



MINUTES OF THE PARKS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021, 5:00 PM

Virtual Meeting. Public may join via Zoom.

A. ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION.

I. This item contains documents which provide call in information and instructions for the Zoom meeting.

B. ROLL CALL.

Present - Parks Committee - Alder Randy Scannell-Chair, Alder Chris Wery- Vice Chair, Alder Jesse Brunette, Alder Lynn Gerlach

Others Present: Alder Barb Dorff, Alder Mark Steuer, Alder Brian Johnson, James Andersen - Assistant Director, Kaurie Mihm - Park Planner

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Moved by Ald. Chris Wery, seconded by Ald. Jesse Brunette to approve. Motion carried.

Yes- Chris Wery, Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Chris Wery to approve. Motion carried.

Yes- Chris Wery, Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None

E. REGULAR BUSINESS.

I. Consideration with possible action on adopting a resolution in support of World Migratory Bird Day.

Moved by Ald. Lynn Gerlach, seconded by Ald. Chris Wery to approve adopting a resolution in support of World Migratory Bird Day. Motion carried.

Yes- Chris Wery, Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None

2. Consideration with possible action on approving the request by Olde Main Street Inc. allowing them to fund and install a Green Bay Packer themed light display at Whitney Park.

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Chris Wery to approve the request by Olde Main Street Inc. allowing them to fund and install a Green Bay Packer themed light display at Whitney Park. Motion carried.

Yes- Chris Wery, Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None

3. Consideration with possible action on the use of fat tire bikes at He-Nis-Ra Park.

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Lynn Gerlach to open the floor for discussion. Motion carried.

Yes- Chris Wery, Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None

Moved by Ald. Lynn Gerlach, seconded by Ald. Jesse Brunette to close the floor for discussion. Motion carried.

Yes- Chris Wery, Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Chris Wery to discontinue the use and promotion of He-Nis-Ra Park as a destination for fat tire biking and direct the Parks Department to earnestly and actively find a location for fat tire biking on the west side of Green Bay. Motion failed 2-2. NO RECOMMENDATION.

Yes- Chris Wery, Jesse Brunette, No - Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, Abstain- None

F. INFORMATIONAL.

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

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Chris Wery to open the floor for discussion. Motion carried.

Yes- Chris Wery, Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Lynn Gerlach to close the floor for discussion. Motion carried.

Yes- Chris Wery, Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Chris Wery to receive and place on file the Director's Report on updates and recent activities of Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department. Motion carried.

Yes- Chris Wery, Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None

2. The next Parks Committee is scheduled for January 27, 2021.

G. ADJOURNMENT.

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Chris Wery to adjourn. Motion carried.
Yes- Chris Wery, Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None

VERBATIM MINUTES

- Maybe we should start, huh?
- Okay. All right, here we go, hear ye, hear ye, hear ye, the Parks Committee meeting is now in session. We'll do a roll call, Alder Wery.
- Aye, here, present.
- Alder Gerlach.
- I don't have Alder Scannell, and Alder Gerlach, for some reason on Civic Clerk, it's not showing you guys as present.
- But I'm obviously here.
- You are.
- Oh, you know what? I went in before it asked, before I could click on present and voting. That button wasn't on. I could go back and out and in.
- Or I could just mark you present and voting.
- It's too late, I already did it.
- Oh, you just did it. But, and I just talked to Alder Gerlach today, so she said she was coming, I don't know.
- Huh, well, Alder Brunette?
- Yes.
- Okay, all the brass present, we've got a quorum. So hopefully Alder Gerlach will be joining us very shortly.
- She is on her way. I just heard from her, she'll be right there.
- All right.

- Okay I'm gonna hang up.
- If we could clear up some of the other businesses we got here, I'll take a motion to approve the, let me see, is it agenda or minutes first? The agenda!
- Move to approve.
- Second.
- Moved by Alder Wery, seconded by Alder Brunette. All in favor.
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Opposed? Okay, we have an agenda. Take a motion to approve our minutes from our last meeting.
- So moved.
- Second.
- Moved by Alder Brunette, seconded.
- Aye. Okay, and opposed? I'll wait a minute. And Alder Gerlach is now with us.
- I'm so sorry. I had it wrong in my calendar. And I was writing an email to a constituent who's very nervous about East Town Mall.
- Sounds like a great thing, but anyway that's, you're now there. Welcome, Alder now present. We just approved the agenda and the minutes. Do you have any objections to those you care to jump into before we get into the regular business, on with your life?
- I'm just going to get, no I'm good, I'm gonna get into Civic Clerk right now.
- All right, then on to regular business. Consideration with possible action and adopting a resolution in support of World Migratory Bird Day. Staff?
- All right, we are excited and honored once again to be named a Bird City. We are one of the premier Bird Cities in the state. Green Bay is one of the first 15, and we continually retain the High Flier status, for all of our good conservation and awareness practices. Since the inception, we have raised, this group has raised and put over \$10,000 into urban habitat and bird protection efforts. We believe this, of course, a great benefit to our city. We want to thank Nancy Naback and Bird City High Fliers for their continued efforts in Green Bay. And what we're asking for is to approve adopting a resolution, which will be officially adopted at council, on Tuesday the 19th. And that's what, it's in your packet. And it's also dated the 19th, so that's what we're asking to move forward with bringing that to council.

- Any questions, comments, concerns by fellow alders?
- Great job, excellent.
- Sounds wonderful!
- Very good, very good job.
- All those.
- No, I just wanted to say good job. I've got three bird feeders out, I like to see them come by our house too. It's good for the city, and good for the area, good job.
- I'll take a motion.
- I move that we approve the resolution.
- Seconded.
- Motioned by Alder Gerlach, seconded by Alder Wery. All in favor?
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Opposed? Okay, the birds of a feather can flock together. Item two. Consideration for possible action on approving a request by Old Main Street, Inc., allowing them to fund and install a Green Bay parker, Packer, parker. Packer-themed light display at Whitney Park. Staff?
- Yup, so here we are again. Whitney Park, the Old Main Street is here seeking again to get approval to add something to one of our parks, to help the Packers, hopefully. Hopefully, they don't need the extra push. But hopefully, this will help them get the extra push through the playoffs to the Super Bowl. You know, I'm starting to feel like maybe downtown and Old Main Street would just keep them on the agenda every month. They seem to be bringing something back to approve, which is awesome. Sally is here from Old Main Street, Incorporated if you do want to ask her any questions. And due to the quick turnaround of this, we're actually asking for permission. And will ask for the recommendation, or the approval to be contingent upon hold harmless, and all costs and labor being the responsibility of Old Main Street. But our staff have met on site, and we do approve their concept in general for what they're doing. They're looking to light up kind of the big main tree at Whitney with green and gold, or green and yellow whatever lighting. And then also, some signage that say like, "Go Pack, go," and some other features. We're good with their plan to move forward. But definitely if you want to talk to Sally, she is, I believe, on the call.
- I see her. Any of the alders wish to open the floor? Or are we good to go, or?
- I have no problem with it.
- I move to approve.

- Move to approve by Alder Jesse, Alder Jesse, and Alder Brunette.
- I'll second if I could. I think it's great, it's nice to see this. We need more positive, happy things right now. And it's good to see that. Thanks for doing it.
- I think it's a bright idea.
- No, no.
- Seconded by Alder Wery. All in favor?
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Okay, light her up. Thank you, great job, keep it up.
- Those are calls for, Randy.
- Sometimes I'm not the brightest bulb. I'm sorry, James, I haven't been waiting for you. We need to go to, okay yup.
- That's it, I don't think there's anything on the committee, on the agenda, right?
- Yeah, yeah we're done.
- Nothing else? No, I'm kidding, I'm kidding everybody.
- Consideration with possible action on the use of the fat tire bikers at He-Nis-Ra Park. Alder Brunette, do you wish to jump in first, or would you like to hear from staff, first?
- I can kind of kick it off, and then James will fill in the details.
- Real quick, can I just real quick? If anybody, maybe it'd be convenient to have people put their name, maybe in the comment box, anybody that want to speak, so we can kind of keep track of who's maybe next speaking? And then if we can keep people's comments to the point in general, maybe two to three minutes. There is a lot of people here I believe tonight to talk on this subject. So I just want to be considerate to everybody talking. When you do announce your name, also your address, for us, we keep track of everybody that speaks on these topics. If you guys want to start adding your name to the comment box, maybe, and we'll kind of keep a running tab. But everybody that wants to speak, of course, will be allowed to.
- Thanks, James, I was going to bring that up, and got so carried away here I forgot. Normally, when we meet together you would have to fill out a form to speak. So we're just asking that you put your

name in the chat box, and we'll have a good idea of how much time we're gonna need, and we'll go proceed accordingly. But for now, Jesse.

- Yes, no that's fine, thank you, Chairman.

- All I can see is your name is Jesse, the Brunette comes last.

- That's no problem. Just wanted to briefly, briefly give a quick synopsis of how we got here. In prior to February of last year the city was approached to find fat tire bike trails somewhere on the West side. There were trails at Baird's Creek, but nowhere on the West side of Green Bay in the city limits. Looked at Park, and Ken Evers Park.

- And it all went away, I don't know-

- Both for whatever reason-

- Excuse me, please mute yourselves. We're getting a lot of chatter here. If you're not muted, please mute yourselves, until you're called upon to speak.

- So yeah.

- Alder Brunette.

