steuer, for us to reconsider bonding in 2020 versus 2021. And I guess before I go into whether or not, how that would fit into our project, was, I don't know if Alderman Steuer has anything he wants to add?

- Well, I... Well thank you, Chair.

- Go ahead, yeah, sorry. I forgot I was Chair.

- I talked to Director Ditscheit today about it, and I was very, I was satisfied with the discussion that we had in terms of how this might go forward. I think, initially, we were thinking that this might be a 2021 bond request, but, and Director Ditscheit can fill you in on that, but it sounds to me like that there was some rearrangement of some projects and such, and I'm just saying that the research that I've done on pickle ball throughout the country, and also in the State of Wisconsin, that it is a very strong and growing sport. And Green Bay has an opportunity to get some very nice courts over in Murphy Park, and with that being said, that we'll draw interest from around the area, and I'm looking at, hopefully some economic development, different things going on, with people coming in. But I'm happy with what Director Ditscheit came up with, and he can fill you in a little bit on that as well.

- So what I handed out was our proposed 2020 project bond request for the Parks. As far as the pickle ball goes, in either scenario we wouldn't be building it until 2021, in any case, because we have other projects backlogged. So we're still getting caught up on projects that are already funded. And same with all of our other projects that we were going to fund in 2020, the majority of them wouldn't be built until 2021. So what we're proposing to do is revamp our 2020 request that was in our five year Capital Improvement Plan, and just change a few things around. Some other priorities came up since the Five Year Plan was approved anyway, so we looked at the whole year as a whole. So what you see in front of you, would be staff's recommendation as far as what the new projects would be. So under Finger Road Ball Complex, for many years, probably about ever since the facility was opened up, there was a donor group that wanted to install a concession stand with restrooms out there. But because it's an active landfill, we had problems getting approval from the DNR to run utilities out to it. We've been working with Public Works. We now feel that that we'll be able to do that, and so we've been working with Public Works and the engineering behind it. So what this cost would be is running the utilities to the middle of the ball field complex, which is the ideal location for an amenity like this. And then the donor group will fund the actual construction of the building. This is kind of in line with what we've done with our other projects, where we've teamed up with groups for concession stands, and we've paid for the utilities running to it. This is a new project that was not in our Five Year Plan because at the time we didn't know that the approval was gonna come forward, but this project has been in the works or under discussion for probably eight years now. So we feel this is a great project to move forward. We do have the pickle ball courts at Murphy Park which is removing the tennis courts that are there and replacing them with six pickle ball courts. If we do approve this, he would continue to fundraise $25,000.00 towards the project, so this doesn't get him off the hook with the fundraising, he's still committed to doing that. So this is just a partial cost. Hockey rink board replacements, this is to replace some of the existing hockey rinks with new boards for $25,000.00, which was on our list in the past. Baird Creek greenway, a new pedestrian bridge for $95,000.00, that's a new project that has come up also that was not in our Five Year Plan. We've been talking about it for several years, but the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation actually came up with, I think, $30,000.00 towards this project. With that money we hired an engineering firm to design the bridge, and we're working on the construction plans now. So now we need funding to actually implement it. And at the time when the Five Year Plan was there we didn't know that the $30,000.00 donation was coming in for that bridge. Then we get too, with the Wildlife Sanctuary Observation Building roof replacement that was in there last year, we'd like to do that because that's one that needs to be done. Wildlife Sanctuary Security Upgrades for $50,000.00. Again, that was not in our Five Year Plan initially, but we would like to upgrade all of the alarms and upgrade the locks

throughout the entire facility. We've never done that, half of the alarms don't even work in the buildings, so we need new alarms there. And throughout the years, keys have been given out to volunteers and animal care volunteers, and nobody knows who has the keys anymore to anything out there. So we really need to upgrade our security out there. Get it to where it needs to be, and $50,000.00 should cover that. Wildlife Sanctuary, $400,000.00 for additional parking. This would accommodate the new rental facility. We do not have adequate parking for that facility, so we do need additional parking stalls out there. We have that in our Five Year Plan, but it was a later date. Now that that building is gonna be opening up this year we really need to bump that up in the process here. And then $100,000.00 for miscellaneous paving. As a staff, we applied for two DOT grants for trails, and this $100,000.00 would be required as a match if we receive the grants. If we don't receive the grants, then we can use that funding for a different project and allocate it towards something else. But we should know in the next few months whether or not we get those two grants.

- Thank you, Director. Before we go to committee, I was just gonna entertain a motion to open the floor.

- Okay.

