



MINUTES OF THE PARKS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023, 5:00 PM

In person at City Hall, Room 207.

Virtual attendance is also available via Zoom.

AMENDED

A. ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION.

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

B. 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, Will Peters-Community and Economic Development, Paul Van Handel-NEWCAP/HOT Team, Rob Frazier-St. John's Ministries, Pastor Jerry Bader-Samaritan's Heart Mission Church, Alyssa Proffitt-Joannes Park Neighborhood Association President

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Moved by Ald. Melinda Eck, seconded by Ald. Steven Campbell to approve. Motion carried.

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Moved by Ald. Melinda Eck, seconded by Ald. Steven Campbell to approve. Motion carried.

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

E. REGULAR BUSINESS.

I. Consideration with possible action on updates to the 2023 Engage program at St. John's Park, which includes the Homeless Outreach Team taking over the coordination of the program.

Moved by Ald. Melinda Eck, seconded by Ald. Mark Steuer to open the floor.

Motion Passed.

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

Moved by Ald. Mark Steuer, seconded by Ald. Steven Campbell to close the floor.
Motion Passed.

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

Moved by Ald. Mark Steuer, seconded by Ald. Melinda Eck to open the floor.
Motion Passed.

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

Moved by Ald. Mark Steuer, seconded by Ald. Steven Campbell to close the floor.
Motion Passed.

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

Moved by Ald. Mark Steuer, seconded by Ald. Melinda Eck to approve the updates to the 2023 Engage program at St. John's Park, which includes the Homeless Outreach Team taking over the coordination of the program.

Motion Passed.

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

2. Consideration with possible action on the request by the Joannes Park Neighborhood Association to fundraise towards the installation of a Futsal Court at Joannes Park.

Moved by Ald. Melinda Eck, seconded by Ald. Steven Campbell to open the floor for discussion. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Ald. Mark Steuer, seconded by Ald. Steven Campbell to close the floor for discussion.
Motion carried.

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 request by the Joannes Park Neighborhood Association to fundraise towards the installation of a Futsal Court at Joannes Park conditional upon the group only securing donation commitments, and no actual dollars towards this project, until the point when the fundraising goal has been met in full. Motion carried.

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

3. Consideration with possible action on donating the Sea Dragon ride at Bay Beach Amusement Park to the Friends of Bay Beach Amusement Park.

Moved by Ald. Steven Campbell, seconded by Ald. Melinda Eck to approve donating the Sea Dragon Ride at Bay Beach Amusement Park to the Friends of Bay Beach Amusement Park. Motion carried.

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

F. INFORMATIONAL.

I. Staff update on the Green Bay Park/Greenway Encroachment Initiative.

Moved by Ald. Mark Steuer, seconded by Ald. Melinda Eck to receive and place on file the update on the Green Bay Park/Greenway Encroachment Initiative. 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 & Forestry Department.

Moved by Ald. Melinda Eck, seconded by Ald. Steven Campbell to receive and place on file the Director's Report on updates and recent activities of the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department. Motion carried.

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

3. Next Meeting: April 26, 2023.

G. ADJOURNMENT.

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

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

Verbatim Minutes

- All right. The April 12th Parks Committee will come to order, and we'll note, we'll take a roll call, I guess. Alder Steuer?

- Present. He is present. Alder Eck?

- I'm here.

- Alder Campbell?

- Yes.

- All right. Alder Wery. Everyone is present. Can I get an approval of the agenda?

- Motion to approve.

- Second.

- Motion to approve by Alder Eck, second by Alder Campbell. Any changes?

- One thing I do want to mention, if you didn't see, I did amend the agenda yesterday, so we do have an amended agenda and an informational item at the end.

- I notice there are three informational items, now.

- There's three. So the first one is what I added.

- Oh, okay. And you sent an email. I know I got an email, 'cause it's in my area.

- The encroachment one?

- Correct.

- Okay, very good. Those in favor?

- [Alders] Aye.

- Agenda, okay? Opposed? Motion carried. Can I get an approval of the minutes?
- Motion to approve.
- Second.
- Motion by Alder Eck, second by Alder Campbell. And discussion or changes? Those in favor?
- [Alders] Aye.
- Opposed? Motion carried. Regular business number one, consideration of possible action on updates to the 2023 Engage Program at St. John's Park, which includes the Homeless Outreach Team taking over the coordination of the program. Director?
- Yeah, I'll pass it on to the Deputy Director to give a brief presentation on what is changing.
- [James] So as you guys know the history on this, back in the summer of 2020, St. John's staff began staffing the main shelter location to case managers each day, specifically focused on providing support to the population gathering in the park across from the street. However, the group continued to not engage in services, and despite kind of the lack of engagement, we met as a group between the parks, St. John's at the time, Will from Community and Economic Development and some other entities like Paul from Newcap and some other partners at the time. And it was decided in 2021 that we would brainstorm and try to figure out innovative solutions and partnerships that would help with what, you know, was going on there. And the proposal that St. John's brought forth at the time was called Engage, and they kind of headed it the first year. The second year they kind of took a little bit of a step back and we looked at it more as a partnership between, you know, the partners that were involved. And now it kind of has evolved over this last couple years, now we're looking at having the HOT team, or the Homeless Outreach Team, essentially help kind of coordinate the program, and that's kind of where we're at. So we're still kind of involved in all of those conversations and the partnership and the meetings and the, you know, problem solving solutions. But the HOT team has been, and, you know, Paul is here to discuss, and I think at this point I would just kind of turn it over to him to kind of answer any questions with that or anything you guys have.
- Motion to open the floor.
- Second.
- Motion by Alder Eck, second by Alder Steuer to open the floor. Those in favor?
- [Alders] Aye.
- Opposed? Motion carried. If anybody's here for this item, just give us your name and address. You've been to so many committee meetings.
- May I approach? I have some informational...
- Just your name and address when you're up here again.
- Thank you.
- Thank you.
- Thank you.

- [Rob] All right. James, this is Rob Frazier. I'm also online if there's any questions that come up for St. John's.
- So great. Yeah, as they said, I'm Paul VanHandel. You probably recognize me from my days of community policing with Green Bay Police Department. Then I did retire in April, actually, of 2021, which is almost coming up on two years now. Time goes fast. So.
- Paul, can I just get your address.
- Oh sure. Paul VanHandel, 1981 Candle Lane.
- Thank you.
- Green Bay.
- Wisconsin.
- Yeah.
- Thanks. So, one of the issues we faced in the downtown neighborhoods was homelessness. The Homeless Outreach Team, as you can see, on the program here was really formed from the Basic Needs Committee, which was part of the Green Bay Police Department. It was a committee that I worked with that was really centered around chronic homelessness, and the top 40 most chronic homeless. So Homeless Outreach Team was, still is, really, part of boots on the ground effort, and part of organizations that support that effort to support the homeless population or those experiencing homelessness. So it became fully recognized in 2019 with an MOU between the Green Bay Police Department and the Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition. 2021, Basic Needs was voted in. This is just last year as a full committee with the Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition. So our mission on page two really hasn't changed, and it is essentially what every homeless outreach team in every community, including police departments, focus on, and that is meet with persons experiencing homelessness where they are, geographically, philosophically, and emotionally, provide necessary resources and be the bridge between the individual and the continuum of care in Green Bay, Brown County. So, page three is really essentially the organizations that are active with our team, 28 organizations. And you'll see Green Bay Police Department, De Pere Police Department, very active, as well as the City of Green Bay, City of Green Bay Parks Department. We consider every single organization that's included in our team as a collaborative partner. So what Engage has done, as James said, over the first year in 2021, St. John's Ministries really took this on as a project in the park. And really it is essentially that. Engage works with people, where they are; works on providing more communication, more services, and resources to them so that they feel like they have a bridge to where they are experiencing homelessness; and also the resources that are available in the area, whether they are currently receiving those resources or not. The other page, the next page on here, really just shows Engage organizations. Some of those work with the Homeless Outreach Team over the course of the year. Some of them are just involved for the purpose of Engage. And some of those, like Mandolin Foundation, Feeding the Park, SAGE, Life Bridge, Spring Lake Church, Food Wise Brown County, Beyond Church, Life Bridge Church, a lot of those, and Samaritan's Heart Mission Church, they do a lot of outreach work that is crucial, and that includes serving meals. So on the next page, Life Bridge Church just provided through what they do as of last year, by month, May, June, July, August, September, and October, just a look at how many meals served, how many were there, so just really a rough count. And then the last page is from Life Bridge, is a typical day of their food service and what they provide. So basically you see August 12th, 2022, whether they have six servers, the type of meals they serve, the guests, and again, it says main service count, about 53 to 55 people were there. One person did not eat for whatever reason. And then it just fills you in on more information that they're able to do. So, that is where Homeless Outreach is and what we are trying to do. And like I said, it's a collaborative partnership, and it's not just for those experiencing present homelessness. It is open. The park is open to everyone. Some of the programs that we have, everyone can participate in. We welcome that. What we're trying to do is get a better idea of the needs that people have. The Engage program, for us, people that are Boots on the Ground like myself, Brown