- Okay, so, found, for whatever reason those two locations were not chosen. So the parks department did a trial basis at He-Nis-Ra Park in February, so almost a year ago. At that time I had about five or six constituents reach out to me frustrated, upset, concerned about the fat tire bike usage at that location, felt like they weren't consulted. Came before this very committee in about February or March. And at that time the parks department said that they hadn't received any negative comments other the ones I brought forward. If anything, the comments were overwhelmingly positive. So fast forward to October/November, I thought this would be a good discussion to bring forward, kind of proactively. I regret that, I should have done it even two months earlier than what I did. But anyways at the last Parks Committee, we decided to postpone this discussion until today. Basically, to allow two months, so that the neighborhood could be better informed, any interested people, our constituents, users, even bicyclists themselves could have a better understanding of the situation, and have their voices heard. So two weeks ago, I believe two weeks ago today, Mr. Anderson and myself from the Parks Department met at He-Nis-Ra Park, and I would say about 50 to 75 members of the public were there. Those in support of the fat tire bikes being used at the park, those who were against it, and I would say a combination of the two people who live in the neighborhood that maybe like the idea, but just not there. So the Parks Department did send out a survey. The survey results were emailed to us. I will say one thing about the survey. I don't know if it's a, based on the public comments I had, I don't know if it's a fair representation of everyone who would be interested in responding. Basically, because getting the word out to the neighbors through that entire district has been a little more cumbersome. But I did notice more Facebook feedback. A lot of people reached out to me by phone, email, and here we are. So I really wanted to allow both sides to be heard. And I think up until this point that has happened much better than it did two months ago. So I'll save my own personal opinions and recommendations until we allow the public to speak. But Mr. Chairman, I would encourage you to allow James to kind of fill in the blanks of what I missed before doing so.

- James?

- Yeah, so some of the items will be a little repeated from what Alder Brunette said. But just to give everybody, and maybe it's just 'cause I like history, but we'll start with a little history of He-Nis-Ra Park here. Back in 1965, the Planning Commission approved He-Nis-Ra becoming a park. So in the Mohawk language He-Nis-Ra means top of the hill. And this was previously a dump site. So around that time the park became a park, and also it became the site for the Southwest High School Cross Country Ski Team, which unfortunately, no longer exists. But there are some club teams in the area that Southwest people would go in. So over the decades, the Parks Department has groomed the trails in the winter when we have adequate snow, for classic cross country skiers to enjoy. Overall, looking at the big picture, we have a lot of opportunities for people to cross country ski in our park system. We have Baird Creek, wildlife sanctuary, Perkins, Colburn, He-Nis-Ra, Preble, McAuliffe, Ted Fritsch. So ever since I've been working at the Parks Department, which is going on 13 years now, there has always been a little bit of a concern over the use of the trails, particularly in the winter. You know, and trails are groomed for cross country skiing. If you go on the trails and disrupt the grooves that people use for classic cross country skiing, it really creates, not a great user experience for cross country skiers. So prior to even having any dedicated fat tire biking trails being groomed for winter use, which has just been implemented on a trial basis, recently. The Parks Department has received input from users over the years about people walking, hiking, on the groomed cross country ski trails. Which I said ruins the user experience, as well as dogs walking on the trails. And also, being off leash within the park. So a lot of the concerns we received prior to even this fat tire bike conversation were a lot to do with some of the feedback. Also, in the comments that we received both at the public input meeting we hosted on December 30th, as Alder Brunette commented on. Which we did have close to 60 to 70 people at that, as well as some of the communications we received and the feedback from the public survey we put in over the last two weeks. Which I will say, in general, we don't put out a lot of surveys, I would say, but the surveys that we do put out, we've never received this kind of feedback in this amount of time. We received over 275 responses on this survey. I have it in front of me. I have 65 pages of comments printed off. It was a lot of information which really helped, so I appreciate the public and them responding to that. Which brings us up to our current topic of conversation, which is fat tire biking, and in particular at He-Nis-Ra Park. Overall, as Alder Brunette said, due to the popularity and trend of fat tire biking in our community over the last two or three years, the Parks Department was tasked, and knew that we needed to proactively work towards location to provide a dedicated fat tire bike trail system in our parks to some extent. And in particular on the West side. So we do have, you know currently, we have Baird Creek on the East Side, which is somewhat of a regional attraction. I mean it's kind of a gateway into Door County, gateway into north towards Marquette. And to be honest it has even so much more potential for fat tire biking, and mountain biking, and trails at Baird Creek. And that's on the East side. You know with the Brown County's reforestation camp, we felt the need to focus on the West side and possible solutions. So over the last two or three years, we did discuss and we vetted through the process of potential locations like Colburn, Ken Ewers, Perkins, Ted Fritsch. All of them which were considered thoroughly, and vetted with staff, and also the user groups. But they would deem to be under serving based on multiple aspects and criteria, as well as the ability to have a genuinely good recreational experience when it comes to fat tire biking. So He-Nis-Ra was the park time and time again that became kind of that viable option for the experience that fat tire bikers were looking for. And as a Parks Department, like Alder Brunette said, on a trial basis last February, we attempted to groom, just to try out what it would be to groom some fat tire bike trails within He-Nis-Ra. And that was last February kind of had the trial. It came to Parks Committee on March 25th of 2020 with a

discussion of possible action on the status of fat tire bike usage at He-Nis-Ra Park. Now at that time the motion was to just receive and place on file. I'm not sure, it probably also had to do with the fact that we really didn't have great snow. And we didn't really have a great chance to get a trial going. I think we only had one small, short snowfall. And we really only had about a week, or week and a half of actual trail use when we started the trial to actually implement it. Because it got really spring-like weather. I don't know if you guys remember, but it was like 70 degrees in March last year at one point. We really didn't have a great trial basis to try this out. And also, as everybody knows, the COVID era hit us. And it kind of ruined any momentum we had. But the little bit of momentum we had with fat tire biking really raised some awareness to the fact that the folks in the conversation was, "Hey, this is a good site to go fat tire biking and mountain biking." Now, I will say in general, I want everybody to be aware, that He-Nis-Ra Park was never a spot where you couldn't bike. It was never prohibited. This whole trial and then the ensuing talk about fat tire biking in He-Nis-Ra just raised the awareness, and brought more people to the park. Let's see, what ensued, like I said, was a greater awareness that the trails at He-Nis-Ra were a nice place to get physically active while riding, and also a fun experience for bike users. Let's see, generally we defined, if you've ever been at He-Nis-Ra, the trails are kind of natural trails. They're not paved, they are through the woods. We do have a circular kind of area in the middle of the park that is crusher dust. It's a wider area where people tend to walk, it kind of looks like a track, a natural track, but with crusher dust there. But outside, the winter months, when trails are groomed for cross country skiing, the trails at He-Nis-Ra were always multiuse natural trails. So that led us up to November 18th when we brought it back to Park Committee with winter right around the corner. We wanted to get prepared for what the intent was going to be this year. And again, consideration of possible action on the use of fat tire bikes at He-Nis-Ra Park was put on the agenda. And the motion at that time, which came out of the meeting, was to refer to staff to work with the neighborhood, stakeholders, and fat tire bikers, and report back at the first Parks Committee meeting in January for discussion of possible action on the use of fat tire bikes at He-Nis-Ra. So with Thanksgiving being the week after they didn't hold a council meeting, so this is officially approved for action on December 1st. In which at that time got started right away with trying to designate trails, created updated signage, update the map, raise public awareness, and get the word out on what the trial basis would be, until this January 13th Parks Committee meeting. So attached in your dated map, that is currently being implemented on a trial basis, we also worked with our parks and forestry staff to reroute some trails, and create some opportunities for the user groups to be separate from each other, as much as feasible, within the footprint. So we established new routes for the trail, signage, and we also worked with our staff to provide public awareness and education for our trails. We sent out postcards to invite residents surrounding the park with the updated map, and also the invite to the public input meeting, which we also put on Facebook, and our website. And we put a press release out, which I said, we had 60 to 70 people attend that meeting. We also had some media there, which did a story on it. We put out a survey on December 30th, which ran up through today. Like I said, we received over 275 responses, and over 65 pages of comments. I do have some general observations from the survey if anybody has questions on that. But I'm not gonna run through the entire survey, of course. There's a lot of comments in there. Like I said, we did as much public outreach as possible through social media, website, the bike groups, the cross country ski groups, and the community. Residents the overall community. And I will say, I know Alder Brunette can probably also confirm this, but I've received more phone calls and communications than I've honestly, I think ever experienced in my time with the city. Except for maybe Colburn Pool, but that's a separate subject. I've been in touch with the alderpersons, the neighborhood association president that's near that area, and also many residents and community members on the subject. We have identified areas where safety was a concern, we addressed trail etiquette. We started the trail condition update section on our website, and we

rebuilt some areas throughout the last month to improve the trail users' experience. So once again, we come to the committee after thoroughly attempting as best we can on a trial basis to designate walker, hiker, cross country ski, and fat tire bike trails at He-Nis-Ra Park. So each user group could safely and respectfully enjoy the general park that we have here on the West side of Green Bay, to recreate, get physically active, and be within nature right here in our city. So at this point, the wheel is in your court.

- All right, anything from any of the alders right now, or should we open the floor?
- Motion to open the floor.
- Second. But can we please limit the length of conversation.
- Is Shelby here to work the timer, teams?
- Kaurie is here, I'll work the timer.
- Okay.
- We can either do it manually, or Kaurie, do you know how to put that up on the screen if you need it?
- Well, people speaking can see.
- First of all, motion by Alder, go ahead Alder Brunette.
- Chairman, I understand a desire to limit speech to you know, time-wise. But what is your recommendation for the amount of time people can speak?
- Ah, three minutes?
- You know, I would, it's a vote, it's your prerogative as chair, is that correct?
- [Randy] I think we can determine that as a committee, I'm open to it.
- I mean quite frankly, I believe that there is going to be more people speaking. It looks like there are 40 people here. I'm a little against, I'm very much against limiting this discussion for the reason that a lot of the neighbors already feel they were not properly notified by the Parks Department. So we now then limit their ability. A lot of the emails that I received were very good, very on point, but they're long. And there are a lot of people have a lot to say. So I want to limit them, you know as chairman, I think you could redirect them, if they're rambling, or going off on tangents. I doubt that that would happen. So again, I don't know if that's your prerogative as chair. I would encourage you to let people speak freely, unless they start being redundant.
- Well, it's not just, but if we want to get everybody in.
- I understand.

