



MINUTES OF THE PARKS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022, 5:00 PM

Virtual Meeting. Public may join via Zoom.

A. ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION.

I. This item contains Zoom information, instructions, and a link to the Virtual Comment Form.

B. ROLL CALL.

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

Others Present: Director Dan Ditscheit, Deputy Director James Andersen, Alder Barb Dorff, Alder Mark Steuer, Lindsay Mather - Law Department, Rob Frazier - St. John's Ministries

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Moved by Ald. Lynn Gerlach, seconded by Ald. Jesse Brunette to approve / adopt / accept.
Motion Passed.

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. Lynn Gerlach 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 the request by TDS Metrocom, LLC to approve a 15'x20' Utility Easement at He-Nis-Ra Park.

Moved by Ald. Lynn Gerlach, seconded by Ald. Chris Wery to approve the request by TDS Metrocom, LLC for a 15'x20' Utility Easement at He-Nis-Ra Park. Motion carried.

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

2. Consideration with possible action on modifying the open park hours at Ken Euers Park.

Moved by Ald. Lynn Gerlach, seconded by Ald. Chris Wery to approve revising the open park hours at Ken Euers Natural Area and to direct staff to modify Ordinance Chapter 28, Section 28-4 accordingly and bring the ordinance modifications back to Parks Committee for review. Motion carried.

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

F. INFORMATIONAL.

1. Presentation of the St. John's Homeless Shelter ENGAGE Program year end summary.

Moved by Ald. Lynn Gerlach, 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. 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. Lynn Gerlach to receive and place on file the presentation of the St. John's Homeless Shelter ENGAGE Program year end summary. Motion carried.

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

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

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Lynn Gerlach to receive and place on file the Director's Report. Motion carried.

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

3. The next Parks Committee is scheduled for January 26, 2022.

G. ADJOURNMENT.

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

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

VERBATIM MINUTES

- All right, we should be recording now.

- All right, here, here, here is the Parks Committee for January 12th, 2022. Our first new year meeting, happy new year everybody. Roll call, Alder Wery.

- Present.

- Alder Gerlach.
- Present.

- Alder Brunette. I didn't hear it.

- Yes, I'm here. Can you hear me?

- Yeah, and the chair of course is here. So, we're all here. Hail, hail, the gang's all here. I'll take a motion to approve our agenda.

- Move to approve the agenda.

- Second.

- Motion by Alder Gerlach, seconded by Alder Brunette. Any changes anyone wants to make? And all in favor?

- Aye.

- Aye.

- Posed, her agenda is approved. I'll take a motion to approve our minutes from our last meeting.

- Move to approve.

- Second.

- Motion by Alder Brunette to approve, seconded by Alder Gerlach, any corrections or anything that anyone needs to make? All in favor?

- Aye.

- Aye.

- Posed, we have our minutes and our seconds, and the hours roll on. Are we ready to get onto regular business?

- Yes.

- Okay, regular business. Item one, consideration with possible action on the request by TDS Metrocom LLC to approve a 15 by 20-foot utility easement at He-Nis-Ra Park, staff.

- So, TDS Metrocom is in the process of upgrading a large amount of buried infrastructure throughout the entire city of Green Bay. So wherever possible, they're gonna be running utilities within the existing right of way utility easement. So, in this particular situation, they're running the bulk of the underground utilities within the South Point Road right of away, but they need to install an above ground cabinet. And that cabinet won't fit within the existing utility easement because they typically don't like anything underneath those cabinets. And so, they, what they're requesting is a 15

by 20-foot easement, just adjacent to the right of way, specifically for the installation of an above ground cabinet. So, if approved, that will be located in the far Northeast corner of the park in between the existing parking lot and South Point Road. So, if you look at the agenda packet, there are some maps showing where those easements would be located along with the easement language itself is included there. So, there's an existing above ground AT&T utility cabinet located approximately 30 feet north of this proposed easement, and that easement is on, located on School District property. So, you will see that on one of the attachments where that other easement is, but there'll be two cabinets kind of in close proximity to each other. They're different utility companies though. So, the Law Department did work with TDS Metrocom to draft the easement that's attached to the agenda packet, and both the Department of Public Works and our department, the Parks Department reviewed the easement, and we are supportive of this request. So, I'd recommend approval. But one thing I do wanna mention in addition to that is, as I mentioned earlier is TDS Metrocom will be installing new utilities throughout the entire city. So though, there likely will be other locations within the parks where they will propose similar abrupt above ground cabinets. So right now, they haven't given me a quantity. They're still in kind of the engineering phase, but I am, they told me that there will for sure be a few more requests down the road, to install similar cabinets in other parks. And so, what we will do is we'll bring those individual requests forward as they're presented to us. So right now, we're just approving the one easement. And if any more come forward, we'll let you know.

- Alder Brunette.

- Director Ditscheit, did they state who would be doing the contracting work, or did they send a picture of what the above ground cabinet would look like?