County Mental Health Treatment Center also has three persons that do active street outreach. St. John's had two persons last year doing street outreach, I know they have one currently. I think they'll end up having two. Green Bay Police Department, their homeless officer that works in behavioral health is presently deployed. She'll come back in the fall, but they do have someone that will be working with us as street outreach. Humana Eye Care Insurance has one person. De Pere Police Department, I just put in here that they also have an officer that does active street outreach. However, since the program takes place in the park here at St. John's, he won't be able to join us, but we still appreciate his services. So, anyway, that's what we do. It gives us a place, a safe place, safe space to help us conduct further outreach and do it where people feel they're welcome. So that's where it's really important to us. The other organizations that you saw in the information I provided are there for support. We rely on them for whatever the needs are, it might be mental health, it might be AODA services or treatment. What we do outreach on a given day or week, we don't know when someone is going to be receptive to wanting to receive further services, so it really is crucial for us to be able to help out when needed and be there, and then have them available to us. So it helps them also understand what's going on, on the ground. So that is all I have for information. I know Will is, I don't know how you wanna work this. We have a few people that can speak on it today.

- Do you wanna ask questions first or...?

- Well, maybe.

- You want to go through?

- Maybe we can ask, we can have them do all the presentation and then ask questions.

- Do you have more to talk?

- You know, I don't really have... I don't know if speaking as staff, I need to state my address at all or...

- No, you don't have to do that.

- Okay. I'd just like to...

- What's his address? No, I'm kidding.

- Why don't I just come on up here?

- Yeah, so sure. Thanks.

- Otherwise, when you're watching it from home, you just hear how awesome

- No, Paul did an excellent job recapping the purpose of Engage and the role that the HOT team plays. The only thing I think I'd like to reiterate or restate is, I mean, there's really two main objectives to the Engage program, one being to help establish, promote, foster, meaningful relationships with these individuals who are resistant to services in hopes that through these meaningful relationships that are developed, that they'll gain trust and confidence, and then a willingness to accept the services that we have available to them in our community. The other main objective of this program is to also make St. John's Park a safe and welcoming environment where the entire community feels welcome to participate and utilize the space that is there. Which is why, as you see from the list, there are a number of services and faith-based organizations that participate in this program. What we're also trying to do is grow the number of organizations, such as SAGE and others to provide community programming, such as whether it's arts, whether it's a movie in a park, but programming that really appeals to everyone. I think everybody understands and sees that we have homelessness in Green Bay. It's here, it exists, it's around us. So what we're trying to do is create an

environment that is safe, where we as a community are embracing that problem, trying to find meaningful, productive ways to address that issue.

- Go ahead. No, go ahead.

- Well, there are more people to speak on it.

- Can I ask a question of Will?

- Yeah, go ahead. Let's ask questions as we go along. Otherwise you're gonna be standing up here.

- I know.

- Switch it up.

- It's okay.

- We came together. Can we stand?

- Go ahead.

- Okay. Well, I have the list.

- Oh boy. I mean, oh boy.

- One thing I do have a question about is how does the Blueprint homeless coordinator fit in this puzzle?

- Right, so Lydia Van Thiel, the Blueprint coordinator, she is present at our HOT, our Homeless Outreach and Basic Needs Committee, so she's a part of that committee and is aware of the programming and the work and is also doing much more, you know, there's work that's being done at the committee level, right, that is specific to committee, but then what Lydia brings is that, you know, the 30,000 foot view is how are all these organizations working together? So she fits in by being present and active in at least the meetings and also conversation.

- Well, I just didn't see it listed, and I knew that...

- So our HOT team meets monthly. We have a HOT/Basic Needs meeting by Zoom monthly, where we have all the partners invited, and we talk about all of the aspects of street homelessness to begin with, numbers on the street, where are we currently at, what do we think the trajectory is, where it's going, how can we embed ourselves into the issue so that we can provide solutions for people. And then we look, you know, upstream as much as possible, and we're looking for an end state, you know, where are we going? We want to really develop what's called peer-run housing, and that's something that we formed a subcommittee around and are working towards, and which would take people in a chronic homeless situation off the street, would be able to give them time to really self-actualize and then move into an environment where they feel respected, and we can actually bring further services to them. It's worked in other communities. It can work here. We're working on that right now. That's one of the things we talk about, but that's in a general meeting. Engage is really just that. It is a place and time to let people know that they're in a safe place at St. John's Park, and that we can, like Will said, that we can really address their needs in the best way possible, form relationships. The main purpose of outreach, anywhere, really, that I've seen, and including ours, is to do those core things. Formulate trust and rapport, and then encourage, motivate, mentor. That's really what it is. We're not trying to solve homelessness with Engage. We're trying to just engage.

- Can you tell me? You mentioned peer-run shelter. Is that like a group home of some sort, or?

- It's a facility that we're patterning after that, there's a couple of 'em in Milwaukee. We're really trying to pattern after one of those that has 20 apartments, not 20 beds, but 20 apartments. And we'll work with people that are specifically chronically homeless, have alcohol or other drug-type issues and/or mental health or co-occurring type needs. Somebody that does not respond well to a traditional shelter. So this is considered non-traditional. So that's something we're working on, but I think we're a way away, a little way away from making it a reality. But again, we have partnerships formed around that, including the City of Green Bay and Brown County as well, so.

- Not to get off topic, but the communities that have found success with it are implementing that type of housing model are showing an 80% success rate. So when you see programs with an 80% success rate, it's hard to ignore, so it's something we wanna take a serious look at and see if something like that would be suitable for this area here.

- Well, I had talked to Chief Davis after Mr. Frazier had done his presentation, and basically he indicated that there's enough beds in our homeless shelters so that people don't have to put up tents in the park. And he said they were resistant to those services, I guess. So I'm wondering if you're able to somehow connect them and maybe even transport them to the different homeless shelters that we have?

- I try and get away from the word "resistive". It is not that they're resistive, it's that the service of a traditional shelter, nothing against St. John's, nothing against New Community Shelter. They do an awesome job. They are an awesome staff and people that work there for the people that are right for that type of traditional shelter model. What we're finding is, and this is across the country, not just here, it's not unique to here, but there are some people, due to mental health, whether it's depression, anxiety, or any of those co-occurring needs that they have, they don't feel like their needs are being met in a traditional shelter. It brings about more anxiety and things that they feel are potentially an institution that they're trying to get away from. And to do that, they feel better off outside where they can actually just have more freedom and space. Their body, their mental health responds better to that, for whatever reason that is. So that's what we're trying to get in touch with here, for the most part, and it takes time and just energy, so.

- And Brown County Mental Health helps with that, then?

- They sure do. I work every week with Lee Warner, who is their team lead for their outreach, and me and him interface weekly. I refer to him, he refers to me. So there's a real partnership there, so.

- Okay.

- Thanks, Melinda.