- I think in three minutes you should be able to get quite a bit in, and realize, I think everyone should realize we've all done our homework. We've read the emails, we've listened to the conversations on the phone. I don't know that we're really gonna get much new information. So in three minutes, you should be able to vet yourself and get your point across, I think. I'd like to kind of keep it orderly, and keep it moving, because we have so many.

- And you're the chair, and you've always done a good job, I just wanted my opinion on, that's all.

- Unless anybody else has anything else, I'll vote we go with three minutes.

- Can I just say, who seconded that opening the floor? I didn't catch that, Alder Brunette?

- Alder Brunette made the motion, Alder Gerlach seconded. And we need to vote. So all in favor?

- Aye.

- Aye.

- Opposed? Okay, the floor is now open. James, did you want to-

- So, yeah, the first person listed is Kurt, and I'm not gonna attempt to say the last name, Schwiesow, sorry Kurt if I said that wrong.

- Perfect, yeah, that's not bad.

- You just state your name and address for the committee, and you've got three minutes. If we can get the timer up, Kaurie? So they have a feel? Thank you.

- The starting gun, all right. Am I still on? Sorry about that. Can everyone hear me?

- [Randy] Yes, yes, please.

- Okay, great. Oh, I see, I'm just looking at the timer. Well, I just wanted to say my name's Kurt Schwiesow, 142 North Broadway, I'm the owner of Pete's Garage. And I wanted to say thanks to everyone for all the work that's been put into these trails. And I really appreciate the history earlier of the trail system, particularly the parts describing all the work, and the thought that's been put into trail usage. I've been riding these trails, I'm a mountain biker, obviously I'm in favor of both keeping the trails open to mountain bikes, and opening them to fat bikes. I've been riding these trails for the last 30 years or so. And it's a small trail system, but it's a very nice trail system. And I think it augments the other trails in town very well. I look at any opportunity and encourage people to get outside and stay active as positive. I think a lot of the concern about trail usage, the fat bikes in particular comes down to really sharing the trails and making sure that we have positive interactions between trail users. So I think just the general rules of trail etiquette really come into play and need to be reinforced, and remember by everyone which is that cyclists generally yield to pedestrians. And that we keep our speed in check, and are courteous, and smile, and wave and all those things. But I again, I appreciate the efforts. I think it's really great to see the trails come along. I know that the small amount of work that's been put into the trails over the past year has really improved them to the point where it's going to limit erosion, it's gonna create a more established route for riders,

hikers to use. It's gonna discourage, just kind of freedom to bushwhack and create new trails here and there that might not be so healthy for the park. So overall, I think we're gonna see a real positive movement, maybe a little heavier use of the trails, but more awareness of this park that kind of drops off everyone's radar at Green Bay. So, thank you.

- Thanks, Kurt. Next up I have Mike Stone.

- All right, my name's Mike Stone. I assume, can everybody hear me?

- All right, good, I live at 1968 Evans Drive, that's in the neighborhood. I'm a couple blocks away from He-Nis-Ra Park. I'm a lover of He-Nis-Ra Park. I go there about three times a week. I walk it in the summer, and I ski it in the wintertime. I'm both a skier and a bicyclist. But my concern from what I've seen so far is that if we have fat tire bikes in He-Nis-Ra, we won't have skiing. Because despite the efforts of having multiuse, we just have bikers that don't pay any attention to where they're supposed to go. I would say that the easy solution is, a very easy solution is that in the wintertime that He-Nis-Ra Park is a ski park, and in the summertime it's a bicycling park. And that way it's multiuse, and we get the most out of it. But again, my concern is that if we have He-Nis-Ra, if we allow fat tire bikes, which I've seen people going through, once they ride over the ski trails, it's no longer a ski trail, it becomes a bike trail. So I would like to see as a neighbor, He-Nis-Ra and a person that's been skiing and enjoying He-Nis-Ra for 20 years, I'd like to see skiing in the winter, and bicycling in the summer. And that's it, well within my three minutes.

- [Randy] Yup, thank you.

- Thanks, Mike. Next up I would have Rachel Hernandez.

- Hi, good evening, Rachel Hernandez, 1296 Dousman Street. I talk fast, so I will come in well underneath the three minute mark. I also emailed some initial thoughts over to the alder people as well, so I will keep this very brief. Again, Rachel Hernandez, I am a fat tire biker, I am also a trail runner at He-Nis-Ra, and I love to bring my kids to the park, and hike there in the summer, spring and fall, as well. I also run a Facebook group of oh, about 200 fat tire biking women in the state of Wisconsin, about 30 of whom are in the Green Bay area. We, and I, specifically love He-Nis-Ra, because unlike some of the other fat tire biking courses, this one has hills, it's natural, which is kind of unlike some of the golf courses that are there. And it is a physical challenge biking up, biking that big machine up some of those hills. When I attended the meeting in person at He-Nis-Ra Park a few weeks back, the feedback I heard from the non-biking community was really around safety. And wanting to make sure that expectations were clear for really everyone who is using the park. I believe Mike mentioned there were bikes on the cross country ski trail. That does not surprise me, I'm sure there's also hikers and walkers who are using that trail who should not. I think one of the challenges with having the trail basis at He-Nis-Ra is that the signage was really put in for the trial basis and not really installed on a permanent basis. Which I think leaves some opportunities for further education and setting expectations of all users of the trail. Which Kurt also chatted about a little bit when he was talking, as well. But my goal, and I think what we can do to move forward in a way that meets the needs of most users of the park is to move the fat tire biking to a permanent basis on the orange loop where it is today. The one safety concern I will call out as a biker, is there are some areas where the orange trail, the fat tire bike trail crosses some of the walking or skiing trails. It's on a downhill slope, and that can get a little bit tricky. So having some really clear signage for both bicyclists and pedestrians at those intersections I think will do a lot to help promote safety, as well.

- Thank you. Next, James?

- Natalie Bomstad.

- Hello, everyone, Natalie Bomstad, 239 Seminole Lane. So I come to you as a resident of Green Bay. And I also wear a different hat as the executive director of Wello. We are a nonprofit located within the Greater Green Bay community that promotes health and wellbeing. So I come to you with both of those hats. We are in support of the continued inclusion of these fat bike trails at He-Nis-Ra Park. Really want to applaud the efforts here both of our alders as well as our staff, really on the foresight for offering this trail. One of the big things that we've really been hearing, and it was a little bit mentioned around the pandemic. More people are out and biking and walking than ever before, which is a really great thing. I think the inclusion of this fat bike trail is just another, you know, can put another puzzle piece of giving people another opportunity to take their families out and be active. Wello also did a survey back in 2019, and we asked people what was the one thing that they would look to do within the community to improve wellbeing? And the addition of bike and walking trails go to the number one comment that we received from the community. So we know that there's this community will there. But myself, what I really appreciate about the inclusion is what was talked about. We have some of these facilities on the East side, this now allows for us to also have this on the West side. So we have these kind of facilities equitably dispersed within the community. I love that the park can now accommodate many different users. This really, I feel like, creates this great sense of community. We can all be out and be active. If a family, someone wants to bike, someone wants to ski, someone wants to walk, we can all do that together here. I do think that some of the things in terms of potential barriers can be overcome. And I know that just seeing the amount of feedback and people who are coming together around this issue, that we have the community will to overcome those. So again, we really would love to see the continued inclusion here, and really applaud the efforts of bringing this trail to the community, so thank you.

- Thank you.

- Next up, we will have Matt Berg.

- Thanks, James, Matt Berg, 3090 Sandia Drive, Green Bay, Wisconsin. I want to say as a multi trail user of He-Nis-Ra Park I am extremely pleased with how well this trail has gone. I feel that the cycling community, the running community, the hikers have all been extremely pleasant to each other when on the trails. We saw a little bit of excitement at the meeting, at the end of December, but overall I think it was fantastic. I had the opportunity to ride at the park a couple of times since the trail started in early December. I had to say that I've only ever run across just a handful of multi-users while I'm out there. A second point I want to make is that I was talking with some business leaders in the area, and one of the things they mentioned was that having these parks with the hiking and biking trails, as the representative from the Wello just stated, is a draw for employees and new staff members relocating to the community. If you look outside of Green Bay to other major cities, some very small cities, such as Marquette, Michigan, or the Cuyuna Lakes area in Minnesota, cycling has revived communities that have become desolate. And it draws people to those areas for generating business revenue, and people living and commuting into those areas. I think just having this additional resource as an opportunity for cyclists year round at He-Nis-Ra Park is a fantastic way to promote the city as a place to live, and a place to grow. Thank you much.

- Thank you. Next, James?

- Next up, Jamie, Cesafsky?

- [Jamie] Cesafsky, hard one, a really hard one. Nobody at work can pronounce it either, that's fine. Yeah, so I've kind of been involved with this.

- [Randy] Please your name and address, please?

- [Jamie] Jamie Cesafsky, 2772 Oakwood Drive. I don't think the timer restarted, but that's fine. Yeah, so I was saying, I've been involved with this kind of right off the bat. Like I said I live two houses down from the park, so I'm pretty active as far as utilizing the park on a day-to-day basis. I guess just kind of stemming from James' comment, the history of He-Nis-Ra and it being such an old park. To stem from that, it is a park that's been utilized by this neighborhood, and people within this neighborhood for how many years. And the purpose, the sole purpose of it for how many years has been, the purpose of skiing, hiking, walking, running, that sort of thing. Now all of a sudden you've introduced this new sport into a park that, you know frankly, is right and dead center of a massive amount of people that use this park every day. And I guess some of the frustration just stems from the lack of communication. I mean I know we said this trial started last February. But we just sent out flyers three weeks ago right before Christmas for people to even know what's going on. And from the people that I've talked to personally myself, and many others, they had no idea where to start, or who to talk to, or who to call when they started seeing. Again, the frustration isn't this, the single bikers that you run into here and there. And most of them again, are very friendly people. Now you get groups and bikers, and you've got people that are walking out there on these trails and you're moving out of the way every 10 minutes when they're doing a lap around the park. I mean it's a 1.8 mile loop, or two miles, whatever it is, versus a Baird's Creek and a reforestation camp being nine miles where there's a lot more room for people to disperse and utilize the trail systems. Again, I guess from my perspective it just seems that, A, the lack of communication, and now we have three weeks for people to make a decision on how they feel about it within the community. And you're taking a park that again is in the middle of older neighborhoods, newer neighborhoods. And then again, changing something that's been this way for how many years. I know we've talked about the safety aspect, and all those sort of things, I've kind of beaten the bush on that one, as well. Many feel like the park is too small to accommodate all parties and to do it safely, and effectively, as well, and sustain that. That's all I have.