- They did send a, I believe, actually rethinking here. They did not send a picture of the cabinet, but I can request a picture and get that to you by council. And what was your other question? I apologize.

- Oh, who's the contractor that would be doing the work for TDS?

- Yeah, and I don't know if they have that figured out yet, because until they have the easement secured, the engineering isn't finalized yet. So, I'm not sure if they hired a contractor for this particular installation.

- Yeah, and that's a fair point and I'm okay with that. I just want the committee to be aware that there is a lot of this sort of infrastructure which will continue, which is a good thing obviously, a positive for the city, but there had been a situation in this general neighborhood. Now this is my district He-Nis-Ra as you know, but close to He-Nis-Ra, there were some issues with a contractor for utility. I don't recall the utility, but similar. And the neighbors in that area were very concerned about the above ground cabinets and, right so these things are not good to look at in a lot of cases, they're often installed. They're sometimes neglected, and we were gonna put something or allow something to go at He-Nis-Ra, which is a beautiful park, a nature park. If we have a utility closet there that's above grade and it's not properly installed or it's nice or it doesn't get maintained, we have these issues that have come up and will continue to come up in my opinion, as more and more of this is done in the city, especially above ground. Now in that situation, the utility company did do right. They listened to the neighbors and the concerns, and they managed to find a way to bury the utility underground, which was a good compromise, but that's not always going to be the case, especially if they're trying to cut costs. So, I don't know how I feel about it, I mean, I'm a little

hesitant to say, yes, I'm on board with it if I don't know who the contractor is, what their track record is. And if there'll be responsive seeing eyesores, if they were to arise in the future. So again, just big picture stuff. I don't wanna get too much into the weeds, but we're gonna have a lot of this sort of thing come up in the future.

- And you are correct. There are gonna be other locations where similar cabinets will be proposed. I don't know the size of the proposed cabinet, but it's not a little cabinet. I mean, this is gonna be a larger one and they are gonna be scattered throughout the city. And I don't, from what they told me, I don't think there's a possibility to bury these cabinets. They have to be above ground. In this situation, it, you know, it is in kind of an inconspicuous area, kind of away from the park itself. You know, the parking lot is a buffer between the park and where those cabinet is gonna be located. But if you have additional concerns, we could, you know, propose to hold this item and request that the next Parks Committee, that's a representative from the utility, attend the meeting and answer your questions directly.

- Yeah, thank you for that. That's a good response. According to Director Grenier, and I don't wanna put words into his mouth, but the State of Wisconsin, or perhaps the federal government, I don't know which level of government, but higher levels of government have given quite a bit of leeway and authority, I shouldn't say authority, but they've kind of given a lot of leeway to these utility companies because we know that in order to put infrastructure, especially high speed internet, you know, a lot of times you have to do these sorts of things. So, I don't really know what the City of Green Bay could do. I mean, we perhaps object, but in the end, if the state and federal governments give a lot of authority to these utility companies to do this sort of work, we might be chasing our tail a bit. So, I think director Ditscheit as long as you can, you know, forward my concerns to the utility company, which I think are rightful concerns that any Alder should have in their district, especially a park. And just give me the pictures and just kind of allay my concerns prior to the full council meeting, I don't think we need to hold it.

- Okay.

- Especially with He-Nis-Ra Park, you know, that was a big issue a year ago so the Fed can do is, you know, approve something without proper due diligence on behalf of my constituents, so.

- And what I've been told by the utility company is, you know, they always reach out to municipalities first when they're looking at their easements. If they're not able to work out an easement with, you know, with an existing park location or city location, and then they reach out to private individuals and request easements on private property. So, if that would be the next step that they would look at, if we don't approve these types of easements.

- Steuer.

- Thank you chair. It's a good discussion. I was wondering, in fact some of y'all just might be able to fill in on this if you remember over time, you know, the local government, our government, has lost some control to handle certain things, you know, the state has taken over CBRS and cell towers and sex offender things. There's just a number of things that, and I'm just wondering if something like this is a concern, I know Alder Brunette brought that up, but I'm just wondering, like you said, you know, how much control do we really have over? So that's kind of my general question. If anybody can answer that, that'd be great.

- Well, I think, actually Alder, director answered it. I mean, if we could do, we can do, we can within our purview, so we can deny the easement, but I don't think we're gonna end up stopping this progress. They'll just go to private, you know, private properties. So actually, I think maybe we might have some more leverage if we grant the easement and then we can ask them, which is gonna be my question this, would they be amendable to depending upon is it a box and where it's placed and everything, maybe we could get the public arts commission involved and, you know, do something fun and creative with these things, or-

- Well, a good point was made there, you know, Director Ditscheit said these boxes are gonna be above ground. You know, if you could bury it, bury it. Somehow, it'd be great, I think, but, you know, maybe that's just not the fact that we can't do that. Though, considering what we can control, or we can't control, I just think we listen to that, and I appreciate, you know, how you, how we're going about it right now. So, we'll just see how it pans out. It's all I've got, thank you.

- Okay, Alder Dorff.