- If I could get one.

- I'll make that motion.

- It used to have to be talk, but now we have to open the floor for you.

- Yeah, well it'll only be two seconds. That pickle ball, I believe about 10 years ago they came to me because at Edison, in my district, it wasn't really being utilized properly, and I think they put a pickle ball court, or a tennis court, and it made quite a difference, and that was like 10 years ago.

- Yeah, and actually, this here, we're adding more, this here.

- Yeah, so it made a big difference, and they loved it, so, but it went too, so.

- Tom DeWayne, what's your address, sir?

- 2535 Delwood Drive.

- All right, thank you.

- Sorry, buddy.

- Anybody else, no?

- We'll shut 'em down. Motion to close the floor.

- Motion to close the floor, Burnette.

- Second.

- Johnson.

- Those in favor?

- I've got a question. Do we have to replace all the tennis courts? Doesn't anybody use them?

- There are tennis courts that we just built at Perkins, and I guess as a staff, we've talked about it in the past, but we really don't need that many tennis courts that close to each other.

- Okay.

- So this will remove the tennis courts in its entirety and build six pickle ball courts, brand new.

- I got it.

- Alderman Brunette.

- A couple of questions, Director Ditscheit, the $50,000.00 for the Wildlife Sanctuary Security Upgrades, how long would that bond issue be?

- Well, the last locks lasted 30 plus years, I mean, we haven't replaced locks out there in over 30 years.

- But the bonded money, how long until that's paid back?

- It's usually a 20 year bond cycle.

- 20 year, so do you think the life of the locks would exceed, is it going to be like an electronic, like a card swiper, or?

- The alarms will be a swipe, and some doors will be a swipe alarm, other ones will be keys.

- So for the sake of the committee, I had the gentleman who appeared before the committee in the past, although it's in Alder Steuer's district, he's a constituent of mine, and I met with him a couple of weeks ago and he gave me an update because I wasn't at the committee meetings when he previously presented. Well, he had said he was going to email each of you the updated plan today, so you may have gotten that. I've met with him as I said and I feel comfortable with what his level of his commitment, and his fundraising plan is. It's hard to say I'm in favor of moving things up the list, but for the insight of the Parks Director and the things that he mentioned, I'm comfortable with moving pickle ball as a higher priority because of the research that has been done.

- Fair enough.

- Alder Johnson, anything? Director, thanks for the list here. I was wondering, we're gonna see this again anyway when we go to bond, right, so this is just kind of an unofficial--

- So what this would be for a motion is to refer the Park, the 2020 Proposed Park Projects to the Finance Committee for review and approval in the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.

- I do have a question, were we going to initially bond about $1.1 million anyway, and was that ours?

- Correct, our target number was $1.1 million, so we haven't changed that dollar amount. We just shifted priorities. And the other projects that were funded, or were being proposed in the Five Year Plan were just pushed back a year or two for the most part.

- And it seems like it might be a couple, because we're probably shifting in $400,000.00 or more of, what got bumped out, 'cause it's hard to make a--

- Sure, so basically we had some monies in the Five Year Plan to add parking, but it was in a future year. So we were able to do just do some shifting from year to year. In addition, in the Five Year Plan, we asked for $200,000.00 to replace the floating boardwalk at the Wildlife Sanctuary between the Observation Building and the Nature Center. I feel pretty confident that I can find other funding for that, and take it completely off of our bond request. So that would save $200,000.00 right there. So a combination of those two made up most of it, and then the other ones were just shifted, basically the years were shifted.

- What other ones, with the smaller packet?

- That's fine.

- I'm just--

- So at Perkins, the ones that we had listed for in our Five Year Plan, initially, was at Perkins, we had construct a baseball field and construct two soccer fields.

- How much was the baseball field, I know that was a big--

- The baseball field was $350,000.00.

- Is that off?

- That is being shifted to next year's funding, and then the soccer fields would be two years out.

- Wait, when I was at baseball this fall, my son plays baseball, and we were at Perkins quite a bit. There was some rumblings by some of the people saying, oh, I heard that our money's gonna get shifted a year back, and I'm like, nah, that's not gonna happen, that won't happen.

- The money will get shifted a year back, but the timeline for construction won't, because again, same with the pickle ball courts, with the other priorities ahead of it, we wouldn't have been building that field until 2021 in any scenario because we have other backlogged projects that have been funded for years already that we've been caught up on.

- Okay, that's important.

- So our plan is to bond for pickle ball this year, in 2020, and bond for the baseball field at Perkins in 2021, but build them both in 2021.