- [Randy] Okay, thank you very much.

- [James] Looks like we have Heather Gentry.

- Good evening, everyone. My name is Heather Gentry. 249 Kenning Street, Green Bay. I am the director of Green Bay School Collective. And our mission is to educate and advocate for cyclists as well as pedestrians. Because at the end of the day cyclists, 99.9% of us are pedestrians. I guess I just kind of want to reiterate something James said, in that bikes have always been allowed at He-Nis-Ra. Neighbors just apparently weren't aware of it, because maybe it wasn't so popular. Cycling has become so much more popular with COVID admittedly. Bike sales have gone through the roof. And you couldn't find any bikes to save your life. But this is public park. It's not just a park for the neighbors of He-Nis-Ra. It should be available to the entire city, it's within the city limits, it is a city park. And to deter children in the neighborhood from utilizing that source is, I feel unfortunate. At

the public safety, at the public meeting a week ago, two weeks ago, people were, they were so concerned about safety. I asked several employees in the Parks Department if there had ever been any instances, any collisions, of hikers and cyclists, and there are none. Many of us cyclists we like to try out different areas, different trails and parks all over the place within Wisconsin, and all over the Midwest. And there's so many wonderful, wonderful places including around here. And hikers and cyclists use those parks without incident. And it is a big draw to have a resource like this in the area. My biggest concern is that when you start talking about dividing up spaces and usage, and excluding a certain group of people either out of fear, or mistrust, or maybe even just misinformation, we're not doing our job. Cyclists have a very good understanding of the hierarchy of safety. If you look at the Fox River Trail, it's the most popular trail in the state. And you have cyclists and hikers on there all the time without incident. I guess finally, the Parks Department, especially since James has been leading the Parks Department, they have done a fantastic job taking care of these resources, doing their work, looking for safety hazards. And I feel like they've done a good job with this, as well, looking at the different options that are out there. I think we should just continue to let them do their job. Thank you.

- Okay, thank you.

- Next up, we'll have Jason Salzewedel.

- Yes, this is Jason Salzewedel, 3100 North Gothic Circle, Green Bay. Obviously close to the park, I live just a mile away. Really have been very engaged in that park over the last couple of years. I also did a local Boy Scout Troop, and a couple of our scouts have really got engaged to help improve some of the park's attributes, if you will. Installing some signs to help keep people around, both helping out the people who like the trail, as well as walk it. And then also recently installing a boardwalk in the marshy area in the southeast corner of the park, just make it more usable for everybody. Definitely a great resource having the park right there for all the neighborhoods in the area. I do see that it can be a very good resource for both bikers and hikers. I think they can live together. The separation of the trail that was done recently, I think is a fabulous change. We've seen less probably interactions on the trail since that's happened. I know there's still some concerns about bikers biking on the non-bike trail. I think as we get more snow and that gets groomed in, it will become much easier to contain the bikers onto the trail. It will hard for them not to stay on the trail. I think there's some education that needs to happen there, as well. And probably some additional signage. Somebody mentioned I think on the downhill, if we put up a bigger sign that says, I know there's a little one that says yield. I think as a biker we probably need something a little bit bigger just to make sure that everybody's aware there's a trail crossing coming up. And that will definitely allow for a better interaction. I think overall, we can live together out there, I think it just takes both parties being amenable to each other. The separation will definitely help. And snowshoeing, walking, biking on the bike trail in the wintertime, it's gonna be a lot better than people walking on the ski trail. The skiers are definitely not gonna want people walking, or snowshoeing on the ski trail. So there kind of needs to be a separation just because those people are gonna continue to use the park throughout the winter as well. That's all I have to say, thank you.

- Thank you.

- We've got Travis, I mean sorry Thomas Wilbur.

- I think Mr. Wilbur has to unmute.

- Yes, please unmute your...

- How's that?

- Mr.- Oh, that's good.

- Okay, very good, sorry about that. Tom Wilbur, 2738 Oakwood Drive, Green Bay. I live about seven houses down from the park. I wrote an email to the Parks Department, so many of you have probably seen that, or it's part of your packet. I would be curious to see what James had for his results from his surveying. And I hope at least, if we don't get a chance to see that, that the committee does, or the council. For my money, I live seven houses down. I never received a flyer about the upcoming pilot program. And so for many of us from the community here, we feel like this has been forced on us. And it was something that we were kind of unprepared to look at, or to incorporate in our community. And while this is a public park, and I mentioned that in my email, that all tax payers deserve to use, or to have access, sometimes trying to lump them all together doesn't make sense. This park was built 60 something years ago under the guise of multiuse. And for many people, for multiuse over the years, the definition of that has changed. Back then, multiuse probably didn't include fat tire bikes, and it probably didn't include drones. But today, you find all these things coming into play for people that are interested in being in the outdoors. And so I think the definition has changed. And it's a little bit unrealistic for us to try to cram too much into a limited space. I think the other thing that people are concerned about in neighborhood is the nature of this park. We all know, if you live here, that there's a foxes den up there this year. And everybody was marveled at the wonder of that foxes den, and the pups coming in and out of that den, and run around that park. And we just hate to see that type of thing destroyed by a group of fat tire bikers that have, from our perspective, invaded the park. The last thing I would say is this. While everybody had some good points about what a park does for bringing in something to the community, I think it's a stretch to say that, or too incur that if you juxtapose the park into economic development. I don't think there's much economic development's gonna come to our neighborhood from that park being open to other than what it's been used for until now. And so again, I go back to the fact that it's a nature park. It's been very quiet and peaceful for our neighborhood, and for many of us, including myself, we'd like to keep it that way, thank you.

- I do have a question.

- For who, me?

- For you, yes. You said, quiet and peaceful. Do the bikers make a lot of noise? Can you hear them in the neighborhood?

- Quiet and peaceful doesn't necessarily mean noise. It can mean, maybe peaceful is a better phrase. No, they're not making noise as far as you know. It's just that there's commotion in the park now. Enough commotion I know it would drive out any future fox dens.

- Okay, thank you. I just wanted to understand what you were getting at, thank you.

- Sure.

- Thank you. Next up we have Julie Thielen.

- [Julie] Can you hear me?
- [James] I can.
- Yes, yes we can.
- Okay. I also sent an email to all the city council members, so you will get that from me,
- But-
- [Julie] I'm just responding to the comments that-
- But please start with your name and address please, quickly.
- [Julie] Oh, Julie Theilen, 1861 St. Agnes Drive.
- [Randy] Okay, thank you, go ahead.
- [Julie] I'm just responding to the comments just quickly that Heather made, the one that has the bicycle group. She stated that, no one's gotten hurt, which thank God, I'm glad to hear that that no one has. And I hope no one ever does. But she made a reference to the Fox River Trail that no one's gotten hurt, and everyone's distant. And I just wanted to point out that the difference being is that the Fox River Trail is five or six feet wide. There's plenty of room to pass someone on those trails. The He-Nis-Ra Trail is two feet wide, maybe three feet wide in some spots. So if someone has to get out of the way to accommodate the other person. And the bicyclists it's hairy there, and I don't know what speed they're coming down. It seems like 50, but it's probably 10. They're coming down at a high rate of speed down those hills. So it's very unfair to compare He-Nis-Ra Park to Fox River Trails that no one's getting hurt. So that's all I had to say, thank you.
- Okay, thank you. Next up, James?
- Thank you, Julie. I don't have anyone else in the chat box currently. Is anybody else want to speak on this item?
- I believe I see Kathy Ameson. I think she's trying to figure out how to unmute her computer.
- Okay.
- Maybe you could walk, there she is. Kathy we can hear you know.
- Okay, thank you very much. I've been in the neighborhood for 37 years. Always gotten
- Excuse me,
- A very small park.
- Excuse me.

- Being a regional destination. The paths are narrow like the other lady just said, one foot to two feet, who's gonna go jump in the mud? There's bikers gonna run off in the mud, or are we gonna jump in the mud? There is a fox den, which has been brought up. And the trail is right next to the fox den. I mean, you can take a picture and here's the den, and here's the fat tire bikers. Why that wasn't taken into consideration when the park, the trails were being trial-y done. I want to know if it's such a trial, why is there a building on the premises of the park with a groomer in it? That doesn't seem like a trial to me that sounds like a done deal. I've been in that park, like I said, many years, and we've always all got along. I don't know how you're gonna put 40 bikes if 40 bikes decide to come into a very small area and very small paths. I'm sure it's great to ride your bikes through there. It's just to me, it's just not safe. It's not safe for the environment, it's not safe for people. It's not certainly safe for the animals. I can send you pictures. I guess that's all I have to say. I probably have to say more, but that's fine.

- Well, you still have another minute and a half-

- I know, but everybody has heard everything, many a times, and to repeat it just doesn't really do any good. Fox River Trail, it is, it's six feet wide. You say bike on the left, they go on the left. You say bike on the left in the woods, where are you gonna go? There's no place to go, or bike on the right, whatever it happens to be. There is no place to go. And for regional, it's too small of a park. It's just way too small. Baird's Creek is bigger. I mean, all the other parks are bigger. You've got this tiny little park. So I just am trying to save our tiny little park. And I try to get along with everybody, thank you.

- Just please state your address then.

- Oh, Kathy Amenson at 1973 Mulberry Lane. And I did not know anything about this until Christmas Eve Day is when I finally got a flyer.

- Thank you. Anyone else care to speak on this?

- Yeah, I think we just had another, was that Mary Kay?

- Or Mike, I put a message in there, may I speak?

