



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Board of Park Commissioners

Thursday, June 21, 2018

5:30 PM

Black River Beach Neighborhood Center
1433 Rose Street
La Crosse WI 54603

Approved at the July 19, 2018 Park Board Meeting.

Call to Order

Present: 8 - Paul Medinger, Mark Terpstra, Marvin Wanders, Jim Webb, Eileen Kirsch, Todd Olson, Ashley Skoczynski, Jacqueline Marcou

Excused: 1 - Sandy Cleary

Approval of May 29, 2018 Park Board Minutes.

Agenda Items:

[18-0895](#)

Jordan Briskey - Approval of Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Veteran's Freedom Park.

A motion was made by Skoczynski, seconded by Kirsch, that this General Item be APPROVED . The motion carried by voice vote.

[18-0896](#)

Community Initiative of La Crosse Memorial Pool - Approval to raise funds to restore and rebuild the La Crosse Memorial Pool.

A motion was made by Marcou, seconded by Kirsch, that this General Item be APPROVED . The motion carried by voice vote.

[18-0898](#)

Mayo Clinic - Approval to use City parks for research study to better understand the medical needs of the Homeless in the La Crosse community.

A motion was made by Skoczynski, seconded by Marcou, that this General Item be APPROVED . The motion carried by voice vote.

[18-0899](#)

Coulee Region Humane Society, Inc. - Approval to use Veteran's Freedom Park for "Chewy's Rescue Ride" benefit on August 4, 2018.

A motion was made by Marcou, seconded by Skoczynski, that this General Item be APPROVED . The motion carried by voice vote.

[18-0901](#)

Sean Price-WI Army National Guard - Request to use Pettibone or Black River Beach in July for a fun day to provide information to any individual that may have questions regarding the Army National Guard.

A motion was made by Wanders, seconded by Kirsch, that this General Item be APPROVED . The motion carried by voice vote.

[18-0902](#)

Mark Von Ruden - Request for trees to be taken down at 1500 Mississippi Street due to them raising the sidewalk.

A motion was made by Wanders, seconded by Kirsch, that this General Item be REFERRED WITH DIRECTION to the Board of Public Works, due back by 7/19/2018. The motion carried by voice vote. Trees were noted to be healthy.

[18-0903](#)

Director - Discussion Burns Park.

Numerous people spoke with strong concerns about the following things that have been happening in Burns Park: There were over 90 calls to the Police Department relating to this specific park. Concerns included that people were using the park for a toilet, sleeping over night, drinking, using drugs, disorderly conduct, fighting and there was thought to be some human trafficking in the park. The park was a good place to study, families spent time there and schools had picnics there after visiting the library; however, people are not using the park anymore due to the list of concerns above.

Several people spoke about how groups such as the Homeless Coalition, neighborhood groups and Police Department Community Officers are trying to improve the park along with the Parks and Recreation Department asking for funds in the 2019 CIP budget for improvements to the park. People are trying to respect diversity and dignity in the park for everyone but it takes time. Suggestions on revamping the park were to add playground equipment, art projects, landscaping improvements, possibly adding some type of programming there for youth or more community activities.

[18-0906](#)

La Crosse Boat Harbor Neighborhood - Discussion regarding La Crosse Municipal Harbor.

Dennis Smalley spoke on behalf of the La Crosse Municipal Harbor Neighborhood group, along with many other slip holders. Discussion was focused on a listing of positive and negative attributes that slip holders from the harbor put together, including some possible solutions. Attached is a copy of the positive and negative attributes submitted to the Park Board. The group also had questions relating to the overall vision for the harbor and questions about Rick Clemment's business located next to the harbor. Due to unresolved legal issues, the Parks and Recreation Department could not comment on anything related to Mr. Clemment's business. It was suggested Park Board Members take a tour of the La Crosse Municipal Harbor. It was noted that a Public Hearing would be set up within three weeks addressing concerns the Harbor group had and the Parks and Recreation Department would follow up on concerns/issues within the department's control.

[18-0904](#)

Ashley Winkelpleck - Request rescinding Exclusion of Entry to City of La Crosse Parks reference Police report #10-18-26924 on 6-10-18.

A motion was made by Terpstra, seconded by Skoczynski, that this General Item be APPROVED . The motion carried by voice vote.

[18-0907](#)

Director - Approval of License Agreement for La Crosse Boathouse/Houseboat Owner.

A motion was made by Wanders, seconded by Terpstra, that the General Item be APPROVED . The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Medinger, Terpstra, Wanders, Kirsch, Skoczynski

No: 3 - Webb, Olson, Marcou

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

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.