



MINUTES OF THE PARKS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022, 4:30 PM

CITY HALL, ROOM 207

PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE

A. ROLL CALL.

Present: Ald. Chris Wery - Parks Committee Chair, Ald. Steven Campbell-Vice-Chair, Ald. Mark Steuer, Ald. Melinda Eck

Others Present: Director Dan Ditscheit, Deputy Director James Andersen

B. ELECTION

I. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parks Committee.

Moved by Ald. Melinda Eck, seconded by Ald. Steven Campbell to approve the appointment of Ald. Chris Wery as Parks Committee Chair.

Motion Passed.

Yes- Steven Campbell, Melinda Eck, Chris Wery, Mark Steuer, No- None, Abstain- None.

Moved by Ald. Melinda Eck, seconded by Ald. Mark Steuer to approve the appointment of Ald. Steven Campbell as Parks Committee Vice-Chair.

Motion Passed.

Yes- Steven Campbell, Melinda Eck, Chris Wery, Mark Steuer, No- None, Abstain- None.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Moved by Ald. Mark Steuer, seconded by Ald. Melinda Eck to approve. Motion carried.

Yes- Steven Campbell, Melinda Eck, Chris Wery, Mark Steuer, No- None, Abstain- None

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Moved by Ald. Mark Steuer, seconded by Ald. Melinda Eck to approve. Motion carried.

Yes- Steven Campbell, Melinda Eck, Chris Wery, Mark Steuer, No- None, Abstain- None

E. REGULAR BUSINESS.

1. Consideration with possible action on revisions to the funding for the purchase of the Woods Golf Course Greenway.

Moved by Ald. Melinda Eck, seconded by Ald. Steven Campbell to approve the acquisition of the Woods Golf Course Greenway for a total purchase price of \$86,000 along with waiving 1/2 of the Parkland Fees, contingent upon receiving a Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant that will fund 40% of the acquisition price. Motion carried.

Yes- Steven Campbell, Melinda Eck, Chris Wery, Mark Steuer, No- None, Abstain- None

2. Consideration with possible action on hiring Carrico Aquatic Resources, Inc. to provide chemicals for the City's aquatic facilities for a total cost of \$39,000 for the 2022 pool season.

Moved by Ald. Mark Steuer, seconded by Ald. Melinda Eck to approve hiring Carrico Aquatic Resources, Inc. to provide chemicals for the City's aquatic facilities for a total cost of \$39,000 for the 2022 pool season. Motion carried.

Yes- Steven Campbell, Melinda Eck, Chris Wery, Mark Steuer, No- None, Abstain- None

F. INFORMATIONAL.

1. Staff presentation on revisions to the ENGAGE homeless support program at St. John's Park for 2022.

Moved by Ald. Melinda Eck, seconded by Ald. Steven Campbell to receive and place on file the staff presentation on revisions to the ENGAGE homeless support program at St. John's Park for 2022. Motion carried.

Yes- Steven Campbell, Melinda Eck, Chris Wery, Mark Steuer, No- None, Abstain- None

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

Moved by Ald. Melinda Eck, seconded by Ald. Steven Campbell to receive and place on file the Directors Report. Motion carried.

Yes- Steven Campbell, Melinda Eck, Chris Wery, Mark Steuer, No- None, Abstain- None

3. The next Parks Committee is scheduled for May 11, 2022.

G. ADJOURNMENT.

Moved by Ald. Mark Steuer, seconded by Ald. Melinda Eck to adjourn. Motion carried.

Yes- Steven Campbell, Melinda Eck, Chris Wery, Mark Steuer, No- None, Abstain- None

VERBATIM MINUTES

- And for the other Committee meetings, staff started out the meeting and Alder Chair was elected, so-
- Perfect.
- So, if you like, I can proceed that way. So, I'd like to call to order the beginning of the Parks Committee dated April 27, 2022. We'll start with the roll call, which is first on the agenda. So, Alder Mark Steuer.
- Here.
- Alder Chris Wery.
- Here.
- Alder Melinda Eck.
- Here.
- Alder Steven Campbell.
- Here.
- I'll let the record show that all are present and there's no one missing. Just wanna do a brief introduction. I am Dan Ditscheit, I'm the Green Bay Parks Director. This is James Andersen; he is the Parks Deputy Director. So, I'm sure you'll be seeing a lot of us over the years and welcome to the Committee for the new members. The best Committee.
- Thank you.
- Right, what's that?
- The best Committee. The best Committee we- they're gonna say that to the next.
- I didn't realize we were gonna vote, do we have to vote on that right away?
- No, we're not.
- It's effective.
- So, we'll just go right into elections. So, what we'll do is, I'd like to take nominations for Chair of the Parks Committee.
- I nominate Chris, or do I say Alder Wery? Are we...?
- That works.

- I second it.
- Do we have the second vote?
- Yeah.
- I don't think you have to, but we'll take it. We'll take it.
- You don't have to second a nomination like this.
- Thank you.
- Do we have any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? If not, we'll vote all in favor say yes.
- Yes.
- Yes.
- Yup.
- Yes.
- All against? There is no one that opposed it, so Alder Wery, you are the Chair of the Parks Committee, and you can take the meeting from here.
- All right.
- Thanks Ditscheit, thank you. And we'll move right to nomination for the Vice Chair of Parks. Do I have a nomination for Vice Chair?
- There's a...
- I nominate Steve Campbell.
- Am I right? Okay, we have a nomination for Alder Campbell for Parks, Vice Chair. Any other nominations? Any other nominations?
- All the reps are not up for that?
- You wanna do that one so- Oh, okay. All right, I will.
- All right.
- I'm good.
- No other nominations and those in favor?