- Well, we have, we do have a couple. We have Mary Kay Vande.

- Hi.

- So we'll go Mary Kay Vande Logt, and then Karolina, and then we'll go back to you, Mike. Does that sound good?

- [Mike] Yes, that's fine.

- [Randy] Can Mary Kay please state your name and address?

- Hi, my name is Mary Kay Vande Logt, I live at 601 Green Avenue. I was born and raised in Green Bay, lived here all my life. I just wanted to say, number one that I am in support of the bike trail, I think it's very important that we have safe places to ride, to ride our bikes. And then I just wanted to

speak to the references that have been made to the width of the trail. Fox River Trail was brought up, Baird's Creek was brought up. Fox River Trail is very wide. But Baird's Creek, very narrow trails. And I hike there, I bike there, for years and years. And people get along, and they coexist fine. And when a bike comes and you have to move out of the way, there are places to go, and Baird's Creek is very narrow. And also, I'd like to reiterate the point that this trail, this bike path, and the whole park, it's for everyone, not just the people who live in the neighborhood. And I think that's really important, a very important point. That's it for me, thank you.

- Okay, thank you.

- Thank you, Mary Kay, now we have Karolina?

- [Karolina] My name is Karolina Filon, 2906 Prairie View Court. I guess I would like to know what the results of the survey are. I've taken on to myself to talk to people who don't belong to any groups, people who are just randomly, individually come to the park, to ski, I didn't get many signatures in this winter, but who walk, who run. And I have collected 50 signatures of people who'd like to keep the park as it is, who are simply overwhelmed by traffic numbers. I guess when we're talking about safety, it is a factor that the previous speaker just said that he comes to bike and there's somewhere to go. So I think it just totally violated what we were talking about etiquette of who has the right of way? Who is traveling at higher speed? And I would like to be, I would like to know what do you want me to do with the signatures of people who voiced their opinion? I felt like the survey was a bit biased, in a way it was just asking do you want bikes on separate trails, or bikes on the same trail? But it's really do we really want to change the designation? I understand that bikes are not forbidden, and we cannot really disallow anyone from coming from here. But I think what we're trying to propose is organized, big team, 65 people on New Year's Day usage that is interfering with how this park was utilized for years. And what it's doing to the nature and environment. Thank you.

- Okay, thank you.

- [James] Thank you.

- And Mr. Stone, again, correct?

- Yeah, Mike Stone, and then we'll have Cate Whitman next.

- All right, good, thanks. Well, I would like to say that I do live in the neighborhood, and I do visit the park at least once a week. And I didn't hear about any of these surveys. So the survey might be a bit incomplete. I just happened to stumble upon this on Facebook, just by chance. You might not be getting the full voice. I don't have any clue what the results were. I'm surprised that I didn't know about it. But I would like to voice my concern again, I do, I'm a bicyclist, I'm a skier, I'm a walker, I use the park all the time. I just don't see having bikes going through that small park. I think it's gonna get torn up, abused, and the ski trails, they won't be multiuse once the skiers, or once the bikers ride over that ski trail one time, it's done. And it'll be like that for the whole year. There's so many other places to bicycle. I myself am a bicyclist. I'd like to see them not be in He-Nis-Ra, it's just not the place for them. And that's my opinion.

- Okay, thank you. And I think when we're all done here, James you have the data. If you could share on your screen maybe the pie chart and bar chart of the survey.

- Yup, we can do that. And I can over, like I said, general comments on it, or any specific areas that you want me to reference.

- Okay, let's finish up with the floor, first.

- Sure, next we have Cate Whitman.

- Hi, my name is Cate Whitman, I live at 112 West Florida Avenue in Little Chute, Wisconsin. I realize that is not part of the Brown County system, but I did grow up in Brown County, and just a stone's throw from the park. My family has been frequenting that park over the, gosh, over 30 years now. And we have watched a lot of different environmental changes happen to that park, such as the residential build up around the park. And we saw populations of plants and animals go on to the decline. This park, as many people have cited throughout this call, it's a small park. And I really, I understand that there's a thrill as far as with bicycling within that park, but adding additional trails to an already small park where it's crisscrossing everywhere is going, where are you going to find the wildlife, the plants that thrive. The various plants that, you know, Indian Pipe that grows in there. You have so many different types of plants and animals that we have tracked all throughout the years that are now being impacted by the increase of trail, not necessarily increase of trail use, but the increase of volume of trails. As those networks are now going through and impacting. There's extrusion that we're seeing within the trails that create unsafe trip hazards. Which I understand that the park does go through and try to groom and mitigate. But it's the impact of those trails is tearing up mud, and it is creating erosion that is gonna take years, and years, and years of reversing, if that is at all possible. I am not a resident of Brown County, I grew up in Brown County, but I still frequent this park. So the idea of this is being limited to only the residents that are around the park, I think is just an absurd argument. This is a park I believe that everyone can share, and use and enjoy the beauty of it. I really appreciate your time, and your consideration in this. But please understand that it is not just the safety that we're talking about here, it's also about that impact. At the top of the meeting tonight you cited that the population of birds, and that the city of Green Bay is now gonna be named one of the top bird cities. Well, where do those birds migrate? Where do they live? Where is their food source? It is in parks like He-Nis-Ra Park that those birds migrate through. So please, with careful consideration, consider what the ecosystem impact of continuing to build additional trails in a very small park. And what's that gonna do as far as long term enjoyment for anyone? If there isn't a park, because we have created so many trails, and we're basically paving a lot through it, then it's not really gonna be much of a use for anyone. Thank you.

- Okay, thank you. Is that it, James?

- It's everybody that I have on the chat box. Does anybody else care to speak on the subject?

- I'll take a motion to close the floor.

- I move that we close the floor.

- I second.

- Okay, motion by Alder Gerlach, seconded by Alder Brunette. All in favor?

- [Alders] Aye.

- Opposed? Okay, the floor's now closed. James, why don't you just, before we get into discussion, why don't we just get up some more data with the pie chart, and the bar chart? And just give a quick run through on the survey, and then we'll save the rest for if there's any further questions on it.

- Sounds good. Kaurie, are you able to pull that up? There we go. So, let's see, can I do this, too?

- [Kaurie] No, I don't know how to let them.

- Can you just scroll down, Kaurie? And I think something was stuck here.

- [Kaurie] Yup, we're working on it, should be just a moment.

- Try again. All right, so as we go through here. How we put the survey out is 'cause we wanted to try to, try to find a way to establish how people were using the park, and also, how important those using the park? As you look at the survey results here you're gonna see, this is as of, this is 262 responses. We did get another additional about a dozen responses after the weekend. But we needed time to compile this, and also talk with everybody. And I needed time to share this with the aldermen and the Park, or the alder people and the Park Committee, so they could have time to go through it. Because it was a lot of information. So there were another 12 responses just to be transparent. But as you can see here, first one, how important it is for you to see the following activities at He-Nis-Ra Park? And we broke that into walking, hiking, biking, and also cross country skiing. So these are, a five would be very important, to have these activities within He-Nis-Ra Park. And one would be not, I don't care. I don't think it should even be there, practically. And then two and three and four is in between. So you look at this, almost 60% of the respondents said that the hiking and walking is very important to them at He-Nis-Ra Park. So if you go down to the next one. This would be biking. So out of the respondents you have almost 68% that said biking was very important for them at He-Nis-Ra Park. You see the other side of it where 36 respondents said, essentially they were saying, absolutely not. And then you have some in between. And then we have, if we go down. Trail running, you see a little more of a diversity there. But you see it's still almost 50% saying trail running is very important. And then you have kind of in the middle. You have quite a bit of disparity there throughout, but only 38 people said no. The majority of people here are still saying trail running is important to them. Go down, skiing, this one was a little more interesting when I took a look at it. You have 29% if you round up, people that say, yes, definitely want skiing. And then on the other side you have 25% that essentially are saying, there's no need for skiing here. And then you have, of course in the middle, you have a good disparity of people here in the middle kind of just either a two, or a three, or a four. But you can see skiing was the one that probably, I guess surprised me the most. And not as large a group saying that they wanted skiing there. Snowshoeing, similar to skiing, I would say, but a little bit higher. You got 35% saying yes, five, absolutely. And down to 14% or 15% that said kind of just not a big consideration for them. And then we just kind of said, honestly with these surveys, they're really tough, to be honest, when you put a survey out to try to make it as, open and not trying to have any kind of intent on how you do the surveys. But we just asked them yes or no questions. Do you participate in the following activities at He-Nis-Ra Park? So do you participate in walking and hiking, yes or no? 71% said yes, 29% said no. And with biking we had 72% say yes, and 28% say no. Trail running, we had 38% say yes, and about 62% say no. Skiing, 73% of people responded no, and 27% responded yes. Snowshoeing, eh, fairly similar, a little bit higher, 39% said yes, and 62% said no. And then these are, I think this was on my, for me, as a park, calling myself