- Thank you, so, you know, I like what you just said Alder Scannell and thinking about the art projects, maybe, I mean, is this something where they could put a mural? Or how about some strawberry? Everybody likes strawberry. And then we could put some tree around it, you know, make it kind of a bit more attractive thing than just a box. I don't really know what these boxes exactly look like, but I bet you would get to come up with some ideas, especially our park guys, they know plants, and I think they could probably figure something out. Thank you.

- Alder Gerlach.

- I had no idea how big this is, but I don't think it's big enough to put a mural on it as the chair of the public arts commission.

- Well maybe not mural, maybe something else.

- But-

- Maybe art pieces around it or who knows.

- I would just say that first of all, we have to find out the size of it 'cause you know, like all down Manitowoc road, which is in my district, we have these little posts, you know, that stick up and they're like, you know, six inches by six inches and they're like, you know, three feet tall and maybe we're talking about something like that. Personally, I would, no, Dan says no.

- These are not the posts; this is a cabinet.

- Okay, so do you have any idea how big it is?

- No, I would be guessing.

- Okay, anyway, I would just say that I would rather see it on park property on the edge like this where it's not interfering with anything, where we know the park staff is gonna have to maintain it,

rather than see this on somebody's private property, where they have to mow around it. I've seen 'em knocked over by lawnmowers and everything. I just, I think this seems like a pretty, a pretty easy thing to approve and I would be in favor of it. I do appreciate Alder Brunette's concerns, but I suspect it's gonna work out fine in the park.

- Anyone else? I'll take a motion.

- Move to approve.

- Moving to approve by Alder Gerlach.

- Second.

- Second by Alder Brunette. Any further discussion?

- Think Alder Wery might've second that.

- Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't hear him at all.

- Yeah. I can hear you now.

- You're good, you're good.

- Alder Wery, seconded by Alder Wery. I stand seconded, corrected, never mind, forget it. All in favor?

- Aye.

- Aye.

- Posed, okay, that passes unanimously.

- And I will get your questions answered prior to council and try to get you a picture of what the cabinet would look like.

- All right, thank you, sir.

- Can we all get a picture of the cabinet, Dan?

- Yes, I will send it to all committee members.

- And especially Alder Gerlach she, as commissioner there, she may. Are we ready for two?

- Yes.

- Ready for two, here we go. Consideration with possible action on modifying the open park hours at Ken Euers Park, staff.

- So as many of you know, Ken Euers Park is located at the north end of Military Avenue in a remote area of the city. It's adjacent to a very industrial location next to the city's yard waste facility and then the county dump area. So, since this is in such a secluded part of the city, there's been some issues with crime in the park over the years. So, in addition, there is no electric running to the park, currently. So, there's not adequate lighting at night to assist with crime prevention in the night hours. So, the police department contacted the city or the Parks Department and requested that we install an entrance gate to control access in the off hours, and then officially modify the hours of operations to the park to be from dusk till dawn. So, we will be moving ahead with building an entrance gate and we'll work with public works and the county to make sure that it's done to specification and code, and everybody can get access into it whenever they need to, to operate the facilities that are out there. We do have similar entrance gates at the wildlife sanctuary at Finger Road Ballfield Complex, and also at the Arnie Wolff Sports Complex. So, this isn't the first park that we're gating at night. It's just gonna be another one we're adding to the list. Because, I guess, as we're looking at responding to this request, the Parks Department is really in support of this request to modify the hours of operation or hours that we're open at the park because there is no lighting out there at night. There really is no reason to be out there 'cause you can't view the wildlife when it's dark out. So, there are a lot of other parks in the city that residents can go to after darks if they so choose. So, we would be in support of this. So, in order to actually amend the park hours though, we would have to make a change to the city ordinance. So, in chapter 28, section 28-4, titled Conduct in Parks and Greenways, we'll have to be modified that section. So, the ordinance currently states that no person shall loiter, idle, or remain in a city park between the hours of 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM. So according to that, all parks are open from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM, unless they're attending a Park Department sponsored event or activity. So, in this situation, we would have to modify the ordinance specific to this one park and say for this one park, it would be, only open from dusk till dawn. And so, if you're in support of this, I would recommend a motion that you approve the change in the hours at Ken Euers natural area from dusk till dawn and direct staff to modify the ordinance accordingly and bring it back for final approval. Now, if you do, I mean, obviously we can have some discussion on this. If you do agree with that proposed motion, you would have two options for bringing the proposed ordinance changes forward. We can just bring it back to Parks Committee and you can actually review the changes to the ordinance at Parks Committee or the other option is, if you just give staff the approval to make the change to the ordinance, we can just bring it directly to the city council. And it can go through the two readings that it would have to go through. And the ordinance change would not have to come back to the Parks Committee, but that would be your decision. So, I guess that being said, I'll open it up for questions and I-

- Let's go to Lindsay Mather, attorney Mather first and then, then Alder Brunette and then Alder Steuer.