- Thank you, Chair. Well, thanks, gentlemen, for coming in. And, you know, Paul and I were on a committee ten years ago, and we were trying to get a resource center into Green Bay, and that was quite a long, interesting project as well. And I guess with this program, you know, and I realize that, you know, I don't know what the numbers are for homelessness right now. It varies, but, you know, it seemed like at the park, you know, over time there was maybe a handful of issues with a couple of folks that just refused service or what have you. And they were outdoors, you know, at the park. And I know that there's been issues with the park. You know, that's a city park. You know, we've had folks with tents and different things like that. And I realize that's just part of the issue. And I'm just wondering, and I know when Alder Eck asked about, you know, the shelters themselves, you know, they're not open, at least St. John's isn't open all year round. So just trying to, you know, with the business community, the citizenry, the park, you know, all the different elements that go into it, it's just, I realize that you're working towards something, you know, and I understand that it's not gonna be solved overnight, but I'm just wondering what's your take on, you know, some of the issues that have happened at the park over time? You know, is that getting better? Or, you know, I'll drive by there

occasionally, and it's like this small city of sorts, tent city. And I'm just wondering if that's something you can address or is that just part of the process as we move forward?

- Yeah, yeah. So I met with Chief Davis last week, and we are forming the just better communication. So we're working together on park issues instead of separate. Like last year, I think everybody saw and felt like it was pretty separate, where the police came in and did their thing to police the park, and we were doing almost sometimes the opposite for outreach. We don't want that. And if there is an issue with any ordinances or anything being broken, that's a time where the police may need to come in and police the park. We get that. But we need to communicate that so we're not sending two different messages. And the chief, coming from Portland, where homelessness was prevalent, really gets that. So I think we had a good discussion, and when he feels or they feel that need is upon us, outreach is gonna go out there and really work with people individually and see if we can't mitigate circumstances. And then if police need to come in, they can come in.

- I just had one follow up real quick. So the HOT team, you know, like, I mean, every day is a new issue. There are different folks with different things that you're dealing with. Is it one of those things where on your team you contact somebody that get down there right away? Is there just, I don't wanna say 24/7, but is there always somebody available to kind of deal with situations that might be going on?

- So no, it's not a mobile out. We don't do like a mobile out 24/7. It's daytime, Monday through Friday. The organizations are all, you know, they have their hours that they are in service, and, you know, that's pretty much the way it works. No, it's not a mobile out, 24/7 crisis homeless type situation.

- What are the hours?

- It's on there.

- I just wanted to throw that in.

- On the hours. What are the hours?

- Yeah, normally between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., but, I mean, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., you know, whenever we can get somebody out there, we will. So it's not mobile crisis. We formulate relationships with people over time. So if it's crisis, that is where we work with the police, CCIT officers, behavioral health officers. That's what they're there for.

- And just to clarify, the program may end at 6:00 p.m., but the park is technically open to the public till 10:00 p.m., per city ordinance.

- Okay, so first of all, I really appreciate what you're doing. This is a great service. But you mentioned the ordinance, and there is an ordinance that says that tents cannot be put up. In fact, the park closes at 10:00 p.m. And I've talked with different alders, and particularly the ones, well, one, it's in his district, who gets a lot of complaints about it. And I would say a lot of us are in agreement that we have to do something, because it's not okay to drive by and have tents in the park. And I realize, I'm not trying to put that on you, but I would hope that this is part of it. That's why I asked about helping to transport them someplace safe, other than putting a tent up at the park. And I know you don't like the word resistive, but if there's, and I wasn't talking about St. John's as part of the shelter's not being full, I'm talking New Community, and for some reason I can't think of the other ones right now. Isn't there more? I know the Freedom House is only for families, but anyway, there's availability, as far as beds. So I guess that's what I would like to hear, is that we're gonna work towards that, rather than having the city of tents.

- Yeah, we're not encouraging people to camp in the park. That not something that's talked about. I mean, if they are, then we talk about the ordinance, and we talk about their, you know, 72-hour tag, which, when I was at the police department, I, myself, helped develop, that they could be getting that orange tag, and then that

they could be cited if they leave their property up and it can get taken away. We don't want their property to get taken away. We want to, like I said, work with them, mitigate circumstances. I wish there was a better place for people who are experiencing homelessness and are currently displaced, like being in the park. However, the park being that safe place, safe space, also means it can be at times a hub, and we don't want to see that, but it is what it is. If they feel safety there, then they're gonna congregate there. Our goal is to work with them as best we can to get them to accept and receive resources that are offered in the community, and through that ongoing engagement piece that they may feel welcome going back into those services or perhaps shelter. But at the point where they're outside and are not going into shelter, they're gonna be outside somewhere. We at outreach prefer that it's a spot that we can see them, that they're safe and we can work with them and contact them on a regular basis. That may go against what the police say, but it is what it is. We're looking out for safety and their wellbeing for as long as they feel the need to be in that place. And that's what we have to do. So.

- [Rob] Can I interrupt?

- Did you have any? One moment. Did you have any other further questions, Alder Eck?

- No.

- Okay. Yeah, go ahead. Just give us your name and address.

- [Rob] Sure. It's Rob Frazier, St. John's Ministries. My address is 1694 Jackson Hole Court.

- Yeah, go ahead, please.

- [Rob] Okay. I just wanted to clarify one thing, that, you know, we talked about St. John's not being open. We are providing housing for chronic guests. So we have identified guests that will potentially be housed during the summer months. So we are taking care of those that, you know, wouldn't be safe on the street, and also those that we feel, you know, that are the chronic homeless. So, and the other thing is a further part of Engage. St. John's is also working in conjunction with Paul and his team to provide outreach as well. The numbers were a little bit skewed. We'll have probably four or five people out doing outreach throughout the summertime, either on bike, foot, or in a vehicle. So that's the radius that we're planning on doing. The other thing is that our shelter will be open Monday through, or, you know, not 24/7, but will be open evenings from 9:00 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. in the morning. So we'll provide shelter for those that are chronic or that need a home that night. The other thing that I wanted to do is, you know, also provide drop-in services at St. John's. We have always done it on a Tuesday. We're increasing that to an additional day of Friday as well. So we'll have drop-in services for our guests on Tuesday and Friday, which will allow them the opportunity to have hot meals, showers, do laundry, all of that kind of stuff. And I can assure you that our main goal is to make sure that we don't have a tent city. And I'm not sure how it's gonna be handled. That's probably one of the items that we'll need to discuss is the tents on the outside of the fence. And I think that's what really, that becomes the eyesore, then it encroaches on St. John's Church as well. And so those are the things that we're really gonna try and address for the city and, you know, for our guests, and just the community at large. The other thing that St. John's is gonna be doing, every night we have drop-in services for our churches providing meals and entertainment from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at night. So those are just a couple things that we're doing as part of the Engage program as well. And I'm open to answer any questions that you may have for St. John's.

- Thank you, Mr. Frazier. Any questions from the committee? Go ahead.

- Okay. Yes, during those times that you're open, are you also providing the services? I forget the name of it, but helping people to get jobs?

- [Rob] Joseph Project?

- Yeah.

- [Rob] Yeah, we're doing that all summer long. There'll be a couple of 'em probably this summer, but that's done at the Micah Center during the day. We're naturally involved in it right now. They're bringing together guests that are gonna be a part of that this year, or this summer.

- Okay, thank you.

- You bet.

- Have questions from the committee?

- I just had another question, gentlemen, about your Zoom meeting that you have once a month. You know, some of us might be interested in peeking in on that. Would you mind that?

- Absolutely.

- Not at all.

- We encourage it. No, we can...

- So we would need to know when that is.

- Next Wednesday.

- For the HOT/Basic Needs meeting you're talking about?

- Yeah.

- Yeah, absolutely. Yeah, next Wednesday. And I can send you...

- Can you send the link?

- As long as it's not during this committee meeting. Well, next Wednesday's not, but Wednesdays are.

- And I would like to add too, just to clarify, we understand that there are a lot of, you know, issues that are trying to be addressed that are occurring at St. John's Park, and I just wanna make the distinction that the purpose of the Engage program isn't necessarily to directly end or address the tenting and the sleeping issue that's happening at night. Really what it's supposed to be doing is trying to build those relationships so that we can help direct those individuals to the services that are available within the community. So again, it's strictly like an outreach and engagement, and the end goal being to get these individuals more willing to accept the services that we have in the community, not promote tenting or camping, all right?