- Aye.
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Opposed? Okay, yeah, sure. Now, the president of vice. Vice Chair gone, first place, then second place, right?
- Yup.
- All right.
- All right, if you have any questions as I'm going here, just, I mean, especially these first few.
- All right.
- Fast at all. So, usually what'll happen is we have approval of the agenda and that's what we're on right now. If you have any items that you want moved around, this would be the time to do it. Like if we have a big crowd, sometimes we might wanna move it up to take care of that, I don't...
- Something here.
- Or if you have another meeting to go to, sometimes we might move up that so you can get to another meeting. That doesn't happen often now, but otherwise, we . . .
- Do we have... Oh, I'm sorry.
- No, go on.
- Do we have a way for somebody that is here that wants to talk about something to let us know?
- I'm sure they'll let us know beforehand.
- Okay.
- Or if there's an item they may email us, and then you can make a motion to open the floor. Then they can give us their name and address.
- Okay.
- And then, usually in a committee meeting, the chairperson always runs it. And if you want talk, just raise your hand.
- Okay.

- And I'll just remember, I'll just jot it down who was next, next, next. That way, we're not all jumping over each other, and then the same will go for the people in the audience. So, right now, we're on approval of the agenda. So, normally we would just say motion to approve.

- Motion to approve.

- Second.

- You second, so we have a motion by Alder Steuer, second by Alder Eck to approve any discussion. Those who are in favor?

- Aye.

- Aye.

- Aye.

- Opposed, and motion carries, and the agenda is approved. And then, the minutes would be if you see anything from the last meeting that you think wasn't correct, or you want it changed. It doesn't happen too often, but it has. So, what are your wishes with the approval of the minutes?

- I wasn't there, but so I'm assuming...

- So moved. So, there'd be a motion to approve the minutes. Is there a second to approve the minutes?

- Second.

- Motion then approved. Alder Eck to approve the minutes. Any discussion on those?

- So, on this one.

- Boy, you would think the first- 50 years would think to silence his phone.

- Another.

- Oh, no.

- I think, you have a question, Alder Campbell?

- Yeah, usually it's over on the right, now it's on the left on these committees where you...

- Oh, this-

- Which see it-

- Oh, you mean to request to speak, or?

- No, the arrow.
- No.
- Okay, I'm just looking at it and-
- You got it, though?
- Yeah.
- Okay.
- All right, those in favor?
- I mean, I was looking for the minutes.
- Oh.
- Oh.
- Did you have any questions on the minutes?
- I can't even view them, so.
- That's why I said we weren't here, but...
- Okay.
- I think, you'd have to actually go into the meeting and get it.
- That's how we do it?
- Yeah.
- Okay, we'll look at it next time then.
- Those in favor?
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Opposed? That carried. And regular business, everything we do at committee tonight is gonna report out to Council next week. So, what we have here tonight would be recommendations from our committee to the full Council. So, I always like to, whatever's going on, Steve or our citizen, our lone citizen. Number one is consideration with possible action on revisions to the funding for the purchase of the Woods Golf Course greenway, Director Ditscheit.

- This project was previously discussed at two Park Committee meetings on April 14th and May 26th of 2021. Since we have a new committee, I'll review the background and the history so that you familiarize yourself with the project. I do apologize, the graphics that I handed out at the meeting did not make it into the agenda packet, but I will be sure that they get into the Council packet. So, the full Council will get to see the same graphics you're looking at right now. So, in 2021, the city was approached by a developer, who purchased the back nine holes of the Woods Golf Course on the City's east side. You can see where that's located on the first map that was handed out. Currently the property is managed as a golf course, and the south branch of Baird's Creek runs right through the middle of the property as you can see in the other maps that are included. So, the developer is proposing to create a 12.1-acre greenway right through the middle of the park, where the creek is located. So, the greenway would all be considered unavailable property. So, that is by it's being considered as greenway instead of residential. So, the area to the west of the proposed greenway would be converted to single family residential, and the area to the east of the proposed greenway would be developed as a condo development. So, they approached the Parks Department and asked if there was any interest from the city to acquire this greenway. If there is no interest, or there was no interest, they would likely redesign the subdivision plan to make the lots have long backyards that pop up right up to the Creek. So, this is property that the Parks Department would be interested in acquiring and converting it into a public greenway. So, the proposed greenway is shown on both the Parks, the Green Bay Parks recreation and open space plan as proposed greenway, which I'll give everybody a copy of that at one of the future meetings. And also, the city smart growth plan. And they're both shown on that plan as a designated greenway. So, this is consistent with our plans that are in place. So, if acquired, the plan would be to connect this property to the Baird Creek greenway to the north, and in order to make this connection, the City would have to acquire the wooded area to the north at a later date. So, we'll purchase it whenever the opportunity comes out, if it comes out; we did reach out to the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation, they're a local nonprofit group who focuses on conservation efforts within the Baird's Creek greenway. They do a lot of property acquisition and other really good projects within the City, and they have expressed their support of this project, turning it into a greenway. And there is a strong value to that, so, as previously mentioned, this area is currently maintained as a golf course. There's an existing golf cart trail that runs through the property, and you can probably see that on the air photo, if you look through it. So, when this becomes, if and when this becomes a greenway, we would likely remove all of the turf grass and convert it to a natural prairie. And the trail will serve as a public walking trail. If acquired, the funding for the prairie planting would likely come from parkland fees that the developer would be required to pay as part of this development project. In 2021, the developer did all the public input session, and I wasn't at the meeting, but I was told that there were several questions about the residential portion of the project. But in general, everyone at the meeting seemed very supportive of the public greenway proposal portion of it. This was discussed at a plan commission meeting, also last year. So, there has been quite a bit of information out there to the public on this already.

- Alder Campbell?

- May I ask?

- Yes.