- Hi everyone, I apologize for coming to you from my couch, but I sprained my ankle. So, I have to sit with my leg up. Or did I? No, I'm just kidding. So, the only change that I would make to that is, we can't have a requirement like dusk till dawn, we need to pick actual hours. And so, the Law Department's fine with amending the hours and creating this exception, but dusk till dawn is just, it's almost impossible to enforce.

- Okay.

- Because if, if our municipal prosecutor attorney Maes is ever, you know, enforcing a ticket for being in the park after hours or whatever, and somebody is like, "Well, dusk was actually at 6:08 that day.

And the ticket was issued at 6:14," you know, that's, so we just ask that you do pick a specific time period, but other than that, Law Department is on board. And typically, we would ask that an ordinance change be referred to staff and brought back to the committee. But like director Ditscheit said, if this is something everybody is in agreement on, this is a simple enough change that we can bring it back, we can bring it to council next week today.

- Okay Alder Brunette passed attorney Mather one question, could we make it change the law to something like, or as specified by the Parks Department or something like that and then hours could be posted, something like that? So instead of just picking one park where this comes up again with some other park, this gives us a little more leeway to, you know, perhaps.

- Well, that is something I had not considered. And if that's the route that you would prefer to go, I would request that you refer it back to staff and we bring it back at the next Parks meeting.

- Okay, well, I'm kinda thinking that way but then let's go with Alder Brunette and then Alder Steuer.

- Yeah, I actually like that idea. One question I have for director Ditscheit is, what sort of criminal activity or how many police calls, what sort of things are occurring over there that would require such a change? Because I know that park quite well. And you know, there could be some littering and things like that, but is there some pretty significant criminal activity back there?

- If I may, this is my district and it's been a problem for a long time and significant activity and it's been a major problem, major.

- Okay. No, I, yeah, I don't disagree. I guess maybe I run with the routes whenever I go back there, but-

- Yeah, yeah, yeah.

- I would imagine, it's a long-

- Yeah, it's a long driveway. So, I guess my question then would be, where exactly are you gonna put it, the gate, on the upper parking lot area or on that long stretch of road leading to the park? So minor details, I know but, I would, I would tend to kind of agree with Alder Scannell then if it's his district and you're familiar with the criminal activity, I just wanted to make sure it's properly justified to-

- Oh, it is.

- Okay.

- It is.

- Got you.

- Where would the gate go Alder, I've Alder, you should become an Alder, Director Ditscheit.

- It would go fairly close to the main entrance off of Hurlbut Road. So, people wouldn't be able to

drive down the main long driveway. We would block it off before that. And if we're gonna select hours, I don't have a recommendation right now at the meeting. 'Cause I would have to check with staff to see when we're able to lock and unlock and fit that into our rotation. But I would recommend doing summer hour and winter hours, because with the, you know, with the daylight being significantly different between summer and winter, it really needs to have summer and winter hours versus just a standard approach for all the yearlong. So yeah, we could bring the proposed ordinance changes back to this committee, with a proposed time, might be the best option at this point. That way you can comment on the times, and we can move from there.

- I mean, when I moved back there and I spent many years now, but I would go, late at night, when I would go there, it would be in the winter months. And that's because of the snow. When there's a lot of snow, it's a moonlit night. You can see rabbits. So, I just wanna make sure you're all aware of that. That's why I would go there. You could see a lot of rabbits late at night.

- Are you hunting?

- No, I am not. I can't speak to what I did in my youth, but at least since I've been an adult, I didn't get any trouble back there.

- Okay.

- And we do have to-

- Anything else Alder Brunette before going to Alder Steuer?

- No, that's it.

- Alder Steuer.

- Thank you, chair. I mean, you bring up a good point all this scandal, it is your district and depending on how the election goes, that'll be my district-

- Yeah.

- The redistricting. And I've gone to that park many times over the years, you know, we live pretty close to it. And like you said, there is concern about criminal activity. And I'm thinking even when you put up a fence or a gate there, you know, people can still partner by or walk in or whatever and, you know, such a big park, the road, you know, and I've talked about it too, was pretty beat up. It's not the best road to drive. It's a beautiful area, but I think there, you know, as time goes on, I think we need to look at that part completely and try to find out, you know, can we improve the road going in? Can we improve lighting? Whatever, but you know, the police have talked several times about some of the issues that have gone on, I'm not gonna go into detail, but criminal activity. And you know, even if you do put the gate up, people can still walk in. So anyway, I just think it's a good matter of discussion that we're bringing some of this stuff up and you know, I think the hours listed would be good, summer and winter. I would be all in favor of that. So that's all I got, thank you.

- Alder Gerlach.