- Is there any group that's addressing the nighttime things, then?

- Absolutely. Yeah. So St John's ministries is actively involved in conversations, as is Paul VanHandel. I know the city is looking at, with the Parks Department as well, looking at our city ordinances around that, trying to figure... so, at the end of the day, you know, camping in the park or outside, it's not safe for the person that's doing it, for the community. It's just not a safe environment. It's not something we want to promote. So we're trying do our best through looking at our ordinances on file, but then also exploring programs that are working well in other communities to see, you know, if that's something that we can mimic or replicate here instead of trying to reinvent the wheel, so.

- And one thing to note on that is, you know, camping throughout the city is problematic. It's just not exclusive to St. John's Park. That's the visible location, 'cause you see it as you drive by. But you can go into any greenway. We have had issues along the West Side Trail. I mean, it's happening all over the city, so we really have to work jointly with a lot of these groups and the police department to figure out how to deal with it citywide.

- Thanks, Dan. Any other questions? Anybody else want to talk to the committee? Oh, come on down.

- Thank you.

- You're the next contestant.

- Pastor Jerry Bader from Samaritan's Heart Mission Church, 520 South Oakland. We're one of the churches that, we take Monday, there were five churches last year that we were providing meals, and I really want to jump on a word that Paul used, he used a lot of good words, but the one that I'm thinking of is "respect". And what we see, the first week that we did this last year, I think we had five guests, and we refer to them as guests. And by the end of the summer, we were 40, 50, maybe 60 some nights. We were greeted with suspicion, initially. By the end of the summer, they're unloading the church van, they're grabbing the tables, they're doing, you know. It empowers, it shows that we treat them with dignity and respect. And while certainly the goal of what we do in the evenings is not to directly address, this was just said, that, you know, the tents being used and all of that, but it's to plant the seeds of dignity and respect that they are visible, we see them, and quite frankly we love them. And it's, you know, we're churches, so I don't know what you would expect, but we don't know what God is going to do with those planted seeds. And our church in particular, we say that we minister to the unnoticed. Sometimes they're unnoticed because they don't want to be noticed. Sometimes they're unnoticed 'cause other people don't want to notice them. We want them to know they're noticed. We want them to know they're respected. And in the couple hours that we have, that is what we're all about. And we have seen the fruit of that from last summer and are anxious to get at it again.

- Alder Eck.

- Thank you for coming. And so what services do you provide? You do a meal and like a church service?

- So we provide meals, and we, quite frankly, the service we provide is we show up, we're present, we spend time with them, we converse with them, we do present, we provide a meal, we provide an activity. Life Bridge Church has been doing bingo. We may steal their idea this year. We've been doing a number of other things. We do, you know, with that activity, we've given away weekly bus pass, Dollar Tree certificates. Again, just something that gives them some type of assistance. We're a very small church, we're limited in what we can do, but just something that shows that we care about them and will provide food and whatever else we can.

- Do you know if any of the... 'Cause I noticed there's a lot of churches, and I'm a Christian, so I'm asking this question. Does anybody do Bible study in any of these churches?

- Yeah, so we do. That's a great question. We do that as outreach. I'll give you an example. We didn't do a specific Bible study. We as a team always pray. This is a great lesson, a great teachable moment. We pray as a team before we start. And one week, someone in the shelter said, "Hey, they're praying without us." So we actually, I stopped, and I went and prayed with all of them. I've done, as an activity, I've done Bible trivia. But yes we do. We certainly are not shy about who we are and what our mission is.

- That's great. Thank you.

- Thank you. Any other questions? Appreciate it.

- Thank you, pastor.

- Anybody else here for this item on Zoom or in person? Anybody else? Any other questions from the committee? I'll entertain a motion to close the floor.
- Motion to close the floor.
- Second
- Motion to close the floor by Alder Steuer, second by Alder Campbell. Discussion? Those in favor?
- [Alders] Aye.
- Opposed? That motion carried. What would you like? Alder Steuer?
- Well, I mean as far as moving forward, is this as far as, we can approve, we could receive and place on file. This is more of an approval of the...
- Well, it says possible action. Possible action.
- Possible action. So then I would make a motion to approve.
- Motion by Alder Steuer to approve.
- Second.
- Second by Alder Eck. Under discussion, I appreciate that is an action item. I know in the past sometimes it was just an informational, and then council felt like, "Well, okay we really haven't seen this," especially when it involves the city property. Now, our view, right, just from our committee, is just really two things. Is the park accessible and safe for public use? And it sounds like that is one of the priorities. Is that, I mean, have we had any issues with that? Have we been improving?
- No, I mean in general, by having this program there, it's a safer environment. I will admit that we're not seeing a large use by the public using this park, but they're able to. And if we have representation in the park, it's going to be much safer than if there's nobody there.
- And that would be my main concern, is being a city park, we want it to be safe, and it sounds like we have a lot of help there for everyone. And then the city's role, obviously it's kind of ping ponged back and forth the last couple years. It sounds like we're more advisory now than direct hands-on, kind of.
- Correct. I mean we participate in the discussion with the HOT team and the Homeless Engagement program, but really we are not running this program. We're offering support wherever possible, and we're participating in the meetings, making sure that we're in the loop with everything.
- Appreciate it. I mean, tackling homelessness, talk about it forever. It's an ongoing issue. It's a tough, thankless thing for everybody involved, so, thank you.
- Still participating.
- Exactly.
- I'll finish off with any... I'll lose my train of thought, Steve. You know that.
- It's a lot.

- It's a team effort, and you have a good group here that I see, and I don't want to discourage that in any way. Obviously, there's that fine line of if we want to help them but not encourage it. We don't want to grow and blossom into some hideous things like Sam Fran where there's a failure, you know, so it sounds like we're on the right track, and you're really trying to key in on things that work elsewhere, so I love that. That's all I have. See? I kept my thought. Go ahead, Alder Campbell.

- Sorry about that, Alder.

- No, you're good.

- So, and staff, are we handing this complete responsibility over to this, or are we still gonna have some oversight on it? That if it gets out of control, or say isn't going the direction that supposedly, hopefully it does and we don't see results from it, would that come back to committee, council/staff?

- Yeah, so a couple of responses to that. One thing we've done in the past for this program is we've reported out kind of halfway through the season, just to give you an update of how it's going and talk about the issues and problems. We're more than willing to do that again, let it go half of the summer, we can bring it back to talk about issues that are coming up and then we can reassess it. But the other thing that you should be aware of, which we already touched on, is we are participating in these meetings. So, although we're not, the city isn't taking the leadership role on running this program, we are involved. We're involved with the discussions, we're involved with finding solutions, we're coordinating with the police department as needed, and we take care of the issues as they come up, as best as we can, as a group, as a whole, and we are part of that discussion. So I don't think it's necessary to bring it back halfway through the summer, but if that's a wish by the committee, we can definitely do that.

- Well, I think as long as you're participating in it and keep an eye on it, I guess from a whole we can sure understand what's going on, even by not being involved directly. Just one other thing and a comment between the committee here on the Zoom calls, and he said it's on a Wednesday, and I want to open the floor again, but I think maybe we can try to see if it could possibly be taped, so that we can review it, watch it. I mean if we can't be present.

- Well, we are videotaping.

- I mean, being it's on a Wednesday.

- We are videotaping the meeting, and that is online. So anybody can watch the recording online on the city's website, available starting tomorrow.

- So that is gonna be here?

- No, you're talking about...

- Digital.

- I apologize, I didn't want to reopen the floor for that.

- That would be up to the HOT team to determine whether or not they wanted to make that public, 'cause it is their domain.

- More discussion here. It'd be nice to see that. And, you know.

- Motion to open the floor, just for that point.