- How many people were in attendance of that?

- Like I said, I wasn't at that meeting, but I can find that out for you and get you that answer. I don't know that off the top of my head, though. So, at the previous Parks Committee meetings, we did go into closed session to discuss the details of the offer to purchase, and also potential funding sources. So, direction was given to staff at those meetings on how to proceed with the negotiations with the developer, and shortly after those meetings, we were able to come up with an agreement on the sale price, per the terms spelled out in closed session. So, the agreed upon purchase price, which like I said, met the terms of what the Parks Committee directed us to do, was a purchase price of \$86,000. And also, waived half of the Parkland development fees, which come out to roughly around \$8,000. So, the total fees for the entire development would be \$16,000, roughly, that's an estimated number, and we would waive half of that, but we would still collect an \$8,000 fee. So, at the time when this was being considered, there was a tentative grant possibility, which would fund \$68,850 towards the acquisition price and that would leave the City the responsibility to fund the remaining \$17,150. That's what was discussed in 2021. Unfortunately, we did not receive that grant. So, it didn't pan out and the acquisition was put on hold until we could come up with an alternate funding source for this. I did recently reach out to the developer, and they did state that they are open to selling the City, with the condition that the sale price and conditions remain the same as what we negotiated last year. So, recently another grant opportunity came forward and the city applied for a Wisconsin coastal management grant. That grant application is included in the packet if you wanna take a closer look at that. If funded, the grant would fund 40% of the project total, which would be about \$35,500, and the City would have to fund the remaining \$52,500. So, that it is a little bit more that the city would have to put into it, but the Parks Department does currently have adequate funding currently in place through previous bonding. So, if we do go forward with this acquisition, and we do get the grant, we can go forward with the city funding, \$52,500 of it. We would not have to request any other funding. I did notice that the grant paperwork was slightly wrong. It shows that the acquisition price was \$88,000, so we'll amend that with the grant. It should be \$86,000. So, the city would actually put a little bit less into it than what I just previously mentioned, and keep in mind that the grant process is still only tentative. We have not been awarded the grant, this is just for discussion to see if the Parks Committee and City Council is still interested in acquiring the property, knowing that we would have to fund a little bit more the acquisition. That's the reason that we're bringing it to your committee tonight, I would recommend moving forward with this. If we get the grant and we have the funding in place, we don't have to request anymore. And it's still a great piece of property to add to the green land, the public green land.

- So, does it add... Sorry.

- Alder Campbell?

- Does it add value to the tax base of the properties that are gonna buy up to it, or what?

- Yeah, so I mean-

- I mean, what's the cause of it?

- Right now, yeah, right now the City is getting taxes as low as a golf course. With it being redeveloped, that taxed out, that tax base will go up. I don't have the exact dollar amounts, that's usually run through the Planning Department, and they can get those numbers. But if this development goes forward, there will be an increase to the tax base for the city. Now, the portion of the greenway itself, that comes off of the tax records, because it would be City owned property.

But the residential properties would likely be higher in value because of what's in greenway. But that's not my specialty, I'm assuming that that's the case.

- Any other questions? Yeah, go ahead, Alder Campbell.

- So, I'm just looking up the greenway is down the center of it by the creek.

- Yep.

- I mean, I've golfed there many, many years.

- Yeah.

- So, along Erie Road, so all these houses that are in there, are those proposed lots then, in building?

- Yeah, if you look in.

- I mean, I know where...

- If you check out the first map, not... or the second map.

- Yeah.

- I apologize.

- The green one.

- It's a black and white drawing. It shows the greenway right down the middle.

- Yep.

- And then, to the left of that, it shows lots 1 through 11, or lots 1 through 22. Those would be new lots. Those would be single family residential and those currently are golf course. And so, that would become residential. Everything east of the Creek, that's all additional development too, where currently it's-

- That's the part I was looking at.

- Or currently, it's a golf course.

- I haven't been there for a while, but and I know it was happening. So, that road that's into the west of it.

- That road to the west of the greenway would be a new road.

- A new road, okay, that's what I thought.

- A service, there is-

- I know of- quite a bit of building there, it's been for years, but so, that's gonna just add another block onto it for say-

- Yes.

- Nice area.

- All right, any other questions, Alder Steuer?

- Thank you, Chair. Dan, I was wondering, if we don't get this grant, I'm looking at the worst-case scenario, or best-case scenario for what might happen with that property. It sounded to me like if we can't get the money for that, that if it would revert, it would revert back to the owner of the property?

- Well, how it works is the city has first shot at purchasing it. If we're able to purchase it, we will. If we won't, then the owner can look at other options. And like I said, he can look at connecting it to the... he can do a private greenway if he wants, he could connect it, re-subdivide it, and connect it to the lots as a longer out lot, or a longer backyard to each house. There are various options, but I do know that they are very long in... or they're very far into the process already. So, their desire is to sell to the city if at all possible, and our desire is to hopefully make that work.

- One other question, as far as this greenway, it's the south branch of the Baird Creek?

- Yes.

- So, if you look at the south, or to the northwest, how much of that is considered greenway? I mean, we have quite a bit of it.

- So, if you look at the first map, it shows the areas the city owns, the areas in green.

- Okay.

- Or blue are City owned properties. So, everything that's like a tan hatched, or a magenta hatched is proposed.

- So, if we got this property would it be contiguous somewhat with what we already own?

- To the north, yes.

- To the north?

- There's still a small piece of property we would have to acquire at some point in the future to connect it to the north.

- Okay.

- But to the south, we don't have any connections?

- Well, I think, it's important that we look at the entire greenway. I think, it's an important project that way. So, that's all I have for you right now.