- You ready for a motion?
- No actually, 'cause I did wanna talk about the ordinance. If we could, if it could maybe be phrased and then I think a motion to refer back to staff, something that, or as posted by the Parks Department or something like that, if you think something like that work stand or, something that would , you know, then can sit down there, something that empowers the parks to change the hours of any park at any time to fit the needs of the city. Instead of just picking one park, you know, with the specific hours, maybe something as posted or whatever, something in that, along those lines. Does that seem possible attorney Mather and director Ditscheit?
- What I would recommend doing is just to direct staff, to modify the ordinance, to change the hours of Ken Euers Park and bring it back to Parks Committee for review and approval. And that way we don't have-
- That's the motion I was gonna make.
- That way we can decide that with the Law Department and we can talk about best options.
- I would agree with that.
- You concur?
- I concur.
- And we have a motion by Alder Gerlach, is there a second?
- Second.
- Second by Alder Wery, I heard that. All in favor?
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Posed. Okay, that motion is referred back to staff Merry Christmas, little late, but Merry Christmas. Are we ready for, oh, I lost you, I lost you, I didn't get to see you. Are we ready for informational?
- Yes, we should be ready.
- Okey-dokey. Informational, presentation of the St. John's Homeless Shelter ENGAGE program year end summary, take it away.
- I will have James give a brief summary here and then we'll pass it on to St. John's Homeless Shelter to give more information.
- All right, can you hear me, okay?
- Yes.

- All right, yes. So, this agenda item here, I just, I wanted to give you guys a little bit of history just to remind the group here as we talk about this. Back in March 24th, 2021, that's when we were brought this item with the St. John's proposal for the ENGAGE program to the Parks Committee, and then it was approved back in March 30th, 2021. And the motion at the time was to approve the request by St. John's Homeless Shelter to run a homeless support program, support program at St. John's Park, starting April 30th, 2021, on a trial basis, contingent upon the review of the program with the Parks Committee in July for possible continuation through November 1st, 2021. And then we brought it back to the Parks Committee on July 28th, 2021. And subsequently, at, on the August 3rd, 2021, council meeting, it was approved for the ENGAGE program to be continued through October until November 1st, 2021. So, we were also asked at that time to provide, rehab the program at the Parks Committee meeting after the program ended. And we attached in your packet, you'll have a recap of the program. We worked with both the St. John Police Department and economic development to put together this proposal. And I believe Rob Frazier from St. John's is still here to elaborate and answer questions. If you have any from him, if you don't have any for me at this present time, I'll hand it over to Rob.

- I could real quick.

- Yeah, Alder Brunette.

- I see a Miss Murray from one of the local stations I believe is asking for permission for the media to record. I'm assuming that that is okay. And I'm assuming she's asking for this issue.

- I'm assuming this is a public meeting, so I'm assuming there's attorney Mather here, is there any reason with-

- Hi Alders.

- They shouldn't be able to record.

- [Miss Murray] Hi, I was actually not able to just press the record button right away, but Lindsay here, she emailed me. We got it squared up. So, thank you guys for looking out.

- Yeah, no worry.

- Okay.

- Thank you all.

- So, any further questions for me before I turn it over to Rob?

- No, thanks for, I'm good, anybody else?

- I do have one, Mr. chair.

- Alder Wery.

- Thanks, James remind me, I forget, where did this proposal come from? Who brought it forward

and who got it on the agenda? Who asked for this?

- So, St. John's Homeless Shelter brought the proposal forward for review and action at that at the Parks Committee meetings that I specified in my narrative.

- All right, thank you.

- And if I'm not mistaken, weren't the police also involved, James? PD.

- It's in the summary, but this idea originally came from us. So, the city has a homeless task force group that meets every month and discusses these dynamic challenges in our community. And one of the, out of one of those meetings came the idea of, you know, what if we look at this as a proactive approach to the, some of the challenges that we've had at St John's in the past? And through that meeting, that's when St. John's essentially developed a proposal that would engage the community into more of a program model to interact and build relationships with, you know, these guests in order to hopefully, make it better for the future.

- Okay, thank you. Any other questions for James before we move it on? There you are, so how'd it go with St John's?

- Okay.

- Happy with how the program worked out?

- I think the program itself was good. I wouldn't say that it necessarily achieved every one of the expectations and the things that we really were trying to achieve, just because the, that time of the year, there's a lot of opportunities for guests to be involved in other things that's, what's, you know, all that kinda thing. So sometimes there's apathy that, you know, creeps in and they'd rather be just sitting in the park, enjoying the sunshine. So, from my perspective, I think that a lot of the things the, were enjoyed and it was a learning for us. I would say that, you know, from a staffing standpoint, it was just very difficult to maintain eight hours, nine hours a day of activities to keep guests engaged. And it ended up being a lot of time spent where our staff could have probably been involved in other case management, different things that they are normally responsible for. So I would say that that was kind of a frustration part of it, things that we've been talking about for improvements is to, you know, there's groups, there's organizations, there's other people around the city that might have a better opportunity to serve the guests and, you know, promote themselves or teach and lead, you know, just a myriad of different types of organizations that could potentially, you know, get their message out to the guests and provide services for the guests. So, I guess what we're proposing is that we would have the opportunity to have more community engagement, not just St. John's staff Park or St. John's staff involved in the park. So, I guess that was the biggest learning or takeaway for us. It was just became very time consuming and taking away from our staff's primary responsibilities.

