



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Pool Committee

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

6:30 PM

5th Floor Conference Room-City Hall

Approved at January 11th, 2017 meeting.

Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Barb Janssen, Elaine Anderson, Jim Webb, Kate Escher, Jeaniene Serrano, Carl Miller, Emily Farmer, Joel Dettwiler, Rich Pein, Jay Odegaard-City of La Crosse.

Discussion and Approval of Minutes - November 22, 2016

Minutes approved with amendment to strike comments in regards to Steve Carlyon's requesting information from the City of Rochester and the City did not make any commitment of \$80,000 for a study. Comments stricken by Mr. Dettwiler and minutes were approved.

Agenda Items:

A. Wisconsin Open Meeting Law refresher by City Staff.

Concern was raised by an anonymous member of the La Crosse City Council in regards to the discussions of the Pool Committee.

Discussion on the consequences of the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws.

Discussion on who is privy to the meeting minutes information.

"Reply All" resulting in a discussion amongst members can be considered a quorum and at that point an open meeting.

Ms. Janssen raised the concern that a party not in the committee raised anonymous concerns.

Mr. Webb clarified that public officials must operate under the rules established and respond to all complaints registered.

Difference between public officials and public employees – quorum level discussion is still not allowed.

Ultimately the city is responsible for the actions of the committee.

Ms. Janssen raised the question of the number of people included on the email chain is concerning. She does not feel that the original email needs to be CC to the Parks Department.

Mr. Odegaard said the original email can go to him and Kerry Gloede.

All correspondence should go through the Chair- Mr. Webb first and in his absence through Jay Odegaard-City of La Crosse.

B. Discussion regarding conflict of interests and the City Code of Ethics.

Citing of the Code of Ethics in regards to being a public official – Chapter 2, Article 5.

Understanding that you are a public official.

Public complaints can be filed against you.

Section 2-131 – Conduct and Section 2-132 - Disclosure.

Section on gifts and gratuities.

Committee is responsible to know and abide by this code of ethics.

C. Receipt and Discussion of correspondence from Mayor Kabat and Council Member President-Richard Swantz.

Reading of, Letter of Direction from the Mayor by Mr. Webb.

Motion to authorize public hearing by Mr. Janssen, second Ms. Escher. Motion passed. Meeting opens to the floor. Mr. Sciammas speaks on summary of discussions with the Mayor in regards to the direction of the committee.

Mr. Webb speaks on his conversation with Mayor Kabat. The ultimate goal is to present more than one option to the Park Board. Burbach is required by contract to study three sites. The Memorial Pool site is to be studied first. We need to build consensus and we have not started that process.

Ms. Escher-Focus on one thing is one of the committee's issues.

Mr. Odegaard-Believes that the committee is to bring a recommendation for the Memorial Pool site and then a recommendation for other sites.

Ms. Serrano-The cost of the project behooves us to look at more than one option.

Ms. Janssen-Looking at the Memorial Pool site and other sites would be our best path.
Looking at 4 options should not be too much to ask.

Mr. Pein-Comments on solutions as possibilities. Question of the timeline of construction on any solutions.

Mr. Miller-Outdoor and Indoor solution.

Mr. Dettwiler-Collaboration of options and solutions.

- D. Presentation of September 2016 Memorial Pool public opinion survey results by John Kovari, PHD, University of Wisconsin La Crosse.

Presentation of Survey Results – Mr. Kovari.

PowerPoint presentation of Key Findings accompanied by written report.

Points by Mr. Kovari: GENA neighborhood was over sampled to insure representation.

Professional fact checking by Mr. Kovari's mentor in Milwaukee. Key Findings presented

1. Satisfaction 64% with swimming options in La Crosse, 49% are concerned with Memorial Pool closing. Concern varies by location when city is divided into 4 different quadrants.

Statistically Significant numbers (not necessarily visually significant).

2. Memorial Pool used much more than people in other areas of La Crosse. Most popular swimming options are the beaches. Memorial Pool is considered an exercise centric facility by respondents.

a. Mr. Pein asked about numbers of patrons at each pool.

b. Ms. Janssen pointed out the cold temperature of the Memorial Pool

3. Support for replacement of the Pool – 71.4% would like to replace Memorial Pool with something. 51% support replacement at its current location.

4. Other Capital Improvement projects in the City of the La Crosse. Ranking of each type of amenity. Feedback on the survey reflected poorly on the question that related to this subject.

a. Mr. Webb noted that the financial scope of the project is not within the responsibility of the committee

b. Public had questions in regards to placing the pool against other Capital Improvements being difficult to digest.

5. Aquatics Center

a. 1 in 5 preferred the Aquatics center option.

b. 71% think it's important to collaborate with other stakeholders.

c. Mr. Kovari stated he thinks the data shows that there is a lot of support for an aquatics center. Also that the data is conflicting and for the committee to decipher.

Data from the survey has been shared with the La Crosse Parks Department and with Mr. Sciammas.

- E. Refer to Park Board the October 14, 2016 ISG (Issac Sports Group LLC.) facility evaluation, programming and option analysis report.

Mr. Odegaard asked Mr. Sciammas who wrote the Memorial Pool Report. Mr. Sciammas-Stu Isaac was the author of the ISG Report. The report needs to go to the City of La Crosse Finance & Purchase Committee. In order to go to F&P the report needs to go before the La Crosse Park Board Commission. Suggestion to refer to the Park Board Commission.

Ms. Janssen makes motion to submit the ISG Report to the Park Board Commission, second by Ms. Escher. Motion passed (Park Board Commission Meeting will be mid January).

- F. Discussion of committee work time line.

Mr. Webb-Communication with Burbach via email, list of 18 items that Burbach wants to accomplish (Burbach Contract), and first 5 items would be the most achievable at the next meeting

1. Review examples of possible facilities. 2. Discuss list of wants and needs. 3. Discuss possible project locations. 4. Review demand. 5. Discuss Indoor vs. Outdoor Pro's vs. Cons.

Mr. Sciammas-Timeline is a concern for the construction and opening of the pool.

Mr. Dettwiler-Can we dictate to Burbach what we need to have accomplished?

Mr. Miller makes motion to refer to Burbach for a committee work timeline for the next meeting, second by Mr. Pein. Motion passed. Ms. Janssen opposes.

- G. Establish next meeting agenda items.

Mr. Webb-Raises the point that Burbach does not have the data needed to provide the committee with solutions requested. Primary meeting is needed to allow Burbach the opportunity to get the information needed. The same information can be used for all options once it is gathered. Start with Memorial Pool and move to the other options and Burbach would be looking for other site options from the committee.

Mr. Odegaard-Suggested to split the projects into two distinct projects (Memorial Pool & Aquatic Center).

Ms. Janssen-List of items in the contract that Burbach was to get accomplished. Progress report and holding Burbach accountable for list of items and Survey was done to find the needs and desires of the community.

Ms. Serrano-Burbach was most likely ready for some items to be presented.

Mr. Odegaard-Hard to decide what type of pool we want and then what location. Program attendance at specific locations, paying at the door at specific locations. City does not have a count of the number of people each day.

Mr. Dettwiler-Asked Mr. Odegaard in regards to numbers for the pools in La Crosse for programs.

Agenda items can be requested by the committee. Burbach will have items for the meeting base on communication with Mr. Webb.

H. Set next meeting date: Wednesday, January 11th at 6:30 pm.

Adjournment-Mr. Pein moved to adjourn, second by Ms. Escher. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org, with as much advance notice as possible.