- Yeah, and I would say, if the grant is awarded, we do have to bring per City policy, we do have to bring all grant awards back to our committee to get approval, to accept the grant. And we're thinking we'll hear pretty soon on it, yes or no; once we hear yes or no, we'll bring this back to the Committee. If the grant is awarded, these are basically, the terms of the dollars that the City would have to fund. If the grant is not awarded, we'll talk to you about what other options are out there for acquisitions at that time.

- Okay.

- So, really what I'm looking for, I can propose a motion for consideration. Let me just state it and we'll go from there; to approve the acquisition of the Woods Golf Course greenway for a total purchase price of \$86,000, along with waiving half of the parkland fees contingent upon receiving a Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant that will fund 40% of the acquisition rights. Any questions, Alder Wery?

- No.

- So, basically, right now we would be giving the Parks Department the okay to go ahead to try and get this grant. It's gonna come back either way, whether they get the grant or not, it's gonna come back. So, if you... It's a good project and the money is right then, yes, otherwise-

- Mostly approved, or...

- Yeah, that if you want, yeah.

- Motion to approve.

- As stated.

- As stated.

- As stated.

- As stated.

- Oh, okay. Whatever motion you want to put.

- Right.

- Okay, there's a motion by Alder Eck to approve as stated by Director Ditscheit, is there a second to that?

- I'll second it.

- Second by Alder Campbell, under discussion. As fate would have it, I was actually out there this weekend, I can't believe I've grown up in Green Bay and I've never really been on the Baird Creek, you know? Of course, it's on the east side, but yeah, they do some service hours of clean up.

- Oh, okay.

- And so we brought a trash bag and we walked out there for two, two and a half hours. Really didn't get much very clean honestly. I expected there to be a lot and it was really very, very clean.

- I grew up there.

- Okay, yeah.

- Yeah, my mom still lives up there.

- They start on the Danz Avenue side?

- Yeah-

- That part is pretty clean.

- We gotta vote.

- That was nice, very clean. We gotta vote.

- But if you get over the Baird Creek area, there's a whole bunch of homeless people.

- Oh, okay. Okay, no, I didn't see that. Saw the new bridge looks very nice. Everybody was using it.

- Yeah, good.

- So, okay, any other discussion? Those in favor?

- Aye.

- Aye.

- Opposed, that motion carries. All right, to number two, consideration with possible action on hiring Carrico Aquatic Resources Inc to provide chemicals for the City's aquatic facilities for a total cost of \$39,000 for the 2022 pool season, direct order.

- So, on an annual basis, we contract out services for a company that provide chemicals for all of our pools. The purchasing department quoted it out for the 2022 season. We are proposing to award this to Carrico Aquatic Resources in for a total cost of \$39,000. We do quote this out on a yearly basis. This falls in line with what our budget line item was for that project. So, Carrico has been our vendor for quite a number of years for chemicals, they're basically a sole source vendor. So, pool chemical systems are set up specifically for certain chemicals, if we were to switch to a different chemical company we would have to switch all of our chemical feed systems for all of our pools,

which would cost tens of thousands of dollars to make that switch over. They are the only company in the area that provides the chemicals that service our pools, and the nice thing is, they don't only supply the chemicals, but they also supply troubleshooting. So, we oftentimes have difficulties with our pools, or chemical issues, or other miscellaneous things that come up through the pool season, and they are a great company as a resource. They'll come in, help us assess what the situation is. They've been very dependable throughout the years, and I would definitely recommend awarding this contract to Carrico for \$39,000. I do want to note that the past two years, we have not been able to open all three pools. We're still going through the process now of hiring lifeguards, and we're hopeful that we can open all three pools, but nothing's guaranteed yet. And we'll be reviewing that with you at a later date, but what I'm getting at is if we only open two pools this year, because a shortage of lifeguards, this number will go down because we pay for... we pay per pool for the entire season, so keep that in mind, this is for all three pools as if they're operating.

- Alder Campbell?

- So, you said there was two operating last year.

- Mm-hmm.

- And which ones were those?

- Last year, we had the Resch Aquatic Center, which was at this park and Colburn.

- Okay.

- My kids, I mean, learned how to swim for many years, it's a pretty nice operation there.

- And like I said, at one of the next meetings-

- And then, they fed 'em lunch there too, is that's still part of the...

- Yeah. Yeah, we still-

- I mean, that's a park thing.

- The schools provide that service and they're still doing it again this year, so.

- Any other questions from the Committee? Otherwise, I'll-

- I make a motion to approve.

- All right, motion from Alder Steuer.

- I second.

- Second by Alder Eck to approve. And any discussion on that, those in favor?

- Aye.

- Aye.

- Opposed, and motion carries. I think, we're onto informational, staff presentation on revisions to the engage homeless support program at St. Johns Park for 2022.

- So, I'll have James give a brief presentation on this. For the new members, we did put this under informational, so there really is not a motion other than just seeing them place it on file at the end. Obviously, you can make a communication to reconsider it as something else at a future Parks Committee. So, right now, this is just a presentation of the program that we initiated last year at St. Johns, and then changes to the program, tweaks we're making for this upcoming season. So, James can read you it.

- Thanks, Director. This item was probably approved two months ago, three months ago to go ahead with the program again, right? They came before the Committee and Council.

- Correct, so we did bring an update. So, after the season ended last year, we came back with an update, talked about issues that happened throughout the season last year, and how we dealt with those issues. And moving forward, what are some options to help make the situation better? So, this was a homeless support program at St. Johns, last year it was run by St. Johns Homeless Shelter. Deputy Director Anderson will kind of review changes to the format and structure.

- I'm hoping-

- Sorry.

- I'm hoping it can approve, 'cause I mean, I made no bones that I really wasn't a fan of the project. I don't like turning over our park to that, 'cause I think it scares families and kids away from using that park. So, do you have a question Alder Campbell?