- Awesome, any other questions? Do we have a motion?

- So moved.

- Alder, sorry, Alder Steuer?

- No, it's okay. It was a comment I wanted to make, that we were talking about some of the projects at Perkins, they were talking about some soccer fields and a baseball field, and I think just the way the timing is set up with the bonding and such that it sounded like it would work out because they weren't going to build the ball field 'til 2021 anyhow. So I just wanted the Director to mention that.

- Motion?

- Director Ditscheit had a motion that, could you repeat that back?

- Sure, the recommended motion would be to refer the 2020 Proposed Park Projects to the Finance Committee for review and approval in the City-wide Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.

- I'll make that motion.

- Motion by Alderman Brunette.

- Second.

- Second by Alder Johnson. Discussion? Those in favor?

- [All] Aye.

- Opposed, motion carried. Number two, consideration with possible action on the request by Alder Brunette to relocate the annual Kiddie Karnival effective 2020 to other City parks, possibly Colburn. Who wants first?

- James will handle this one.

- All right, James.

- Yeah, go ahead.

- So we were asked to take a look at the Kiddie Karnival, and look at actually possibly like three different options that might work out for a location going forward for the Kiddie Karnival. So we met with Alderman Brunette, and we talked about some possible locations, including Colburn Park, but also Johannes, we've even discussed Astor and Fisk, and even Bay Beach a little bit. We just went over the different logistics, I guess, involved with running the Kiddie Karnival and the program itself, and kind of what the intent, and moving forward what would be the best fit. So we talked about things like location, the size and scope, the infrastructure, the staffing needs, the timeframe, other users that it would affect if we didn't move it, parking. And we just talked about a lot of different aspects that you'd only think about initially when you see the Kiddie Karnival. I also talked a little bit

about the concert that was going on at the same time, and whether or not that was a good fit or not. But upon, and I don't want to talk for Alderman Brunette, but upon kind of discussing all these things, we thought that maybe the best for 2020 at least is just to keep it at Leicht Park. And then moving forward, throughout this year, we can really evaluate some of these other user groups, and kind of how it would affect, and a couple of other things that it affected actually were like different construction projects, like at Colburn, different things going on there. So there was a couple of different things that definitely we can reevaluate throughout this year, and determine based on the needs and the intent of the carnival whether or not we do move it for 2021. So I'm not saying we won't shut the door on that. It's moved already, the history of it, it's moved five or six times.

- Okay, thank you, did you want to--

- No, I was just gonna--

- Tell him which order they're in.

- No, it's a good summary, and thank you, gentlemen, for meeting with me, it's just something that always was in the back of my mind, not that I'm actively looking to change the location, it's just I'm not comfortable with the traffic flow, like the actual vehicle traffic in and around that area, but given the fact that we've had it there many years, folks are used to it there at the center of the city, I'd be hard pressed to make a recommendation to change it for this year, so I'd make a motion to receive and place on file, unless Alder Nicholson has anything.

- We'll entertain the motion to receive and place on file.

- Second.

- Second by Alder Johnson. Alderman Johnson?

- Well what brought this up?

- Just my personal opinion.

- Oh, okay. Then why have we moved it in the past?

- Various reasons. So actually the history of it, real quick.

- Yeah, real quick.

- 1947, it started at Fisk Park. And then it rotated between Fisk and Astor in the 1950s.

- Year by year.

- Then it was held at Johannes Park for a long time, from 1960 through 2009. And then in 2009 we got an irrigation system at Johannes, and we couldn't pound posts into the ground anymore, and to construct the different carnival booths--
- Okay.

- And those kind of things. So then it moved to Leicht Park, that's kind of the history.

- Thank you.

- And it also had to do with the parade too. So we took a parade and went down through, from Johannes down to Leicht Park. So we figured, well it pretty makes sense to have it at Leicht Park, and that's our special event park.

- Sounds good, thank you.

- Mm hm.

- That's it.

- Any other questions? Those in favor?

- [All] Aye.

- Opposed? Motion carried. Thanks, James.

- Mm hm.

- And Jesse.

- Mm hm.

- Number three, consideration with possible action on the request by Alder Brunette to study and prepare a report on the number of parks, City, County, School and Oneida owned, throughout the 12th District with the purpose of possibly locating property where the City can develop a new park.