- Motion by Alderman Steuer to open the floor. Is there second to that?
- I'll second.
- You don't want to second?
- No, I said what I wanted to say.
- I'll second. Well, you just wanted to ask a question.
- Second by Alder Eck to open the floor. Those in favor?
- [Alders] Aye.
- Opposed? Motion carried. The question is the meetings you have. Is anybody...?
- So, it's open to the public. So anybody's who's interested to attend either a Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition meeting as a whole or general membership meeting or a committee meeting, such as the HOT and Basic Needs, they are more than welcome to attend. It's currently not standard practice for the coalition to record their meetings, because some of their committee meetings are happening hybrid, some are happening just in person, so that's something we'd have to probably request of the coalition to see if that is something that they would be willing to do. Otherwise the meetings are open to the public and accessible to those who would like to attend.
- What time is it?
- The HOT and Basic Needs team starts at 8:45 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.
- 8:00 a.m. for peer-run, and 8:45 a.m. is HOT.
- And that's next Wednesday.
- What's the peer-run?
- Peer-run.
- Oh, peer-run. Okay.
- Peer-run housing is at 8:00. That's just a subcommittee of the HOT team. If you want to join us for the HOT team meeting, 8:45. We are having a special guest, Emily Rochon from Portland that works in the behavioral health unit there and has done a lot with surrounding chronic homelessness, mental health, AODA issues, and worked with community advocates regarding that. So she's gonna be joining us at 9:00 a.m. next Wednesday, so whatever we're doing, we're gonna stop and listen to what she has to say, and hopefully have some quality time there.
- Do you have the link right now if you want to share it as far as that again.
- I can send it out or send it to Will and he can get it out to you.
- I've got the link. I'll just forward it to the Parks Committee here.
- If you could, just send it to the council.

- The whole council?
- Just say, "Hey, this came up during Park Committee."
- Sure.
- That way if they ask it next week, we'll say we got it. Alder Eck?
- And can you send it like regularly every time? Like, and I'm sorry to add that, but like...
- I can, I tried doing that once before. I will say that I got some emails from some folks that they didn't... There's a lot of emails that come out sometimes from these committees, and they're like, "Hey, my inbox is getting overloaded," so that I didn't send them regularly, but...
- And maybe...
- Get email.
- You did send it to me. I know I couldn't make it to the last one, but what's it called again? HOT? What was it?
- Homeless Outreach Team/Basic Needs.
- Basically, okay.
- So, if I can get emails, I can just CC all of you on the meeting notices, so, from now on. So we talk about a lot of good stuff, so.
- Thank you.
- Appreciate it. Any other questions? All right, now.
- You want me to pull a shade for you?
- No. Every time I look at you, you're bright.
- He's got a halo.
- Close the floor?
- Motion to close the floor.
- Second.
- Motion to close the floor by Alder Steuer, second by Alder Campbell. Discussion. Those in favor?
- [Alders] Aye.
- Opposed? Motion carried. Right now we have a motion and a second on the floor to approve. Any other discussion on this? I think we hashed it over pretty good. It's going to council. Sorry. Everything we handle tonight goes to council next week for final approval, Tuesday 7:00. 6:00.

- Don't show up at seven. Too late.
- Any other discussion? Those in favor?
- [Alders] Aye.
- Opposed? Carried unanimously. Thank you.
- Thanks again.
- Welcome you to come next week Tuesday in case the other eight have any questions.
- Sure thing.
- Thanks.
- Good luck.
- Number two, consideration of possible action on the request by the Joannes Park Neighborhood Association to fundraise towards the installation of a futsal court.
- Have you ever heard of this?
- I have not.
- It's cool.
- What is futsal?
- So, futsal is really a fairly new sport in the United States, but it's very similar to soccer. So it's played on a much smaller field, and it's typically a faster-paced sport than soccer. So the team consists of about five players per side, and the size of the field varies, but typical standard size of a futsal court is 40 meters by 20 meters, which roughly equates to 131 feet by 60 feet, whereas a traditional soccer field ranges from 100 to 110 meters by 64 to 75 meters. So a futsal court is approximately a third the size of a traditional soccer court. Typically the court is surrounded by fencing so that you can bounce the balls off of the courts, and the ball typically doesn't go out of play unless it goes over the fencing. And then the court itself usually is not turf. So it's usually played on a hard surface or a synthetic turf field, because with a court that small with as much intense play as it gets, turf just isn't gonna hold up over time. It just wouldn't stand up, so it has to be some other surface. So, you know, recently the Joannes Park Neighborhood Association did reach out to us and requested to fundraise to put one in at Joannes Park. We haven't settled on a final location yet, but we do agree that there is some value to putting it in that particular park. And so over time if this is approved, we'll work closely with the neighborhood association to select a location that makes the most sense. So we do estimate that the cost to install a new court would run anywhere from about \$175,000 to \$200,000, plus the associated site work. So depending on where we put it in in the park, there might be additional expenses that might be incurred. So once we select the location, we can refine that estimate if this is approved tonight. So at this point the neighborhood association is not requesting any funding from the city for this. They're looking for approval to begin a fundraising campaign to fund it entirely on their own. I would recommend, and we do have somebody from the neighborhood association, that if you'd like to open up the floor, we can do so to answer specific questions, and I would probably recommend we do that now, and I have a little bit of information after we close the floor again.
- All right.

- Motion to open the floor.

- Second.

- Motion by Alder Eck to open the floor, second by Alder Campbell. Discussion. Those in favor?

- [Alders] Aye.

- Opposed? Motion carried. Come on up. Give us your name and address. Tell us about futsal.

- Yes, hello. Alyssa Proffitt at 1262 Cherry Street in Joannes Park Neighborhood. I'm the Joanne Park Neighborhood Association president. Our group got really excited about the concept of a futsal court, by kind of, you know, Boots on the Ground taking a look at our park. We have a very large park. We're partial, of course, 'cause we live there, but we love that park, and we know a lot of kids use that park. So when we were taking a look, and kind of with discussions with various members of parks as well, there's a lot of potential sites for this, some good sites. I know we discussed, we didn't come to a conclusion on where one would go but knowing that there's numerous locations where one could go, I think it's promising. There's the space for it. So also knowing that the kids, you know, physically talking to the kids in the neighborhood and what they'd like to see, we only currently have one basketball court in that, and we have a lot of kids that use it on a consistent basis. Some of these futsal courts, various designs have the ability to add basketball hoops in them, so kind of a smaller court, kind of given that it's a similar turf, kind of, to a tennis court in a lot of situations. And just taking into account our diverse population living in our neighborhood, soccer is definitely a sport that a lot of people know and love in this area, and we don't have a soccer court itself, so the benefit to futsal is, like Dan did a great job illustrating what the benefit is, but five on five is a lot easier than getting a full soccer team together with your friends for just a pickup game in the park. So that's where we're at. Of course, not ready to move forward with anything, but just the possibility to try and fundraise for it.

- Mind taking a couple questions?

- Yes, of course.

- Over to the gentleman.

- Thanks for coming up. Appreciate it. So when you did research on this, was this something that came up over time? I mean, I've never really heard about it before.

- Yep. So I'm a little partial, 'cause my husband is a big soccer player, and he's currently in a league in De Pere, so he actually has to drive all the way, pretty far in the winter months, and then locally in summer, again, there's not a soccer court in Joannes, and the nearest ones are always, you know, there's one near Riverside Ballroom, that's always got, you know, some kids playing on it, but it's smaller, so less friends needed to do a pickup game. And then we did have our vice president and her husband on our board took a trip to New York City, and they were everywhere within the city, and constantly people playing at it. I think just given the size, it being smaller, it's a lot easier to have a productive, fun game back and forth. So yeah, that's kind of where it...

- This is popular in other countries, other...? I mean, I guess I just wanted to know kinda where...

- Yes. Definitely other countries. It's not quite taken off the ground maybe in the U.S. yet, but definitely other countries. Just, yeah, given the size, and it is cheaper in some areas.

- I like the concept. I mean, since I've been on Parks or I've been on Council, we've had a number of sports that have come forward that I've never really heard of, but, you know, different, you know, there's pickleball. That's gonna be big now and it wasn't around years ago, and we're just looking at, you know, good use of our parks, and it sounds like something that's pretty interesting, so.

- Thanks, Alder. Alder Eck?

- Thank you. And you're new to being the president, 'cause I'm a president, so I kind of know the new ones, so thank you for doing that, stepping up, 'cause I know it was, what do you call it again?