- Just for last year was the first time it was put at that park, or?

- It was the first time we ran the program at all. It was a new program that we tested out last year at St. Johns Park. I guess, before we get into a lot of questions, I think, we'll just have James give a presentation, Deputy Director.

- Yeah.

- All right.

- And I think, that might answer a lot of the questions that you might have.

- Yeah-

- You here, James.

- [James] If you guys have more questions after I go through the narrative here for tonight, about the history, or the background, I have all the narratives and things from the past Park Committees and

last year as well. The recap that we did back in, I think, it was January, but essentially the... So, this year, the engage at St. Johns Park, I guess, in general, I wanna say that we are doing this at St John's Park, but we're also engaging at a lot of our parks. So, this is more of a... the focus is at St. Johns Park, I think, for what we're doing, but there is multiple parks within our park system that we're engaging in with people in. So, in the Spring of 2021, the Parks Committee and City Council approved a program proposal called Engage, which was proposed staffed and facilitated by the St John's Homeless Shelter. The St. Johns Homeless Shelter proposed an inclusive program in partnership with the City Parks Department, Police Department, and the Homelessness Task Force, and various community partners and organizations. With the hopes of providing better outreach services to the homeless population in Green Bay. This program operated at St. Johns Park from May 1, 2021, through October 31, 2021. So, for the majority of the summer, it did an inclusive program that helped build relationships, connect guests with services and address dynamic community challenges. However, having one agency staff coordinate all programming aspects of Engage with the dynamic challenges during the entire operational day; became increasingly hard to fully operate all aspects of the program. After the program ended for the season, we reviewed the program with the Parks Committee. We provided input and gained feedback from the Homelessness Task Force, the homeless outreach team, and all partners involved. To determine how the program could be effective and share ideas during monthly meetings on how to address some of the challenges. As well as we plan for how realistically we could approach the plan for the 2021 season.

So, over the last five months, we have been engaged, no pun intended, with a lot of community partners, who've been holding monthly, sometimes biweekly meetings, through the Homeless Task Force. The HOT team, which is the Homeless Outreach Team. Also, we're meeting over at the Micah Center and at St. Johns with community partners and City departments. To determine how we can actually come to a realistic approach at what can actually be done effectively. But as Alder Wery addressed, also make it so anyone feels welcome, very inclusive, inclusivity of the park and any programs that are offered. So, it was determined that St John's essentially determined that they could not run this program effectively operating with their staff, throughout the entire day, the operational day. Last year it was an 8:00 a.m., to essentially 8:00 p.m. program. And as you can see from what's going on with staff, and pretty much every business that's around right now, including ours, getting staff to fulfill that timeline and the amount of staff throughout the day was very difficult. So, the program in the first half of the season went very well, but by the time we got to mid-season, their main coordinator of the program took a different job. And there was a transition between their associate director and the new associate director over at St. Johns, also, their staffing became very difficult to staff all day long. So, they pretty much said, St John's said, "We will still commit to having dinner every night and building a program around that 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. timeframe at St. Johns." But during the day, they just determined that they could not facilitate that to that extent, this is where all the community partners came in. Essentially what happened is they put together a Google form, we all met and determined that it's gonna be essentially a team effort to try to coordinate any services, providers, any programs that are at St Johns. And from our standpoint, just like any other agency partner organization that we would partner with, which we do at a lot of our other parks, not just St. Johns.

After I met with the Law Department, it was determined that it would be no different than volunteers at our park. Or if organizations were going to go in there, they would have to follow the same hold harmless with certificate of insurance and sign an agreement going into the park and providing a service like this. And so, that's why essentially, it's a staff level policy level determination from our Law Department that we could enact this program the way it's laid out now. That's why it

wasn't put on as an actionable item under the agenda. It was put under informational. So, we did, let's see, between the City Parks Department, Community Economic Development Department, Green Bay Police Department, and New CAP, those are the four agencies, along with St. Johns is still involved in this as well. But essentially, we'll kind of collaboratively coordinate any efforts that happen at St. John's Park. There's a lot of other community new partners, as I listed in the packet here, Food Rise, Outreach Healthcare, NWTC, New Community Shelter, We Rise, Brown County, Salvation Army, and multiple churches within the area. And they will all kind of co-collaborate on how they can provide the best services they can, and also make inclusive rank for any community member to participate in. Let's see, some agencies may come in for a couple hours all summer, and some agencies may choose to come in, for example, every Tuesday at a certain time for two hours. Other agencies, like I said, St. Johns, have already committed to providing program services and also, serve dinner from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. every night of the week. The park will open during standard park hours, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and it'll be closed at night, just like technically every other park is. Then the restroom will be open, and a schedule will be posted for what is going on at the park every week. I think, that's about it.

- Yeah, so to just summarize here, last year, St. Johns Homeless Shelter took the initiative and led the program. This summer, the Parks Department is going to, in essence, lead the program along with the Police Department and other agencies, and then we'll work with these other homeless task force groups to come in and service this program. So, it's a little different format and because this is a park structured event, that's why it didn't need the formal Committee and Council approval, like it did last year.

- Alder Steuer?

- Thank you, Chair. James, you mentioned all these other groups that are involved with 8:00 to 20:00, is that what you're talking about? 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., that's 12 hours, correct? That would be daily?

- [James] Well, it's not gonna be operating, there's not gonna be staff on site program all day long this year. It's gonna be a much more realistic approach. It's gonna be much like we would have another agency go into a different park and say, "Hey, we have a proposal, we wanna come in for three hours and do this program with you." We'd sit down with them, we'd go through what their program is, what they're offering. Make sure they have insurance, or harmless volunteer waiver signed, and they would go in, and they would do that activity per the agreement.