- At the August 14th Park Committee meeting, the staff, we did present our report to you which is basically what you see in front of you now. But what was asked is that we include the Oneida owned property or Oneida owned and managed parkland on this map and in our inventory on the second sheet, because that was omitted from it initially because it wasn't a city park. So we did include that in this map. There are three locations where there are Oneida owned parkland being maintained as parkland in the city. So you'll see right in the middle of the map, it says Oneida three sisters, there's actually two parks there, one is just a little tot lot and the other one is a little bit bigger one with a larger playground and a basketball court or tennis courts, I can't remember which is there. But there are two locations where there's some parkland there. And then the third location is right at the far west end of the city limits. You'll see something called Finger Lake, and that park actually extends further north into Howard, I believe, and there's actually like a fishing pond in there, which isn't in the city limits, but this is part of that park. So those are the three locations that are tribal owned land and maintained as official parkland. So those are the only things that have changed on this report since the last time we've met. In addition, to revising the report, a motion was made to refer to staff to work with Alderman Brunette to continue to study the report and see if there was any possibility of adding parkland to the 12th District. So we did meet a few weeks ago to discuss this in more detail. We looked at some aerial photos, and looked at the maps. The majority of the existing open land that's there within the district is tribal owned land, and most of the other land is privately owned, but it's

developed for the most part. So we did have some discussions. If we were to add parkland, what's the best way to accomplish that, and one idea that came out of that, is maybe you wanted us to have discussions with the Oneida Tribe to see if there's any interest with teaming up with the City in whatever way, shape, or form to add parkland to the west side. So since our meeting I did have some discussions with the Tribe to see if that's something they're interested in. It's something that they're willing to discuss it, and they haven't committed to anything, we don't have any proposals tonight to share with you. But they're open to keeping the discussions open on that. So if anything comes out of those discussions, I will definitely bring it back to Park Committee and City Council for review and discussion, as it would affect our park system. But for right now, what we were here to discuss was the report itself, and whether or not it's complete or needs to be updated. So that's kind of a summary of where we're at with things with that.

- Thank you. Alder Brunette.

- Yeah, thank you, both again, for the meeting, and the, I forget the other person who was there, but the design guy?

- Kaurie Mihm, our Park Planner.

- Yeah, it was a very good meeting. A couple thoughts after that meeting, I had met with the Mayor, and actually, walking out of the meeting I caught the Intergovernmental person for the Tribe, Melinda Danforth, I think is her name, in the hallway, and she mentioned that they are interested in the discussions, the Mayor indicated that that's part of the discussion that will be brought up during the Cooperative Governments Agreement. I did coordinate a discussion with the King of Arms Neighborhood Association President, there's some work being done at He-Nis-Ra Park, which is in the District. The Boy Scout or Cub Scout just had worked on a project to make better trail markers for the land out there. So there's a lot of things moving forward that I'm happy about, and I'm satisfied with. So, now that hopefully, knock on wood, I'll be here for another term as an Alder, I can work with all the interested stakeholders out in the 12th District, so I'd be content with a motion to receive and place on file.

- A motion to receive and place on file.

- A motion by Alderman Nicholson, is there a second?

- Second.

- Second by Alder Johnson. Any Discussion?

- Those in favor?

- [All] Aye.

- Opposed, motion carried. Director's Report.

- Just a couple of quick things. So Colburn Pool, the majority of the work on the bathhouse and the mechanical room is now completed, with just a few minor things left to do. The work on the pool itself will be done this spring, and we're still on track to open on time. Registration for the 4th annual

Frenzy on the Fox is still going on, that's being held this Friday on CityDeck from 6:30 to 8:00. Right now, registration fee is $20.00. So it's a great event for runners, walkers, bikers, everyone, and there's different distances that you can select that you want to run and walk. So currently we already have 160 plus people registered, if not more than that now.

- It's like 220 right now.

- 220 right now, so that was last week, right around 160.

- Is Danzinger in there?

- I think Danzinger's there, the Mayor's coming to.

- Yeah.

- Mm hm.

- Yeah.

- All right.

- So, and then the last thing is, we're doing a lot of planning for the Frosty Family Fun Night at the Wildlife Sanctuary, that'll be Saturday, February 1st. It's an evening event, your family walks through the nature trails, there's a lot of events, we're gonna have a food truck there this year. So if you've never been there, it's really nice to see it all decorated and lit up at night, so I would encourage all of you to attend.

- What time is that at, Dan?

- 5:00 to 8:00.

- Thank you.

- That concludes my Director's Report.

- Motion to adjourn.

- All right, motion to adjourn, Alderman Nicholson.

- Second.

- Second, Alderman Brunette. Those in favor?

- [All] Aye.
- Opposed, motion carried, we're adjourned.