- Inactive?

- It goes inactive. There's a name for it isn't there? Yeah, okay. Well anyway, what ideas do you have for fundraising?

- Really just approaching some maybe local businesses. We've had some other projects and ideas that we didn't need committee's approval for that we've actually gotten great success just talking to people in the community, other nonprofits, other, just, you know, making connections, because we do know that we can't just approach a business and ask them to donate the full thing, and they can't, like naming rights, we kind of talked through that as well, but that's not always a go. So mostly our goal is to just, yeah, have those physical conversations, talk to smaller businesses or just people living in the area that would like to take part in seeing it come to Joannes.

- Awesome. I mean, I know we have our mini grants, but not quite that.

- Right, exactly.

- Other questions?

- Thanks.

- Thanks. Anyone else? All right, thank you.

- All right, thank you so much.

- Appreciate it. Thank you. Close it up.

- Motion to close the floor.

- Second.

- Motion by Alder Steuer to close the floor, second by Alder Campbell. Those in favor?

- [Alders] Aye. Opposed. Motion carried. What are your wishes?

- I do have just one thing to add. So if you do approve this, I would recommend that you make it conditional upon the group only securing donation commitments, and no actual dollars towards this project until the point when the fundraising goal has been met in full. And the reason for that is, you know, sometimes this happens where there's an initiative by a group to tackle a major fundraising campaign, and sometimes it's more work than they envision when they start the process. So one concern we always have as a city is if we allow groups to start collecting the money, but they don't get enough money to complete the project in full, then they have to give the money back, which can sometimes be difficult when it comes to tax purposes. But if they're only securing commitments for the dollars, then if they only reach a portion of the goal, then we can talk about it as a city. Is there a desire for the city to put money into the project to build it, or is there a desire to just cancel the project? So it just gives a little more flexibility without actually collecting the money and makes it simpler if for some reason they don't collect enough commitments.

- Alder Eck?

- So I have, I guess, a comment/question that, excuse me, and I totally understand that, and I was thinking the same thing. It does limit them in like doing brat fries, things like that, because obviously that's an immediate thing. So unless they did the brat fries and...

- Yeah, and I guess the one thing to point out in regards to that is usually when you're doing those small types of fundraising, this is such a significant project, that doing a brat fry and raising a couple hundred dollars from that event really is not gonna kick this project off. Unless there's some major commitments by some large donors, it's not even worth exploring those smaller donation items. You don't want to start with the small stuff. You really need to start with the big donations, and then if you're a little short at the end, then we can consider allowing them to do some of the smaller things just to fill the gap.

- Okay.

- Alder Campbell.

- Is there a way, like when you bring a new, well, you know, I've been busy for 28 years during the day, so I don't know what goes on in our city, so I rely on our fellow alders here, and most of my stuff is questions. It's all good to make the parks better. For instance, the pickleball thing, how long has that been? Like, say if we get this on that road to that, what would be the direction? And maybe between?

- Yeah, so, you know, if they're successful in fundraising, we can build the court within a year at the most. If they're not successful in fundraising, then we have to talk about what the next steps are. Obviously we only bond for projects once a year, so depending on when we make that decision, that could add a considerable amount of time to the process. But if they collect the money, it's just a matter of us engineering it and getting it out, and, you know, we have a project engineer working for the Parks Department, and we'll work jointly with Public Works on that. But typically, it's about a year later when we can build it once the funding is there.

- I guess I'm looking at an alternate direction if it doesn't happen throughout the year, hopefully it does.

- You mean like a different project?

- Well, like how did the pickleball thing get kicked off and suggested, and it's moving forward, correct?

- It's moving forward because the city came up with ARPA dollars to dedicate.

- That was my question here.

- towards the project.

- Okay.

- Which.

- Go ahead.

- Or improvements to the parks, for instance, you know, pavement surfaces, new nets, so on. I mean, you know, you guys know a little more of that. You've been in it a long time, so just kind of trying to get filled in on it to give it an optional direction. I think we would have to have more interest in the city overall, not just one neighborhood, I guess. And then it would be nice to figure that out, right? It would be a lot easier to push it along, you know, so that's just what I have for input on it.

- Thanks, Alder. Alder Eck?

- Okay. Well, like at our park, John Muir, they've changed over part of our tennis court to a pickleball, so it's already happened, right? I mean, so it's an existing piece of cement or whatever, but there's gaga ball, which we're getting this summer, sometime soon, hopefully before summer, spring, that we got our mini grant for, and that was only \$1,200 or something, so it's a lot less money. It's an idea.

- All right.

- So.

- Do we have a motion on this one?

- Well, you kind of stated it.

- If you're in favor of that amendment, I would just say, or that condition, just say, "to approve contingent upon," how I worded it, but I can rephrase it if you'd like.

- Can we just say, "So moved"?

- Yeah, you know, I would say, I mean...

- Motion to approve.

- I can...

- Well, why don't you just approve the request by the Joannes Park Neighborhood Association to fundraise towards the installation of a futsal court at Joannes Park, conditional upon the group only securing donation commitments and no actual dollars towards this project until the point when the fundraising goal has been met in full.

- Who would like to make that motion?

- I'll second.

- Motion by Alder Eck?

- Yes.

- All right, second by Alder Steuer. Any discussion on that? Those in favor?

- [Alders] Aye.

- Motion carried. All right. This goes to council next week, so good luck.

- Good luck.

- Good job.

- Yeah, that helps.

- Yes, it sure does.

- Number three, consideration of possible action on donating the Sea Dragon ride at Bay Beach Amusement Park to the Friends of Bay Beach Amusement Park.

- So in 2013, Bay Beach Amusement Park purchased a used Sea Dragon ride for \$170,000. The Friends of Bay Beach Amusement Park then reimbursed the city in full, 100% of the cost to pay for the ride. So the city purchased it, but the Friends paid for it. Bay Beach then funded all of the site work associated for the installation of the ride. So in essence, Friends of Bay Beach bought the ride, we paid for all site work to install it. The ride was manufactured in 1991 originally, and we bought it used in 2013. It needed a lot of work just to get it up and running, and it was a fairly old ride at the time. So staff has recently made a determination that the ride will need to be shut down for safety reasons for park patrons. So, and the closure will continue until either one of two things happen. We either do significant repairs to the ride, or we remove the ride and purchase a replacement ride. One of those two things need to happen in order for us to open the ride up to the public. So the primary reason for the decision to permanently close the ride, was we did one of our regular inspections of the ride, and, you know, we've been doing these throughout the years, and there is some rusting that's occurring within the frame of the boat. And it's gotten to the point where we questioned it with the manufacturer, and just said, you know, "Are we able to open? Are there things we can do to fix the rusting that's occurring?" They came over the winter, the manufacturer actually flew in, did a site inspection on the ride, and the result of that inspection was that the manufacturer recommended that the ride be shut down due to the rusting, to excessive rusting on the boat keel and the seat frames, along with some rusting of the main frame of the ride. So in addition, the manufacturer did note that the ride is so old that many of the replacement parts that they would've sold in the past are now obsolete. They don't sell those parts anymore, so we can't purchase them. And we've been repairing this ride over the years, and we've noticed that too. So some of the parts are very hard to come by, and there are some significant repairs that are just a few years off, beyond the rusting that's occurring. So it really isn't beneficial for the city to invest these kinds of dollars in the repairs for a really old ride. It's more in our interest to either buy a new ride or buy another used ride that's not quite as old. So the manufacturer did give us a rough estimated cost of \$300,000 just to repair the rusting on the boat itself, if we choose to go that route. But, like I said, the manufacturer really isn't recommending that as the option because of the other things down the road which need to be repaired. And so some of the other concerns that we have going on with that ride, are we are having ongoing hydraulic system issues, and that's the hydraulics that are necessary to make the ride go up and down. So as the day progresses, the ride doesn't reach full swing, which leads to the ride having to be shut down to let the hydraulics cool off a little bit before we can operate it again. And we've been dealing with that hydraulic issue for a number of years. We're able to operate, but it doesn't go full swing, which, you know, it makes for a different experience to the ride users. It's not working to its full capacity. In addition, it's time to replace all the lap bars right now, so if we were to fix things, we would have to replace the lap bars in addition to the rusting. And then there are indications that the drive motor entire assembly, along with the hydraulic motor, will need to be replaced in the next few years. So they're functional right now, but, you know, we're just kind of limping along as we go, and those parts are no longer available to purchase from the manufacturer. And then the last thing is there's a PLC control center, which is kind of the computers of the ride. That PLC is very dated, and we can't buy parts to replace it anymore. So the last few repairs we've made on that system, we've luckily been able to find those parts on eBay to repair the computer system. But, you know, like I said, I think continuing to find those parts is gonna be harder and harder as the years go on. So when you combine what needs to be done now, in addition to the stuff that's not that far off, it just really isn't feasible. The cost to purchase a new ride is about a million dollars. Oftentimes at Bay Beach Amusement Park, we buy slightly used rides. Usually those used rides cost about half the price of new. So if, you know, we can find money or if the Friends of Bay Beach decide they want to fundraise for buying a replacement ride, we can look at that in the future. But right now we don't have any money available to replace the ride. So in any situation, we can't operate it, and we have to shut it down until we're able to get more funding available. So typically when we remove these rides, when they have such significant repairs, what we do is we just sell it for scrap metal, and that's it, and we're lucky if we get a couple thousand dollars for it at the most. I mean, it's not really even enough to pay our expenses to even have the ride removed. I mean, it offsets our removal cost, but that's about all that you make out of it. So it's not a big money maker to sell that for scrap metal. So because the Friends did purchase the ride from us, we contacted them, told them what our intention was with the ride, that we're gonna have to shut it down due to these