- So, let's just say that these other groups decided that we could fill that gap. I mean, could you conceivably see a number of groups taking up that 12-hour setup? That they would come in and do that, or do you feel that's not gonna be viable?

- [James] I feel like we're gonna find out a lot about what kind of services and how often, and how much services these different providers can... everybody is in kind of a... it's gonna evolve, for example. I'll give you an example of New Community Shelter. They're building a brand-new building right now, and we sat down with them. They said, "We can't, we can maybe come in every two weeks for maybe a couple hours and provide dental, eye vision, some other programs during every other Tuesday from 10:00 to 12:00." But we're building a new building and we're gonna need our staff and resources over in the new building when we get that started this year. But next year, as this hope, depending on where this evolves into, we would love to be more integral into the program

next year. You know, that's an example. We have one church, for example, that's involved every Friday morning. They're looking at committing to every Friday morning serving breakfast and doing a two-hour program on Friday mornings. So, it's gonna be more of a schedule of different programs throughout the week. It's not, I don't think, honestly, realistically, that was one of the difficult challenges. It's nobody was able to even have the staff, or the coordination able to coordinate and fulfill all day long programming.

- Yeah.

- Well, just one other thing. I know that there has been some pushback in the past about having it at a city park, but I'll do that discussion for the rest of us, but that answers my questions for now, thanks.

- Thanks, Alder Eck, and then, go ahead.

- Yeah, excuse me. So you gave your example of a breakfast; so dental, vision at the park, you're saying people would come in and do this at the park, provide these services?

- [James] Potentially.

- Okay.

- [James] Where they have mobile units, for example, they-

- Okay, I mean, 'cause there's inclement weather and things like that. Is there any way to partner up with St John's Homeless Shelter, where these groups are coming in and using their building, and having it inside?

- [James] I can't speak for St. John's, but that would be their intention. So, part of the... the other part of this is St. Johns wants people to come into St. Johns, the Micah Center. We don't wanna make it, and I'm speaking for them right now, probably, but we don't wanna make it so easy for people to just come to the park and have all the services there that they would need. The intention is to raise awareness and provide and build a relationship to let them know where they can actually go to get these services and be more proactive, and successful with those services. So, their intention would be to get people in St. John's.

- Okay.

- So, when you say seasonal, how long is the season?

- [James] The season would be about the same timeline as it was last year. So, this year, I think, it's May 2nd through October, I'd have to look but it's the end of October. That first Monday, usually in November, I think, is when the winter season for the homeless shelters kick in.

- And how many people use these services?

- [James] Last year, I think, on an average basis, you'd see anywhere from a dozen to 30 people.

- So, every day taking advantage of it. I mean, using it.
- [James] Mm-hmm.
- How many would you say?
- [James] About 12 to 30.
- Okay.
- And these are all volunteer programs, or they get paid, or they get granted, or?
- Well, they'd be volunteering at the Parks Department, so we would not be paying them for their services. Each member has their own funding mechanisms, and I can't answer that off the top of my head, but the city would not charge. The city would not charge them- yeah.
- If you will.
- Are you finished, Alder?
- I'm sorry.
- Yeah.
- Okay, go ahead.
- Sorry.
- That's all right, nah, you're learning.
- Yeah, 'cause I'm glad to hear it'll be different, 'cause I know that if you pulled up to the park last year, it seemed like it was a... it was kind of a mess. People thought it looked like homeless people lived there. So, it's gonna be different than that. You know what I'm saying?
- Well, we are teaming up with the Police Department on this. There's a Homeless Task Force and the police are there regularly, not just when there's issues, but they're there to communicate and reach out to people using the park and see if they can assist with finding services for them. So, they do the best that they can with the staff that they have and will continue to do that this year. And I would say it was probably, I mean, my own personal observation was last year was considerably better than the previous year as far as people camping out in the park and using it for that purpose.
- And when you list Brown County on here, is that Brown County Mental Health at all to evaluate any of the people that are there?
- [James] It's part of it. So, Brown County is part of our Homeless Task Force that meets with City staff and other agencies on a monthly basis. And then, also they just hired, I think, it's called a navigator position, and part of their role will actually be partnering for these types of challenges.

- Okay, thank you.

- Thanks James, yeah, I'm glad we're leaning more on the county, 'cause that's the social services and we all pay into that as part of our taxes. So, the more we can get from them, the better if you need any help from us to push, we're glad to help. Have we ever had Parkies at St John's?

- [James] Yes.

- In the past?

- [James] We have.

- Do we now?

- [James] No.

- Why is that?

- [James] Historically, there was not high attendance.

- Okay.

- It was on average we get maybe two kids a day.

- Okay, I know we had to cut back on parkies as part of that, some weren't getting very many.

- Mm.

- Parkies weren't getting much. Okay, that's what I thought. Do you know what the police calls were to St. Johns last year, do we have them?

- [James] Yeah.

- And what types of calls?

- [James] Yup, there were approximately 200 calls for service from the Police Department from May 1st through October 31st, but the majority of the calls were generated by the St. Johns Micah Center staff. And we were talking with PD and Officer Nate Allen, who's kind of the official person in charge of this part of the program. Those calls were considerably less severe than what probably would've been the calls if we weren't there onsite and interacting with these individuals.

- Do you know what types of calls?

- [James] I don't have... I don't have the exact, all the exact calls.

- And I understand you're saying they might be less severe, but it's like bars who call in underaged, or problems if they calling 'em in. I mean, we want them to call it in, but it's still a problem for that bar. So, the same would be here if we had a lot of calls, there's still calls, right?

- Yeah, and I think we reviewed that at the last Parks Committee, the type of calls and number of calls.