- Anybody have any question, Alder Brunette, Alder Wvery after Alder Brunette.

- Yeah, thank you and thank you for that presentation and the report in the packet. One thing that I recall very vividly was that in the early stages, when this was proposed, there are quite a few businesses that came forward with concerns about some of the activity that had been occurring there. And I think quite frankly, candidly, I think that perhaps they were a little hesitant to voice their opposition publicly, once it got to the point of the council approving it, at least that's just speculation,

perhaps, but that's just the feeling I have. What was your level of engagement or any dialogue with the businesses? Was there any businesses that approach you with concerns, loss of traffic, things like that?

- Nothing around St. John's Park and that's where it was at. So, there's not a lot of what you would, you know, consider retail business or anything like that. It's mostly law offices and churches and the schools. So, I guess I would, I did not hear anything as the associate executive director, Lexie may have heard something, but I, there was really no complaints. We were actually able to kinda keep, keep peace in the park, if you will. 'Cause we had staff there all the times. There was no, you know, shenanigans or anything else going on there while we were there and manned it.

- Okay, and there were over 200 police calls. And so that's on average about one, little over more than one a day, you know, there's a decimal, I guess. Were there any serious-

- Alder Brunette, if I may help answer that first part, as the Alder for the area.

- Of course.

- I did, at the beginning, also received a lot of concerned from a number of the businesses around there. But I did hear shortly after that they thought it was going pretty good. And then I didn't hear anything after that. So, I don't know if everything settled down and everything was fine, or if there was problems and they just didn't speak up or what, but from what I can tell, other concerns that were raised, seem to have been from the businesses, taken care of. Residents were a little more, businesses I think were okay, so-

- Yeah, yeah, thank you for that. But anyways, I guess that would have been my question and we can pull the police reports obviously, but was there anything outside of just common disturbances and verbal arguments, any other like higher, you know, stress criminal activity in the park that the council should be aware of?

- Mark, did you wanna say something or?

- Well, I can answer a little of that as chair let me.

- Certainly you're, you're-

- Yeah.

- Yeah.

- On our Protection and Policy Committee some time ago, about a year ago, Alder Gerlach had asked our committee to allow the police department to give reports on the activity going on, not a monthly role, meeting wise, you know, once a month, if nothing else. And Lieutenant Allen has all those figures. So, you know, I think we could or should talk to the Police Department just to get that information. And I know Alder Brunette you said there were over 200 calls. Some of them were very minor, but my understanding or feeling from those reports was that there are a handful of folks that, you know, the police had to deal with more often than others. And some of them just were stubborn and wouldn't get help or do whatever, you know, and they, the majority of the police time

was with a few individuals, not a lot. So, it wasn't like an overwhelming type of thing, but I don't know, maybe Mr. Frazier could answer that a little bit, I don't know, like you said, you can't do your ace work if you're all controlling and trying to make sure people are doing a good job. So anyway, that, I would consider talking to Lieutenant Allen, maybe he could get some of that information to us to kinda make a bigger picture for it, but it did help us what about, thank you.

- Attorney Mather.

- Yeah, I would add-

- Just to follow up on Alder Steuer's point. At Monday's Protection and Policy meeting, Lieutenant Allen did speak briefly, and the committee had additional questions for him. So, I believe the plan is that at the next Protection and Policy meeting, there will actually be an item on the agenda for him to give a more detailed report. So, if that's something you're interested in, he will be presenting at the meeting. You can ask him any questions that you may have for PD at that time. That would be appropriately directed to him. Chair before we move on, I do wanna point out that we did have a question in the chat about whether our media representative could ask questions and I wanted you to respond to that, but if-

- I assume shortly. Just wanted to say, James, did you want to speak on something, on this?

- Yeah, I just wanted to point out that Lieutenant Nate Allen did wanna come tonight, but he had SWAT training until 7:00 PM. So that's why we included his summary in the agenda packet. So, you will see in the summary similar to what Alder Steuer said, you know, most of the calls for service were coded as a disturbance, which was just from a simple argument or a physical disturbance, but very few arrests were centered directly on criminal activity. And the majority of arrests were centered on warrant pickups or unpaid citations. So, it is outlined in the summary, but he said, he wanted me to tell you guys that feel more than free to reach out to him after this meeting and then directly talk to him about anything specifically. He wanted me to let you guys know that.

- I would like too just, I'm sorry.

- I'll just piggyback on all that from what I've heard as the Alder of the district and having talked to the PD on this number of times, most of the, there's been uptake in calls since the program shut down, but many individuals still hung in the park and try to camp out in the park. And the people were bringing food to them, trying to be, you know, help out, but not, it's not helping out. So, there's been a number of incidents like that, that have recently, I believe that Stephanie, it all cleared up finally. And then Alder Brunette.