a park guy, I'm pretty passionate about parks. But this is what, this thing really gave you a great, kind of overall view of how people utilize the park. Which I thought was really neat. Because we just said, "What other ways do you enjoy using this park?" And as you can see there's just so many uses and ways that people use He-Nis-Ra Park. It's really neat to see from an overall standpoint. It might not help this discussion maybe too much, maybe it does, but here's some examples. Dog walking, bird watching, geocaching, sledding on the big hills near St. Elizabeth. They participate in the trail maintenance, we have a lot of volunteer groups that help with trail maintenance, trail work, and park clean up. Also, invasive species removal, plant identification, watching the foxes in the spring, nature photography, I like this one, meandering. I think that's a word that we don't use enough in our parks, I like that. I like to look at nature and relax, enjoy the wildlife, do Pokémon Go. Doing clean ups, use it as an outdoor classroom, which we do have both King Elementary, and Lombardi Middle School, I did want to mention that do utilize the park for some of the outdoor classroom, and environmental education that they do. They also use it during the summer for some cross country middle school trail meets at times, and things like that. We do have that access to the schools, and the students, as well. Nature watching, walking with my friends, talked about some of the trail work, our clean up. Summer and winter biking, meditation in nature, which I strongly advocate for. Organizing bike trails, or bike rides, I mean. Just biking and some hiking, running on the school track next to the park. I would love to downhill ski if that's at all possible, and ice skating would be fun, too. Fat tire biking, taking my grandchildren on nature walks, using the gravel trail around the bowl of the park, birding, botanizing, mushroom hunting, playing with kids, sliding, hiding rocks, just discovering the park this summer. Which is neat. And I did want to mention something in here also, that's not listed. This is one of the sites that we do our urban deer hunt in. Not many people know that, but as you go into the trails, you may be going right under somebody that's deer hunting in the park. This is one locations where we have deer hunting allowed in our city wide deer hunting program. There are some of the activities that people can participate in the park. If you want to go to the next slide, Kaurie, please? And then we have some questions about just how safe people felt, because that seemed to be one of the big considerations that both our public input meeting, and also, some of the comments over the last month. Do you feel user specific trails would create for a safer environment for users? The majority of people, 65% said yes, and still 35% said no. We have, do you feel user specific trails would make for a more enjoyable environment for users? About almost 70% said yes, and about 30% said no. Then, would you prefer one trail system that is open to all park users? And this is essentially why we're here today, right? Because you are essentially seeing 57% or 58% that say no, and 42% that say yes. This is what brings us to this discussion, essentially, is the fact that we have pretty much half and half of the people that say one trail system open to all users would be good, and then half are saying, no it wouldn't. That's the graphs of the culmination of all the data. Like I said, there was a lot of comments, and some general comments that seemed to be repeated in general, overall with the comments, which I have 65 pages of. I'm more than willing to go over any of those if you want, or if you have any questions?

- Yeah I have a question.

- Go ahead, Alder Brunette.

- Thank you, James, question. Did the survey go out to bicyclist groups? Did the Parks Department engage the different bicycle groups to distribute the survey to their members?

- I would say in general, yes.

- Yeah, and that's again, that's justified. We're gonna explore the idea of having fat tire bikes at a park, it makes sense that you would engage that user group. I guess my question is, how many are you aware of, of the user groups were notified of the survey, and perhaps posted the survey on social media?

- So I mean, I'm aware of the ones that we are, I mean that sounds silly, but I'm aware of the ones we're aware about. There is a bike group out there that has a Facebook page. There's also a Friends of He-Nis-Ra Park that kind of saved the park, there's a page like that. There's also multiple groups like Wello, and there's other that, of course, had the survey. We sent it out on our Facebook page, we sent it out also, put it on our website. We tried to put it out to all the neighborhood associations. I communicated with King of Arms, and the areas, the neighborhood associations around there. And then through any other channel that we could get the survey out to we tried. So yes, part of the communication was to work with stakeholders and the bike user groups. So yeah, we tried to get the word out to everybody that we could.

- Yeah, and James on that, you did everything you should do. As park director, you're into recreation, you're trying to find multiple user purposes, I get all that. That's everything you should do, but the Friends of He-Nis-Ra group is 30 or 40 people, people around the park were not, and I'm not blaming you, this is not, don't take this the wrong way, when I'm pointing my finger at you. But I'm just saying that I believe the survey is flawed. The reason why it's flawed, is if you look at the most typical use for that park, from neighborhood people, from people who visit the park, is walking, historically it's walking. And if the survey results say 58.2% say that walking is their high, number five, the highest rating, only 58% goes to walking. And 67.7% go to biking, that just goes to show that a lot of the bikers who are the ones that did the survey. And right, wrong or indifferent, the reason I point that out is the numbers are skewed. You're not to blame, the bikers are not to blame, I would do the same thing. It would be like, let's say if you're really into football for example, and you want to start a youth football league. You have a little tiny park. And you asked a bunch of football enthusiasts whose kids played football, "Are you okay with having football at this little tiny park, Marquette Park?" A lot of those people who are gonna take the survey say yes. Meanwhile a lot of the people that, one, may not be aware of it, or may not be as organized, aren't gonna have the same rate of participation. I point that out just because I think, although the survey is good, and it's certainly a tool, I don't think it should be the overwhelming number one reason why we should make a long term change to a park. Some of the bicyclist groups have other 2,000 members, like the one group, and again, I'm just stating facts, I'm not looking to stir up any trouble. We need to consider. Over 2,000 members of a bicycle group on Facebook, if some of their members took that survey, and maybe they don't live in the area, or maybe participate in the park maybe once a year, or twice a year, even once a month, that's gonna skew the results in that favor. Whereas, people who use the park everyday who don't know about the survey. So I think there's a flawed process. I'm not fingering you specifically, James, but think as a city council we need to really look at that process going forward. It's come up at different times. It's come up at other parks, it's come up through our history. So it's a process flaw. And it is what it is, but those are my thoughts on the particular survey results, thank you.

- Yeah, and just to, I don't disagree with you at all. I think like you said, it's one of the tools that we used, in conjunction with the public input meeting. Which we saw a great turnout for that. I think based on the comments I saw in the survey, and also the comments that we heard at the public input meeting, as well as the emails and communications that at least I received throughout this process. I think it was very, in general the same type of comments. I don't think there was anything that I heard

overall that was really skewed compared to what the survey said. But once again, yeah I think it's a tool, as well.

- Any other questions from the committee on the survey?

- James.

- Go ahead.

- Just want to be clear, James. So this survey was completely electronic?

- Yup, due to, I mean we didn't have a lot of options with COVID, unfortunately.

- I'm just asking. And so if people either found it, or they didn't find it. It wasn't that there was a certain target audience that you said we must get their input.

- We put it out on our Facebook page. And those groups that either have friended, or tagged our Facebook page probably would have received it. And we also put it on our website, and we put press releases out. But at that point, yeah, it would have been more the public input meetings knowing about the survey. And just a lot of what we do like any business, is word of mouth, that's our best form of advertisement.

- And I don't, I'm not being critical, but I do agree with Alder Brunette. I think that the process is flawed. And I think that we should just move past it. I don't think that survey tells us very much. But we've heard a lot of good things tonight. And when I say good, I mean, I kind of kept score here. I believe we had half the people were for, and half the people were against, but it's all good stuff to hear. We had some good emails. And so I would not spend a lot of time worrying about the survey results. I mean a man who lives right near the park didn't know anything about the survey. I would just say let's put that aside and let's continue the conversation with other sources of information. That would be my suggestion.

- Yeah, and I would also mention, like somebody put in the chat box, I did just go over kind of the extremes. If you're gonna look at, although some people may be saying hiking or walking isn't a five for them, they're saying it's a four, or a three, or a two. So it's still very important to them. I mean that's why I didn't get into so much detail, but.

- Okay, anybody else have anything they care to say on this issue? No further discussion.

- Think Alder Gerlach wants to say something-

- I have other things to say. But I was waiting for you gentlemen to say things. But I'll go ahead, because this has been very interesting to me. I never heard of a fat tire bike until I got put on this committee last April. So this is all new to me. And you know, of course I did my homework, right? So I now know all about fat tire bikes. I've never been . But I'm looking at this map. I just want to, and oh first of all, I want to say I'm so sorry I was late for the meeting. I got so excited about having some progress on East Town Mall that I lost track of time. I want to just mention that the emails that we got, I read them all. And they were so calm and patient, and reasonable. And the people who spoke tonight were that way too. And I really, really appreciate that. We don't have anybody calling names,

putting the fear of God in anyone. It's been a good, reasonable conversation. I do think though, in fact I know for sure, change is always hard. And yet, without change we don't have progress. It's so hard, especially for people who live close to a park, who've always had it the same way for 20 years or 30 years. No idea, and it could be a very good idea, but it's changed, and it's hard, I understand that. I look at this map of this park, and it looks to me, very, very crowded. So I had a good talk with James, I'll tell the rest of the committee, had a good talk with James this afternoon about this, and trying to better understand it. As one of the speakers said, I agree. I'm very concerned when I see that these trails intersect. And I feel like this looks to me, at 55 acres, sounds like a big park. But it looks to me like there's an awful lot going on in those 55 acres. And I appreciate what people say about the nature, and we don't want to, you know, we don't want to get in the way of nature. And so there are so many good arguments in every direction. Yet I really do, I have faith in our Parks Department, and our parks professionals. I know that James is trained in this. And he has like 12 or 13 years of experience beyond what I have in it, 'cause I got none. I guess, I'm so excited now, about fat tire biking. I think it's a wonderful exercise. And I'm so happy that people want to do it. And Alder Brunette would like me to be quiet.

- Oh no, no, I, no, no I'm just raising my hand, like to be speaking next.

- I will try, am I talking too long? I'm sorry.

- You're fine, you're fine.

- I'm almost done, I'm almost done.

- [Randy] I'll give you 10 seconds then. Just kidding, go on, go on.

- You better be nice to me. You know, I want to encourage people to do this, I've never done it. But somebody sent us a video clip and I watched it. And it really looks like fun, and it's good exercise. I do think the long term solution is maybe to find a different site on the West side where there could be plenty of room for fat tire biking. But maybe right now if James and his people feel that they can maybe tweak this a little bit, I would recommend we continue this trial. We certainly haven't any snow to work with yet. And see if maybe the trails need to be re-routed or something. I don't know how realistic that is, so that we can have a short term solution. But I would urge the Parks Department to be looking for a long term solution that's better than this. Because I just think this is a great sport. Thank you for listening.

- Alder Brunette, and then Alder Wery.