- I think that just the concern is, as Alder Eck had mentioned, how it looks coming from the west side. You come off the bridge and you look over and there's garbage and I've heard secondhand, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol bottles, things like that. You can see families don't wanna go there, and I know we had mentioned other parks. What other parks? You had mentioned multiple parks.

- [James] Well, in terms of how the program is set up?

- Yeah.

- [James] And the partnerships we have with other agencies, I was referring to that more than I was the homeless population of other parks in that statement.

- So, there's no other parks we're doing this at actively?

- [James] There's parks that we are providing homeless outreach to.

- Where, which ones?

- [James] In different areas. Most notably, I would say Whitney, Colburn, Baird Creek. There's other parks too, but it's not as often as this park, I would say.

- Yeah.

- And we aren't gonna be having all of these services at these parks?

- [James] No.

- It's more as needed, or on an occasional basis somebody will stop by and assist somebody who's there or try to provide programs or assistance.

- Go ahead, Alder Steuer.

- Thank you, Chair. I was on one committee last year and we talked about this situation as well. And I know, Alder Galvin had brought this forward as far as incidents and different things that have gone on at this park. And it seemed to me that there were about five or six individuals that there were some issues with that we really couldn't do much with them. So, it seemed like the majority of the calls that did come to the park were for just a couple of individuals. So, I'm hoping that we can put more, more into that and try to solve that particular issue, that might help out with other things as well. But yeah, I'm hoping that we can look for some kind of solution on this. It's been a little bit tough in that neighborhood over time, and I've been on Council long enough that we've upped the ante with amount of beds at St John's and different things like that. And I commend you for at least looking at a program that we can maybe do something here, but again, you've got the perception from people outside that there's some issues and problems we gotta deal with. So, I think, it's

important that we just try to look at it from a big picture standpoint. And if we can solve some of these smaller problems per se, I think that's really important as well. So, thank you.

- Thanks Alder. Any other questions, Alder Campbell?

- Is there a cost to the City Parts Department for maintaining this program?

- It's standard maintenance costs. So, I mean, there's probably a little bit more for electricity for having the shelter open. But other than that, it's just traditional maintenance costs, such as mowing the lawn. There's probably an additional cost to the Police Department, not specifically for this program, but they do provide services. They do go to the park frequently, but like I said, they would do that whether or not the program ran. So there aren't any significant costs associated with this program.

- And the other parks mentioned, is it because there's a... a group of, or another area in town that there's more homeless people that we're trying to get to on opening it up to other parks? And is it gonna become a multi-park thing, like St. Johns model?

- [James] No, I wanna reiterate is that more in kind of the statement that you had earlier in the meeting, where you said, "Hey, there's homeless people out here."

- Well, my daughter's car got broken into.

- [James] Mm-hmm.

- And I had to go address it, yes. And that was from the homeless people and the police, and they stole her purse, and they broke in the car.

- [James] Yup.

- And I worried about her safety.

- [James] So, this program is not in those other parks. There have been occurrences where there's been certain times when we've had to handle situations that homeless people within other parks in our system. That's just, that happens, I guess, but it's not... this is not... this program is not the same as, it's a different situation, I guess, that we're talking about.

- I think, what James is saying is if there's an issue at another park, some entities might go there to address those issues. And they might be some of the same groups that are coming to St. Johns and addressing it in the same manner as they do at St. Johns. But we're not running a separate program like this in any other park, I hope that clarifies it.

- Somewhat, yeah.

- Yeah.

- I'm just wondering if it sounds like you want to expand this around more.

- No, that's not the intent. The intent is to run this at St. Johns, and we deal with issues as they come up in the parks, kind of as a separate issue. But some of these same user groups are the ones that deal with the separate issues, but we are not expanding it into other parks.

- Okay.

- Any other questions from the Committee, or what are your wishes? All we really have here is to receive and place on file because it's a report. If you wanted some kind of action on this, you could bring it forward at Council and say, hey, I wanna look at it, or do something with it, but because it's a report, it's really our only option. We can hold it up and talk about it again in two weeks, or we can just receive it and place it on file. That's really the limits of what we can do with the report.

- So, motion to receive and place on file.

- Motion.

- Alder Eck, seconded by...

- Alder Campbell.

- Alder Campbell. I almost said almost Alder Scannell, I'm sorry.

- Could officially name it. Okay.

- All right, those in favor?

- Aye.

- Aye.

- Motion carried, okay. Onto Directors Report on updates and recent activities on the Parks, Rec and Forestry Department.

- So, I do wanna update everyone on our staffing issues for seasonal staff, 'cause for those of you who weren't on the Committee Council before, that has been a major issue for the Parks Department, as it is with every business in the area. It's just we can't find staff in the summer months, and we are no exception. And so, currently we have 10 out of our 25 park maintenance workers filled. So, we don't even have half as many as we typically hire in a season, but we're still working on it. Same with forestry, we only have about half of our seasonal forestry staff lined up and ready to go. And that is the same for our summer playground program. We have less than half of the number of playground leaders we need to run the entire program that was budgeted. Last year, or in 2022, we budgeted for 16 sites. So, we do not have enough employees currently to run 16 sites, but we're working on it. Lifeguards, we are currently 25 lifeguards short to operate all three of our pools, and at Bay Beach Amusement Park, we are short 30 ride operators. So, this isn't a lack of trying by our staff. We've kind of updated the committee previously on what our efforts are for recruiting seasonal staff. Our staff is going above and beyond. I mean, we're doing everything imaginable and within our means to recruit new employees. And I will say that we are doing better than we did last year at the same time, but there's still a significant shortage. So, we're hoping that over the next few weeks we get

more applicants and I'm sure we will. The question is will we get enough to run all of our facilities and programs, that remains to be seen. So, if we do find that there are staffing shortages, as we continue to do our planning, we'll definitely update the committee on what that means to our facilities. Last year, for example, we only opened two pools that I mentioned. The previous two years, we only ran half of our playground programs. So, this year we budgeted for what we actually hired last year. Same with Bay Beach, we had to actually shorten our hours because we couldn't do a shift change we didn't have enough ride operators. So, those are all things that we did last year and things that we may have to consider again this year. But it's too early to say, I just want everyone to be aware that we're doing our best, but it's not looking promising for every night, so.