- Yeah, just real quick. And I'd like to make a motion a little bit to open up the floor, but I just wanna make sure that my questioning is understood. It's just, I'm very supportive of the program and what St. John's did, I liked that they were connected. The reason why I'm kind of probing a little bit is that there's really no formal action that I'm aware of that we'll take tonight. It's more of a receive and place on file, but I wanna have 360-degree view of this. Obviously, this presenter very appreciate his opinion and professional diligence here. But oftentimes when you listen to the community members or perhaps community members who are free to come forward, with concerns that they witnessed, if we, you know, look at this program a few months from now, for the next year, I wanna make sure that we remember this conversation, because if it's not discussed now, then it could be forgotten.

And I'd rather know now, if there were any concerns from the greater neighborhood that perhaps people are a little hesitant to come forward because they support the homeless and they support homeless programming, and they have a humanitarian heart, like we all do, but I also, maybe they're a little sensitive in addressing or bringing forward the concern. So that's all.

- And tell y'all that I have heard from some people. And there has been some concern, especially when they started to try to camp out and stuff. So there has been some neighborhoods concern on that score.

- Yeah, but I'll make a motion to open the floor.

- Alder Wery first or, Alder Wery.

- Mr. chairman, yeah. Thank you, Mr. Frazier for being here to answer questions and give the presentation. I was wondering, couldn't St. John's offer the programs and case management right out of the building you have right now. Why does it need to be in the park?

- It did, it did. We were doing both because some people didn't go to the park. So, the buildings that we were in, we did it in both places. So, it wasn't either or, it was in both.

- So, the park really was just kinda of extra. You still could do the same outreach-

- Correct.

- And the same programs at the facility, okay.

- Yes.

- And over the six months of this past year, did you see attendance go up or down or stay the same at the park? Can you tell? Could you give that a number?

- I would say that the attendance was about the same. It was consistent. It fluctuated a little bit with weather, but nothing, you know, they'll have the same amount of attendance each and every day.

- Do you have the numbers, the attendance number, you know, by day or by month, you know?

- I would see 30 to-

- Roughly.

- I mean, 35 to 40 was a general number for each and every day between our summer safe sleep program and the program in the park.

- Okay.

- Alder Wery, Lieutenant Allen has all the, a lot of that information too.

- Okay, I understand. So, people could be referred if there were signage or such, you know, hey, you

know, these programs aren't in the park, but they're just in the building next door. That's something that could easily be done as well.

- Yeah.

- Alder Wery if I may, the reason it was, it was extended to the park is because it's and people have the right to be there. And so, they were congregating there and there was nothing illegal about that. And it was hope that this program would help make that a more positive experience and it had some problems. It was a proactive approach, but it's not so much that they were sent there, you know, the idea was to send people there for services, but that they were already there, congregating there, be proactive in making that a positive.

- I understand that, but it also does-

- Oh, okay.

- It also does kind of send a signal that this is kind of the homeless' daycare area. And a lot of people are shying away from that park now, 'cause it's not really a park. I've heard that over and over. People will not go there now because of this, especially with the police calls. So, I've really never been a fan of this. And I would like to see it discontinued. I'm just gonna be honest. So, do it elsewhere, but not, don't designate this park and just take it over for this use. That's, otherwise just sign the park article over. You don't need to have anymore.

- Well, we can discuss that later, but that can be part of the discussion, any other, Alder Gerlach and then we should maybe open the floor.

- Oh, and this isn't terribly important. I just want my mind was very much in favor of this program. I spoke very enthusiastically about giving you might remember I told the story of the drama student of mine and how I, how he finally took off his jacket at the end of the semester, which for me was a big, was a big success for, you know, for him that was success. And I said, we'd have to measure success of this program in a similar way, it was very subjective and very personal. And because I spoke so enthusiastically in favor of it, I made a commitment to observe it. I did visit the park 13 times during the summer, and that was spread out from the beginning of the program to the end. I got permission from the police to take my little dog into the park. After someone pointed out to me that you can't take a dog into a city park, if there isn't a pathway going all the way through, because you can't take the dog off the pathway. And the police gave me permission to take my dog into the park because the people in the program, many of them enjoyed so much petting her and interacting with her. And, you know, she was kind of a therapy dog throughout the summer. And so, I'm just saying I was there. I saw with my own eyes. And if anybody wants to know what I observed, I'll be happy to tell you.

- But I think you should share that. But did you wanna do it now or after we opened the floor?

- Entirely up to whenever you want it, if you want it, we can open the floor. Would you like a motion to open the floor?

- Sure.

- Okay, I move that we open the floor.