- Yes, thank you, Chairman. Now I obviously am the alderman for the area where He-Nis-Ra is located. Alder Gerlach, I agree with you. I'm enthusiastic about fat tire bikes. It's a growing recreation. The simple fact is that He-Nis-Ra is not the right location for it. I say that as an alderman in the district, I say that as a user of that park. I say that as someone who's been in numerous conversations with people who use that park regularly. This is not to say anything bad about the fat tire bike group at all. It's a growing recreation. It's a very good recreation. If anything it points out to the fact that for this particular sport, we do not have adequate properties in our Green Bay Park System that have been identified for that particular user group. These are good people. I've talked to a lot of them, I follow their Facebook page. Some of you emailed me, and if I didn't call some of you back, please know I didn't purposely neglect that. In fact, I think I might have left a voicemail or two. I

think it's incumbent upon the city to find a location for the fat tire bike users that is appropriate. You look at this map, I mean you can't see, for those who are, you can't see it, oh maybe you can. There's a lot of zig-zags, and I know we like to say that the trail system works, and that it's perfect. But the reality is it doesn't work. And I don't think any, there's not enough signage in the world that could make this work in my opinion. The trails are very narrow. When I go out there, specifically in the summer months, even with mountain bikers. They come, they approach at a rather safe speed. And again, not to fault them, that's their recreation. That's what they like to do, no problem, at all for me, as far as that recreation. But in that park, when you have a family, or small children, it is a hazard. And I'm not painting with a broad brush all fat tire bikers are mountain bikers. Most are responsible, but the reality is there are some who go at a very high rate of speed, and it is a safety hazard. I know right now we say you can use fat tire bikes and mountain bikes in the park. I agree, right now that's the case, prior and now. But people did not know that. So now we have the fat tire bike people who are gonna be pushing these events, and live streaming events on their Facebook pages. It's gonna encourage participation. Not a bad thing for a park system, but a bad thing for a park system with this property that will not properly accommodate it. You have a family of four or five going for a leisurely walk on a trail. And then you have three or four mountain bikers, or fat tire bikes, no problem. But what if you have 10, what if you 20 for a group ride? That does create a hazard. There's a park issue there in that it's a beautiful, natural park. The wildlife will flourish there again someday. And my district is unique, because we don't have a lot of parks. And that points to the problem. Because in my district west of Packerland, we have two city parks, He-Nis-Ra and Ted Fritsch Park. So you basically have people wanting to recreate, but not having enough park facilities to accommodate them. There is a travel park that belongs to the Oneida Nation. It's not obvious to people that that park is open to non-tribal members, because that is in land held in trust. So it's not accessible to the greater population out there. Again, that's not a criticism, it is just what it is. So you have two city parks, and you have a lot of need and demand out there. So that's why in the very beginning of my term I've identified expanding the park system and looking to partner with the Oneida Nation, and any other entity to expand park opportunities for the far West side. That is a possibility when it comes to fat tire bikes. Perhaps in different areas. My district is also unique, because it's one of the few districts in the city that has conservancies, and wetlands, and forests. Those are all things that we should preserve, that beautifies that far West side of the district. Red fox, believe it or not, go through that park from time to time. I've heard coyotes, rumors of coyotes going through there. It just seems to me, and I have a lot of respect for the Parks Department, James, Dan, great guys. I think they've done a lot of really good things. But to me it just seems like the fat tire bike people had this pressing need to recreate, which is a good thing. We looked at Colburn, we looked at Ken Euers Park, and it's sort of like, okay that's not gonna work, let's find He-Nis-Ra Park. And now, we're kind of backing a way to justify placing it there. And that's not a good feeling. And the people on this call is not a fair indication of the people I've talked to, the emails. I wish I would have consolidated them. I'll do it for the full city council. But you got to hear the calls, and the emails, and the texts that I've received. The neighbors are engaged and active now, and it's just not the right, I want it to work, I do. But it's just, it's not the right thing. You can only know that if you go out there and you participate and you watch, and you listen to the people that use it daily. So those are my comments, I'm gonna make a motion after all the alders speak. Chairman, because it's my communication, if you'll grant me the ability to make the motion when the others speak, I would be happy to do that.

- Sure. Alder Wery, care to throw in two cents? Oh, I'm sorry we got Alder Steuer first I said.

- Alder Wery, do you want to go first, otherwise-

- Go for it, go for it, Mike.

- All right, well thank you. It's a very good conversation tonight. You know, I've lived in Green Bay about 40 years, I moved out from Milwaukee. One of the things that really impressed me about Green Bay was the park system that we do have. There's over 65 parks in this area, and I've been to most every one of them. And it think when I first moved to town, the uses in the park were such that I played softball. So there were a lot of softball leagues. There was flag football, there was hockey, and there was any number of things. Now you see things where things have adjusted, where now you have Cricket, and people are trying to get Pickle Ball here, and fat tire bikes. So what I'm saying is some of the citizens brought that up that uses have changed, you've got drones. There's a lot of demand on our park system, and I think that is a challenge. Gave us many, many uses. I've been to He-Nis-Ra Park, my children went to Lombardi. So we've been over there fairly often, and it's a beautiful park. I take umbrage with a little bit where citizens say, "Well, I live in the neighborhood, so in effect it's kind of my park." It is all of our park. I went to Baird Creek today with my daughter, and hiked out there, it's beautiful. And I live on the West side. Sometimes you might have to travel a little bit to go some other place. Ken Euers would be kind of a nice area, but it sounds like some of the fat bike people might not like that as much. Again, there's only two parks on the far West side. We probably need another park or two, that always costs money. But I just wanted to make some comments you know, the uses have changed. I had some emails as well from citizens, and some of them are fat biker, fat tire bikers, and they're a little against, they don't think it's big enough. The park is too small, there's way too many uses. And like Alder Brunette said, the signage would be very difficult to show all the way across. I'm gonna read all the emails, and I will reserve judgment until city council. But many times I look at what the alder says for his particular, his or her particular district. And I oftentimes I lean that way. So I'll wait 'til council, but those are my comments for now, thank you.

- Thank you, Alder Wery?

- Sure, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Alder Gerlach had stated, and this is important too, there's no good guys, there's no bad guys or girls here, everybody's wanting a good thing. We want more physical exercise, more opportunities to do that. That's a good note to start on. I was fortunate to have in my experience, this park at one time with a major project, and now Colburn at a major project. So I know the passion people have for parks that are near them. There does get to be a tendency that you feel an ownership of them. Number one for me, for this topic was, that we don't destroy what's special and unique about the park, trying to accommodate as much as we can. Sometimes by doing that you destroy what was so nice about it in the first place. So that's kind of where I'm coming in to start. It was a relatively passive park, low activity for 50 years, biking a little bit, mostly hiking, some running. I just get the feeling that we should pull back on the biking activity, and really just look for a new location for that, where they'll feel like it's right for them. And let this park be what more what it was meant to be. That's my thoughts, thanks.

- Any of the other alders present wish to chime in? No, okay, well then I'll throw my two cents. I agree with all the other alders. It's great to have a spirited debate. It's great that our parks are so used, and people are so invested in them, that we're having this debate. For me, I think I would just like, as an experiment I just feel this has been kind of short, that we just started using it for fat bikes. And there's been a lot of concerns raised, but I don't know how valid they are. I would like to see it go through the winter. And then we can reassess at the end of the winter. And I'm not sure... We want to get the most out of our parks, and that's not the worst, I think that's the problem. We're really squeezing all our parks as much as we can. I mean, we want to protect wildlife, we want to

have, and on the Sustainability Commission, we're trying to work with pollinator corridors and everything. We want the city to be user friendly with our fellow nature critters. But, you know, as a city we are disruptive to their environments, to their habitats. We do want to get as much entertainment out of our parks. Does it get to a point where we got a park that's too pinched, too squeezed, too overused? I don't know, I don't know. But I think for me, I would at least like to see, 'til spring, to get through the winter. And I think we should be realistic that if not here, I don't think there's anywhere else to go. I think we have to be realistic and say, if we're gonna ax it here, it's axed, it's done. I don't know that we've got anywhere, any other land out there that we could convert into a park. Or any other park, staff has looked at this. They went with He-Nis-Ra for a reason. So that's what's giving me some pause. 'Cause I really feel if we say no now, we're saying no, period. It's just not gonna happen. And I would like to give it at least a little more time to see if it can happen. Maybe it is too much to ask of that park, too much usage, but I kind of think, the more usage out of a park, the better, I mean that's what we want to do. So for myself, I would just like to see it go on a little longer, before we actually pull the plug. 'Cause I think when you pull the plug, there's nowhere else on the West side to go. With that, that's my two cents. Alder Brunette, you have a motion?

- Yes, I just want to first.

- Yes, please comment before you make a motion, Alder Brunette, I'd like to hear what you have to say about.

- Certainly, and above all, these kinds of government, I commend everyone for being extremely civil, polite, and everyone has a strong emotions, connections, they're using the park for whatever purpose. At this time, this whole discussion, the whole process from the very beginning has been reaffirming to me the type of people we have in Green Bay. Which in my opinion, is the people we have all throughout the country. I commend everyone for this. Unfortunately, in government, a lot of times we need villains, and hopefully I'm not the villain in this plot. But what I will say Alder Scannell, I hear you, what you're saying. But continuing this spring, will cause nearly irreversible, or long term damage to the park in the near future. I mean, if in fact we do have a fox den there, and we do have other wildlife that's flourishing, and plants, and things that really are the beauty of that park. The reason why park users use that for passive recreation, walking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, perhaps mountain biking, but at a lower rate of speed. Or mountain biking with a family of four or five, rather than a user group of 20 or 30. So the reasons why people are drawn to that park, and the reason why we need to do whatever we can to preserve it, is the reason why, although I love the idea of a trial period, we tried that for two months. And already, from what the neighbors have told me, whether this is true or not, but there has been some degradation. I've gotten calls and pictures. And hopefully, some of you got the pictures, as well. I get it, this is why I delayed this discussion for two months, because I wanted to allow everyone to speak, and I want it to be fair to both sides. And I think that we have accomplished that. I will make a motion, but Alder Gerlach, like I respect your voice and opinion on this. I'm all for trial periods. This two months was supposed to be the trial period. I don't want any long term damage to a beautiful park that's attracting wildlife. I'm against that general idea, Alder Scannell, though I respect your opinion on it.

- So your motion?

- Alder Gerlach, can I make a motion, or did you want to?