- It's starting to pick up.

- I have a couple other-

- Oh, you wanna talk about this one in particular?

- First, I wanted to ask a particular question.

- Yeah.

- About let's say that Bay Beach Center down to one shift, per se.

- Mm-hmm.

- What was I gonna say about that? The fact, what about the Friends at Bay Beach? Anybody, any of the other organizations that might be able to chip in on this, or at least help the city?

- I mean, we can look at that avenue, I mean, they're aware of our staff shortages. We've discussed it with them also, but they are a fundraising group, mainly for capital improvements, not for operations. That doesn't mean that they couldn't assist, but right now, we have our pay scale that was approved at budget time. That's where we're at with our hiring levels, but what we're finding is even communities that pay significantly more are still having the same challenges we have. So, even if we were to give a raise of \$2-\$3 more than we're paying now I don't think that that will solve our problem. It just simply won't, 'cause everyone is running into this problem. De Pere pays more, they're the highest paid lifeguards in our region and they're not fully staffed yet. So, it's just an issue that sign of the times for the last few years, ever since Covid hit.

- What kind of jobs do you find that are going for? Cause in the past we used to be able to hire pretty well.

- Yeah, yeah, well like I said, I mean, it all changed when Covid hit and nobody is quite sure what changed and what you can point to, to make a change. But I mean, this is... this is countrywide, everyone has a staffing shortage. This isn't regional, it's not specific to Green Bay. This is a United States worldwide issue, or maybe I dunno, for sure the entire country is running into the same situation, yeah, so.

- That's all.

- Any other questions on that end?

- No.

- But otherwise, I think, you have some more on your report, right?

- Mm-hmm.

- Yeah, just a few other minor topics to discuss. The forestry division is celebrating its 40th year as Tree City USA, and they are one of the oldest Tree City USA Programs in the state. So, congratulate them when you talk to the city foresters, they're very proud of that.

Officially, Bay Beach opens for the season the first weekend in May, so that's only a week and a half away. In the month of May, we're only open on weekends, and then starting Memorial Day, we're open full-time throughout the summer months. And then, the last item that I wanna talk about here is the rides at Bay Beach. So, we do have two rides that we are in the process of removing. One of them is the Falling Star and the other one is called the Bay-Beast. Both of those rides were installed, I don't know the exact date, but approximately five years ago. They were purchased used very inexpensively by the Friends of Bay Beach, and they were donated. We did renovate 'em, but now, certain things have happened mechanically to both of them that makes them cost prohibitive to repair. We have reviewed that with the Friends of Bay Beach, they're in support and agreement that we just have to scrap these two rides. So, we'll be having future discussions on how we go about replacing those rides and funding that. And for now, we don't have a proposal in place for it, but I wanted everyone in the Committee to be aware that we are two rides permanently down, and they're being removed as we speak.

- Anybody else in the country have those rides that might want some spare parts? I mean...

- They're old rides, but the Falling...

- But yeah, whoever wants them.

- The Falling Star, I think, there's my recollection and I could... don't quote me on this, but I think, there's only one other in service in the country.

- I'll ask them if they want parts.

- And the other one's pretty old too, and there's not a lot of 'em out there.

- What's that one called again, the second one?

- Bay Beast, it's a tot ride. It's a little copper ride.

- Oh, Bay Beast.

- Where you sit on a little seat, and you just kind of go up and down.

- Okay.

- But it's meant for tots, or younger individuals.
- Not you.
- Not you. Adults can ride it, I mean...
- Yeah.
- That's fine.
- Alder Campbell?
- Is there a way to get a list of the Friends of Bay Beach? I mean, is that something that we're...
- Yeah, and-
- At.
- Yeah, I mean, we can. I can get you a list of who's on the Committee. I can ask the president.
- Sure.
- To reach out to all of you.
- Okay.
- In fact, he's-
- I'd like that.
- Indicated that he wants to meet you.
- Okay.
- And have some discussions with you.
- That's my district, so.
- Great.
- I'd like to try to see if my years in business here can influence a little bit of that, and some ideas, possibly. You never know.
- Yeah, that'd be great. So, that's really all that I have to mention. We have a division report that's included in the agenda packet. It's very detailed, it kind of goes over all of our divisions. And we structure it so that we talk about what's new since the last Parks Committee and kind of what updates do we have for you and then I usually just touch bases on a couple of them at the meeting.

- Thanks. Any questions on anything in the report? We'll take a motion, entertain a motion to receive and place on file.
- I make a motion to receive and place on file.
- Motion by Alder Eck.
- I second it.
- Second by Alder Campbell. Any discussion? Those in favor?
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Opposed? That motion carried. Our next meeting is May 11, 2022.
- In person?
- In person.
- Okay.
- I'm assuming, well I guess, it's up to the Committee if you would like to continue.
- I'd prefer in person, in person.
- Let's go back to-
- Yes.
- Normalness as much as we can.
- Mm-hmm.
- I mean, kind of normal meetings, not all people, but-
- Yeah, well.
- So, now, all we need is to adjourn.
- Motion to-
- Motion to it, oh, go ahead.
- Motion to adjourn.

- Adjourn, Alder Steuer.
- Second.
- Second Alder Eck, those in favor?
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Opposed? Motion carried, we're adjourned, and at this point, we usually take a couple...