- Second.
- Second by, motion by Alder Gerlach, seconded by Alder Wery to open the floor, all in favor?
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Pose, okay, the floor is now open.
- All right, well, the only question that I have for you guys, I was just talking about after reviewing and summarizing how the program went, if you guys were interested in bringing it back again, this spring into the winter fall, winter season? And then on top of that, you know, I I covered this when it was being discussed amongst the Parks Committee before being voted into action. And one of the things that we had talked about was the waiver that was discussed about having, you know, just making sure that there wasn't illegal activity going on in the park. I'm wondering, did you guys follow through with requiring that waiver for entry? And, okay, that did not go through. Can you guys give some info?
- Order, point of order, Alder Scannell, point of order. You just, you know, we need to have Mr. Frazier and the reporter, you know, tell what their name is and address for the record.
- Oh, thank you.
- We haven't done that.
- Holy smokes-
- All right, never mind, okay.
- Thank you, I appreciate that very much. Please state your name and address for the record.
- Absolutely, Kia Murray. And the address is gonna be 787 Lombardi Avenue and that's in Green Bay.
- And Mr. Frazier's as well. So that's-
- Yeah Mr. Frazier also.
- Sure, it's Rob Frazier, 1694 Jackson Hole Court, Green Bay, Wisconsin.
- Yeah, thank you both. And thank you Alder Steuer and any other questions or comments, Miss Murray?
- No, actually it was Mr. Frazier able to answer questions and comments though?
- Mr. Frazier.
- Yeah absolutely, just in our initial coverage, we had talked about the waiver that you guys were still

in discussing phases just to prevent illegal activity happening in St. John's Park. Mr. Scannell though said that that ended up not going through and if you could provide some insight and some context as to why.

- No, I have no idea why it didn't. I wasn't a part of it at that point in time.

- That was the city's decision, attorney Mather.

- I just wanna be clear our speakers from the public should direct kinder questions and comments to the Alders-

- Alders.

- But not to each other. So, I just wanna make sure we're clear on that. I, that's all I had, thank you.

- Okay, yeah. Now that was the city decision and we decided that that would not be appropriate or helpful. And we just, and it was voted down. It was never became a part of the program from the beginning.

- Gotcha, gotcha, thank you.

- And as far as next year, I think a lot will depend on the service providers to, if they feel it would be helpful to go forward with this or not and then we'll have a discussion. Apparently, some Alders are already against it. And, but as far as next year, I think that's a big question mark. I don't know if there's any plan point. It sounds like St. John's would like some other service providers to step up if we do another engagement program. And I think it depends on the service providers come together with something and parks or department also. Director Ditscheit.

- Yes, I would just like to add to that, that you're correct Alder Scannell that the game plan moving forward here is we will, over the next few months, we will work with the Police Department and St. John's and other entities throughout the city with similar type programs and we'll figure out what worked and what didn't, and then we will come back with a revised proposal, hopefully addressing some of the issues that we had this previous year. And so, we will discuss the new proposal at a future Parks Committee, and it'll be up to the Parks Committee and city council to determine if they wanna run it for another year, with the slight modifications that we make to the program.

- Thank you.

- Is there anything, anyone else? We never opened the floor for, did we open the floor for Mr. Frazier? Yeah, we did. So, we never closed the floor. We never needed another motion to open the floor-

- I don't think we ever needed-

- Oh my God am I rusty-

- Motion. I don't think we had a motion for Mr. Frazier. You just asked him to speak.

- Oh my God.
- I think it was okay.
- No, it's not.
- I move that we close the floor so we can be safe.
- Motion to close the floor. Or is there anything else for Mr. Frazier? Any other questions for Mr. Frazier? Anything else Mr. Frazier would care to add?
- No, I'm excited to see we're James in the group that we meet on a monthly basis, and I'm really kind of excited to see where it goes from our planning phase up until the time of implementation. We'll just wait and see and be excited.
- Okay, thank you. Any other questions in before we close up? Okay, I'll take a motion.
- I move that we close the floor.
- Motion to close the floor by Alder Gerlach.
- Second.
- Seconded by Alder Brunette. All in favor?
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Posed stated, floors now closed. Anything else, anyone?
- Yeah, really all that we're looking for a motion on this is to receive and place on file.
- Yeah is-
- I think any further discussion could wait until we come forward with another proposal and so, so just, unless there's more questions? Motion to receive and place on file by Alder Brunette.
- Second.
- Seconded by Alder Gerlach. All in favor?
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Posed, okay that is receive it and place it on file. Are we ready for the next informational?
- Yes.

- Yes, director's reporting updates on recent activities of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. A wonderful report as always, anything else Dan?
- I don't have anything additional to add to it other than what was spelled out in the report.
- Any questions, comments from anyone? Good job as always. Take a motion to receive and place on file, Alder Brunette.
- Director Ditscheit if you could just kinda keep the committee apprised of He-Nis-Ra this year with another season of fat tire biking. There hasn't been a huge issue that has flared up in the district, my neighborhood anyways. So, I just wanna keep that on the radar for the committee.
- We will do that.
- Appreciate it, thank you.
- Motion to receive and place on file.
- Second.
- Move by Alder Brunette, seconded by Alder Gerlach, all in favor?
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Pose, okay, that is received and placed on file. I believe our next meeting is gonna be January 26th, 2022. I believe we're done. Anybody wanna make a motion, oh, Alder just say and wave goodbye, okay. Motion to adjourn.
- Move to adjourn.
- Second.
- Motion by Alder Wery seconded by Alder Brunette, all in favor?
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Were some instructions.
- Okay, thanks everyone, great job. And Alder Wery, when are we gonna get together?