extensive repairs. And they came back with a request that instead of the city selling it for scrap metal, that we instead donate the ride to the Friends of Bay Beach. So what they're interested in doing is researching options to possibly sell the ride to another entity for spare parts or maybe for some other creative use, whatever that might be. Any profit that they make towards the sale of the ride would then go back to the Friends of Bay Beach, which then, as you know, all of their funds get reinvested back into the park. So right now, if the city were to remove it, we would get almost nothing for it, or very little, few thousand dollars at the most. Whereas if the Friends take it and do some research, they might be able to make a little bit more money for it that can be reinvested. If for some reason nothing pans out, then we just won't donate the ride to them and we will remove it and use that, and we'll just scrap it for metal. So we would only donate it to them if something pans out and they're able to make a little bit of money on the sale of the ride, so.

- Alder Steuer?

- Actually I think you did answer my question as far as, you know, just reading that. So yeah, that's fine. I'm good right now.

- Okay. Alder Eck?

- Well, my question would be then, if they sell it, then does that include the removal?

- So what we would do is it's a portable ride, so our mechanics will remove it. We're trained on how to install it. We're the ones that put the ride up initially, our own mechanics did. It's a portable ride on trailer, so all that we have to do is kind of disassemble it or fold it back down onto the trailer, and then drive it out of there and haul it to wherever it goes.

- Okay.

- And so, we'll do that work ourselves. There is some time involved with it, but it's not a great deal of time.

- So it's not, I mean, for sure it's not gonna be available to ride this summer? It's done.

- We cannot open it anymore per the manufacturer's recommendation. So in essence, we have to shut the ride down until we either fix it or replace it.

- Okay, thank you.

- Alder Campbell?

- I was down there Sunday. I looked at it. It looks like the trailers, if that's not part of it, they're ready to load it, it looked like. There's a couple trailers, they're big red trailers. They look like more apparatus than trailers, but like a circus ride or whatever. And you answered my questions on the scrap price. I just, you know, wonder why the city... Is it that you just don't want to take the time to part it out?

- Well, there's a couple of reasons. One is it's a significant amount of time if we're gonna try to part it out. It's more cost effective to find one group that's interested in buying the ride as a whole. But I guess the issue is here is the Friends donated the ride to the city. They paid for it, and they have an interest in researching it themselves. So I don't know why the city would necessarily offer to take on that task if there's another entity that's willing to do it for the city. And the fact that they donated the ride to us, it just makes sense to allow them to do it. Now, the one thing I do want to mention with those trailers, is those red trailers that were in the parking lot, those are actually the trailers from the Falling Star ride that we dismantled last year. So those trailers are gonna be gone by the time we open the park, and we are selling those trailers for scrap. The trailers for the Sea Dragon ride sit underneath the Sea Dragon ride. So, like I said, it's just a matter of folding them down onto the existing trailers under the ride and hauling 'em out of there.

- Yeah, it didn't look like the right color red paint. Like, "Does it go with that or that?" you know, and that's what I was looking at. And I saw that was in progress along with the lighting that was probably taken down from it also. You know, you answered most of my questions here. The transport, and I'm sure the staff down there is adequate to taking it apart. I don't know if there's any crane rental or anything like that, and I understand that's just part of it. I just question, if they're gonna part it out, that would be great. If they're gonna use it in another park, say in Kentucky or Tennessee, that would be my only thing, understanding that they did bring it to the Beach and was reimbursed for it, so the city does own it. I'm just filling in all the blanks here and making sure that it's good for the park. And I think since they're donating all the profits that they would probably get from it, whether it be a sale of some sort or reuse of it somewhere else, that that money be tracked and donated back to the park for the wellbeing of the park.

- And, you know, as far as whether or not it ends up at another park, that's a possibility. I mean, if they find somebody who wants to invest in the repairs and get it back up and running, that would be their discretion as another park owner. You know, what I see a more realistic option is if they have an existing ride, you know, that needs parts, similar parts, they would just use it for parts. But like I said, there's a possibility it might go to another park, but in my opinion, as the Parks Director, I don't think it's worth the investment when it's such significant work that needs to be done to keep it up and running and keep it safe. But if another group wants to tackle that, so be it. At that point, the Friends would've sold it to them, to another entity, and then that profit would then stay with the Friends of Bay Beach, which all of their revenues come back to the city to get reinvested in the park, so that's their mission.

- And I get it, I'm just comparing, you know, the fact that, you know, you take a simpler project of your own personal use, you know, is it worth really repairing a transmission on a vehicle if you're not gonna get the return on investment back. And to donate it to someone else or a facility or someone that can do something with it, that literally has no money invested in it, they might see it a different way. But when we got this much cost in it, I think it's probably the best. Then we hand off the problem to somebody else and say, "as is," and I would probably ask that that be part of the sale.

- Yeah, and we would disclose everything we know about the ride. So we would provide it to the Friends of Bay Beach with a letter saying these are all the items, we're aware of it, and then it would be up to the Friends to then pass that information on if they end up selling it or not. But yeah, the intention is to let any potential buyer know of everything we know of the ride, so there's no surprises on their end.

- Well, there's if not any other questions...

- Like I say, I appreciate it. You know, it's unfortunate, but we have to move on. Won't be the first or the last ride that wears out we have to replace, but it will leave an opening, so any leads on anything?

- We haven't even looked at that, 'cause we don't have funding for it, so.

- I didn't know if the Friends maybe had anything percolating in the background.

- We're gonna talk to them about it. Obviously now we have two openings, the Falling Star, and the Sea Dragon ride. But we do have a ride coming up, the NebulaZ ride, which we purchased with ARPA dollars. That will be up and running later on this summer, so we are gonna see some improvements and some new rides. Even if we can't replace this one, we're getting in new rides soon.

- Thanks, Dan.

- Motion.

- Motion to approve.