- Yes, yes I didn't want to comment. I wanted to hear your comments before you made a motion.

- Yeah, so my motion would be to discontinue the use and promotion of fat tire bike use at He-Nis-Ra Park, and direct the Parks Department to work very closely and aggressively, pardon that word. I don't know how that gets perceived, but aggressively with the fat tire bike users, and user groups throughout Green Bay to find a West side location for that sport.

- How about earnestly?

- Earnestly, it's better than aggressively. I just want some action on it. You have like 20, 30, 50,000 people that really want this recreation, I want to find a place really big for them. It's not the right location. I don't want this to die on the vine. I want some progress, you know, possible locations. Even if that means engaging the Brown County Parks Department for some partnership.

- Okay, so we have a motion by Alder Brunette, and a second by Alder Wery. Any further discussion?

- Can I just back up a second? Can you repeat the, I'm just, 'cause I got to put this motion into context here. So right now I have to discontinue the use and promotion of He-Nis-Ra Park as a location for fat tire biking?

- Destination for fat tire bike use.

- Destination?

- Yeah, and direct the Parks Department to work earnestly, you know, earnestly or actively with the fat tire bike user groups to find another location on the West side of Green Bay for their use.

- All right I'm gonna read it one more time just to make sure I have it here. To discontinue the use and promotion of He-Nis-Ra Park as a destination to fat tire bike, and direct the Parks Department to earnestly and proactively find a location on the West side for fat tire bike usage, or something like that?

- That's fine, I mean I'm sure it is. I like the word aggressively, but earnestly would be a compromise, you get the idea, though.

- Furtively?

- Furtively.

- Vigorously?

- Actively.

- Stridently.

- Intently, focused yeah, I'll figure that out.

- Mr. Chairman?

- Yes?

- If I could, and I'm sure you'll mention this to everyone, too, but, it is that we're just recommending this to council, and council meets next week on Tuesday. So there's eight other alder people who will be there, who will vote on this yet. So whatever happens here there's still another. And yes, you will get a chance to talk on it, if you want.

- The committee recommends to the council, the council decides.

- The motion was by Brunette, and seconded by Wery?

- Yes.

- Okay.

- Were you gonna read it back, or are you good?

- To discontinue the use and promotion of He-Nis-Ra Park as a destination for fat tire biking. And direct the Parks Department to earnestly and actively find a location for fat tire biking on the West side.

- Yes.

- Sound good?

- Okay, Alder Gerlach, did you have more you wanted to say?

- Yeah, I just wondered if Alder Steuer or Alder Dorff would like to comment on the motion before we vote. Because they won't get to vote, and I'd like to hear their opinion.

- Oh, if they want to offer. I also have something further I'm gonna add.

- I'll just chime in, thank you, Alder Gerlach for that. One thing that I stated is these committees have four alders on them. And many times with some of these meetings, and I've been involved in many long meetings on other issues, it is good to have other alders in the discussion, because we will be voting on it eventually. So I feel very good that at least I have this opportunity to listen to all the citizens, and to the professionals, and the various folks who are involved in this. Many times I do listen to the alder in a particular area, because they know their district very well. And I will defer many times that way. I haven't always voted with the alder, but many times I will listen to their reasoning, and really take that to heart. I thought it was a very good discussion, it was very professional, it was very well orchestrated, and nobody got out of line. I can't always say that for all the discussions we've had over time. But you know sometimes issues are very emotional, and it gets difficult. But I think it went well. And I will look at all the emails, and I will read this over. And I will do due diligence at council on Tuesday, thank you.

- Alder Dorff.

- Thank you. I'm torn, I haven't made a decision yet. I won't be making a decision until Tuesday. There are certainly good arguments on either side. I don't have a decision right now. There's a lot to absorb here. But I would like to echo Alder Steuer's comments about the civility that I certainly enjoyed. And that we don't always have when we have these public discussions. So thank you for everyone for being so kind and civil during this discussion.

- Alder Wery, I feel like we got to bust this up. The only comment that I can make, is I'm not gonna support the motion. And it's because, excuse me. It's because we're talking about physical degradation and nature is very resilient. I'm not too much worried about physical degradation. We're not dealing with pollution, or anything that's permanent like a development. I would still like to see more time to see if this can't be worked out. 'Cause I really feel though, Parks is gonna work with bikers to find another place on the West side. I feel pretty strongly that that's wishful thinking, that ain't gonna happen. This is He-Nis-Ra or nothing, I think. So that's why I'm gonna stick to my guns there about giving it more time. So that's my two cents. Shall we vote on the motion? All in favor, aye?

- Aye.

- Aye.

- All opposed? No.

- No.

- So that's 2-2, the motion fails.

- I would recommend forwarding to council with no recommendation.

- You could turn-

- As much as I hate to do that, I can't explain another motion. Unless somebody wants to make one, I'm fine.

- Yeah,

- I'll second that.

- I would support that.

- Without a, how about we kind of-

- The point of order isn't that exactly what you just did.

- Yeah.

- It's gonna go to council, you're gonna pull it, Jesse.

- Yeah, it wasn't intended, my comments weren't intended as a motion.

- Okay, okay.

- I'm just wondering if there's some way we should tweak this to give more direction, considering action and the use. That can go to council as is. Alder Brunette can pull it, and I'm sure we'll have another great discussion. And I'm sure we'll have more discussion from everyone, please. Notify all your friends and neighbors.

- Could I just?

- Yup, go ahead.

- I want to remind for those here, and for those who are gonna be watching this meeting video recording, this will go to the full city council as previously mentioned, Tuesday. The full city council will discuss this, and it's then a vote of the council whatever they decide. And that motion could be anything. You know, if it's a 6-6 tie, the mayor can break the tie. So I encourage everyone to reach out to the full city council, we'll carry the conversation there.

- Thank you very much. Then this goes on to the council as is. We will move on to informational when we're ready here, James.

- All right, we're ready.

- And Director's Report.

- The Director's Report was included in your packet. Once again, if you have any questions let me know, otherwise I'll just point out a few things that some of you might be aware of. We have been preparing and trying to get ready to flood our hockey and skating rinks. And also, try to run Triangle Hill tubing, and our other winter recreation amenities that we have. But unfortunately, due to the weather, and also, the lack of snow, we kind of unfortunately, haven't been able to do that. Hopefully tomorrow we get some good snow, and we get some freezing temps, so people can start playing ice hockey, and skating at one of our many ice rinks. And also, hopefully we get snow, so we can groom the trails, and get them back in good shape. I wanted to mention the wildlife sanctuary this year is celebrating its 85th anniversary. So we're planning hopefully, for a, where we can run some events this year. And COVID I know is gonna go away, and we're gonna all be out there enjoying these activities all summer long. Hopefully, that happens. We'll have activities regardless, on whatever the level of that is. I did want to point out, which I believe Alder Steuer definitely knows, 'cause it's in his district. This week we started removing, we began a large scale ash tree removal project at Perkins Park. So we began that with our forestry crews this week. They'll be in there a couple weeks to remove the ash trees that unfortunately have been infested and potentially are starting to create a safety risk for park users and patrons. We are gonna, once we get those trees removed, we have some ideas about maybe strategizing on what the use of Perkins Park will be going forward. So we're not gonna replant the trees right away, if anybody's wondering about that. We're actually gonna discuss what that park kind of long term area might be use for. That'll be something that in the future here. And I think that is it, for me.

- Anybody have any questions or comments about the Director's Report?

- I do.

- Yes.

- I would just like to thank you, James, for another excellent report. And I would like to thank you for all your hard work while the director has been on leave. I know it's been tough, and you've worked really hard. I really appreciate your dedication.

- Thank you for that, I appreciate it.

- And I would just like to add that I know Director Ditscheit does check in with you from time to time. Next time you talk with him, please extend our regards to him, and hope everything is going well.

- I will do.

- With that our next meeting is January 27, 2021. So excited.

- Alder Scannell, I know this is a lot of out of order, but someone's raising their hand. A Mr. Collier it looks like.

- I can't see anybody, so I-

- I'm just wondering if he's here for the Public Works Committee.

- No, if it's all right to talk.

- We'll open the floor for you. We got to do that procedurally.

- Motion to open the floor.

- Motion to open the floor by Alder Brunette.

- Second.

- Seconded by Alder Wery.

- All in favor?

- Aye.

- Aye.

- Opposed? Okay, floor's now open. You've already spoken before, so just state your name.

- Thank you, it's Mike Collier, 1858 Oakdale Avenue, Green Bay. We were second on the list as far as things on the agenda, talking about the Old Preble Neighborhood Park, and the location of the new park equipment. And we sent out, a survey was sent out to our association. I just got the results

this afternoon, which is not a big deal. But we had a park meeting on Monday night, and it was never said that they were gonna support the move of the playground equipment to the park staff. And I'm just wondering where everything's at, and what's going on?

- Yeah, Mike, I don't want to interrupt you, of course. But I think potentially that agenda item will be in the next Park Committee. It's not an agenda item on this Parks Committee. That was potentially gonna be an agenda item on the January 27th Parks Committee.

- I thought I saw, and I could be wrong, I thought I saw it on this one. That's the only reason I've been here.

- It's not on our agenda, and we cannot speak on items that aren't on our agenda. We'd be flagged for talking about something that hasn't been publicly noticed. We'll take that up probably next one, and it's on the 27th.

- Okay, I appreciate that. I was under the impression that we should for sure be at this one. As well as the next one, not a problem.

- Okay, sorry.

- Thank you very much, everyone. I was amazed at how things kind of work, it's very good and I appreciate. And yes, James, you've done a wonderful job, I sure appreciate it. Take care, everyone.

- Close the floor.

- Motion to close the floor by Alder Brunette.

- Second.

- Seconded by Alder Gerlach. All in favor?

- Aye.

- Aye.

- Oppose? The floor's now close. And I'll take a motion to adjourn.

- Moved.

- Second.

- So moved by Alder Brunette, seconded by Alder Wery. All in favor?

- Aye.

- Aye.

- When are we coming back for our next?