- Second.
- Motion to...
- Unless it's you want to do it.
- It is his district. Let's...
- I would make a motion to approve the ride donation to the Friends of Bay Beach, as a "as is" sale, and look to reap the profits of it someday, soon hopefully.
- That's a long motion.
- I assume the first half is the motion, and the second half is your endorsement.
- Comment.
- Okay, so we have a motion, and is there a second?
- I'm a salesman.
- Second.
- Perfect, and a second by Alder Eck. Those in favor?
- [Alders] Aye.
- Opposed? Motion carried.
- Sorry.
- No, you're good. Unless you want that all in there. We can put that all in there.
- Had everything else on there, all the repairs, so.
- We're on to informational, staff update on the Green Bay Park greenway encroachment initiative.
- So the reason I put this on as informational and not an action item is all of the approvals went through last fall, and there's really nothing left to approve. So when this was brought before the Park Committee and City Council, one thing I mentioned at Park Committee is before we send out any letters, we would notify the Park Committee and City Council which properties we were gonna focus on, just so that everyone was on the same page and there were no surprise calls as far as what was happening. So that's why it's informational. So one thing I did include in the agenda packet is the final approved policy, and you'll see in there that there's a bullet point which is highlighted in red. So whatever is written in black is what was approved at Park Committee. What's ever highlighted in red was brought up at Council as an amendment to the policy and an add-on. So at Council they did add that one bullet point, which in essence added another 30 days of notification to the public before we start actually enforcing the encroachment. Then the other thing that I wanted you to be aware of, which we talked about at the time is that, you know, this is such an extensive process. We have such a large park system that we simply can't enforce everything all at once unless we added an additional staff to the Park Department just for this one item. So what we're gonna try and do is enforce this with the staff that we currently have, which means we're gonna have to do this in phases over multiple years. So what I did is I put together four maps, which I included in the agenda packet, which highlights what

we feel needs to be our first priorities for where we would start this initiative. And so just in summary, we have the entire Beaver Dam Creek greenway, we have the entire Ellis Creek greenway, and then we have just a portion of the Bear Creek greenway, where the Bear Creek Preserve property is. The reason we focused on those instead of other properties was because, as we looked at the air photos, those are really some of the higher encroachment issues that we're seeing just from the air photos. So we wanted to, you know, make an impact in these greenways. We wanted to focus on greenways first, because there's waterways involved, there's flooding concerns. So it's not just an issue of trespassing on city property, it's also an issue of they're building things and mowing turf in a natural greenway where we really want natural plantings to occur, to soak that water in, so that, you know, if you have little bridges going over the creek, we want those removed so that that's one additional area where it could be a flooding hazard in the future. So we wanted to focus our priorities on these long thin greenways with waterway going through it. And we also wanted to kind of be even between east side and west side. So that's how we came up with the list. We did pick the Baird Creek Preserve neighborhood as a specific location to select because we've had concerns in the last two years or so with residents complaining about people encroaching in the greenway. It's a fairly new subdivision, so we wanted to keep that under control before it got out of control, and the fact that we're getting residents complaining about it, we felt that it warranted a high enough priority to make that a top pick for 2023. So I have already emailed the maps and the policy to the affected alders. There are four districts that are affected by these maps. All four alders received an email from me with the maps and notifying them that letters are gonna be sent out soon. So we are expecting the first round of letters to go out in the next one to two weeks. And per the policy we're really only enforcing this in the mowing times, so that's why it didn't go out during the winter months, because we couldn't inspect if people were mowing, 'cause it was covered with snow. So that's why the letters are now going out in April. So, like I said, it's informational, because everything's already been included, but I'd be happy to answer any questions.

- Alder Eck.

- Two out of four maps are in my district, so that's fun. I wanted to know, you mentioned at Baird Creek they were getting complaints. Are you getting complaints over on Beaver Dam? Just so I kind of have an idea.

- What we're getting complaints on is not really encroachment issues. We're getting more complaints about flooding issues, and concerns with stuff being over the creek, whether it's a tree or a bridge or whatever. People are concerned that that creek is gonna back up, and it's such a narrow greenway that there's just not a lot of room for that water to go other than people's yards.

- Okay. Thank you.

- So, and we are seeing a lot of encroachment issues in that greenway when you look at the air photo, where people are mowing literally right up to the water's edge.

- Okay. Thank you.

- Any other questions?

- Just real quick. How many properties roughly were we looking at over time? I mean, there's quite a few.

- Yeah, over time it's every park and every greenway. So we have, what, 66 parks and 13 greenways?

- Loaded question.

- I got a few hours in the morning.

- Well, right now he's focusing on these.

- For now we'll focus on these. If these go well and we finish these up, I'll come back to you later on in the year with additional ones. But there's also a possibility we might not get to these. So even in a week or two, we're not going to send a letter to everybody in these four maps. We're gonna maybe pick two of the maps and start with those, and then later on the summer, maybe do the other two as time goes on.

- When you say you have complaints, is it one neighbor versus the other neighbor down the block saying, "Well, they get to do it. How come I don't get to do it?" I mean, is that some of it too?

- Well, in the particular instance, I mean, every complaint is different, but in the particular instance at the Baird Creek Preserve, there is a resident who is seeing it happen, and they don't want to do it. They just don't want it done at all. They know the benefits of the greenway and having it remain a natural area instead of a manicured lawn, and they want to keep it that way because it's public property. So it's not that they're trying to get approval for themselves. They're not saying, "Well, if they're doing it, why can't I?" They're saying, "They're doing it, and nobody should be doing it." So, in that particular instance.

- All right. Okay, I'll entertain a motion, I just have to receive and place on file, I believe. There's no action on this one.

- Correct.

- Are we gonna see you out there with mosquito netting and the hiking boots and the hiking stick?

- You'll see some park employee

- I'd pay to see that.

- Others getting letters.

- Motion to receive and place on file.

- Second.

- Motion by Alder Steuer, second by Alder Eck to receive and place on file. Those in favor?

- [Alders] Aye.

- Opposed? Motion carried. Director's part.

- Just a couple of quick things here. So, you know, with the new snow, with the snow that just all melted, we are getting a lot of complaints in the parks about standing water in the parks. We're getting complaints where people who live adjacent to parks, their sump pumps are running constantly. This is a complaint we get year after year. You know, a lot of times it's easy to blame a park for some of the drainage issues on your own property, but I just want you to all be aware that if you get these complaints, feel free to pass 'em our way. I'd be happy to help you out with, you know, talking through some of those complaints with the neighbors. But the other thing is, you know, you might also get people who want to just be in the parks right away. We have a lot, spring is our busiest time. I mean, we have to get our athletic fields up and running. We have to get Bay Beach up and running. Sanctuary turns into a full, you know, we open longer hours. We have to get tennis court nets up. There's just a lot of things we have to do in the spring, and so we can't get to it all as quickly as people would like to see it done. So we're doing the best we can, but that's another complaint we get regularly every spring is we just can't get to it quick enough. But we are moving ahead. And then the other thing I want to let you know is we have a couple construction projects, which are gonna start in the next few weeks. One is the Perkins Ball Field will be under construction in the next few weeks. We have also the East River Trail from Main to Webster, along with the canoe kayak launch. That will be under construction in the next few

weeks. And then the third project is the Optimist group, or the Little League group is building a concession stand with restrooms at Finger Road Ball Field Complex. We've been talking about that one for years. It's finally gonna kick off construction, probably in the next week or so. So that's everything I wanted to mention.

- Colburn, the new fields are gonna be fully used this summer, and I haven't heard any complaints about drainage, so.

- Yeah, I mean, those fields are all rented and booked, so.

- You haven't had any drainage complaints?

- We have received no complaints since we installed it.

- Staffing?

- If I had to guess,

- All about Colburn.

- Just for information.

- Information on staffing. Have the wages and efforts paid off in the areas?

- They have. We're seeing a lot more hires right now. I know in every division we're doing much better than last year. And even Conservation Core, which wasn't even part of that assessment for salary, they're almost fully staffed, and we have, I think, 15, what, over 20 employees in that program, and it's already almost fully staffed, so.

- Motion to receive and place on file.

- Motion to receive and place on file by Alder Eck.

- Second.

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

- [Alders] Aye.

- Opposed? Motion carried. Next meeting, April 26th. All right.

- Motion to adjourn.

- Motion to adjourn, Alder Eck.

- Second.

- Second by Alder Steuer. Discussion on that? Those in favor?

- [Alders] Aye.

- Opposed? Motion carried. I dunno if you can...

- Well, that was like as fast as you can say it. Leave meeting. Yes.

- You should hear Andy when he does his. Right?
- Did you say Randy or Andy?
- Andy.