

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012**

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of the August 1, 2012 Minutes**
- 3. Replacing bench at Willett Arena with Concrete Memorial Bench in honor of Joe Zuniga (Central WI Saints Jr Hockey)**
- 4. Director's Report**
- 5. Adjournment**

1. Roll Call

Present: Freckmann, Glodosky, Hall, McDonald, Okonek, Ald. O'Meara, Ald. Slowinski, Ald. Wiza
Excused: Bahling
Absent: Sorenson, West
Also Present: Director Tom Schrader, Betty Bruski Mallek, Chris Wiza, Mike Grote

2. Approval of the August 1, 2012 Minutes

Motion was made by Wiza, seconded by Hall, to approve the August 1, 2012 minutes and place them on file.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

3. Replacing bench at Willett Arena with Concrete Memorial Bench in honor of Joe Zuniga (Central WI Saints Jr Hockey)

Director Schrader introduced Mike Grote to the Commissioners and stated he could answer any of their questions. The Commissioners agreed that this bench would be a great tribute in honor of Joe. Director Schrader stated that staff recommends that the new bench replace the existing one in the same location.

Motion was made by O'Meara, seconded by McDonald, to approve the request of the Central Wisconsin Saints Junior Hockey to replace the existing bench at the Willett with a concrete memorial bench in honor of Joe Zuniga.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

4. Director's Report

Director Schrader reported:

- The Forestry Department had First Choice Tree Care inject 10 large city American Elms to prevent Dutch Elm Disease
- 67 Dutch elm notices have been issued to private residences and 9 locations on city property are being addressed
- 32 Oak wilt notices have been issued
- Work continues on sign/visibility issues from trees on public and private land
- Bike path from Clark Street bridge to Bukolt Boat Landing has been root-pruned to alleviate heaving by tree roots
- Goerke tennis courts have been crack filled
- Dredging was done at Iverson river under bridges
- The paving of the road into Iverson Park should be completed Thursday
- Softball season finished at Zenoff Park
- Willett Arena opens September 15th
- Basketball registration started in September for league games

5. Adjournment

Motion was made by Wiza, seconded by Hall to adjourn at 6:41 p.m.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

Bench Proposal for Joe Zuniga Memorial at the KB Willett Arena



**Proposed by:
Mike Grote
Central Wisconsin Saints Junior Hockey
Joe Zuniga Memorial Fund
PO Box 391
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715-252-7350
hockey@vaandwi.com**

The Goal:

Donate a memorial bench for Joe Zuniga to be placed by the Minnesota Avenue entrance to the KB Willett Arena.

The Person:

Joe Zuniga, Founder of the Central Wisconsin Saints, was involved with hockey since the mid Seventies. His introduction to hockey began in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, when his wife Diane, got their young sons involved in the sport. Joe's interest and love of the game quickly became his passion as he became involved as a coach and then Director of the Squirt Program. He also was involved in rebuilding the White Bear Lake Hippodrome, which allowed young families to watch their children play hockey in a covered area, instead of an outside rink.

After moving to Michigan, Joe was involved as one of the leading forces in starting a new hockey organization known as the Kentwood Hockey and Skating Association. It became apparent that the organization needed an indoor facility so Joe and other individuals spearheaded the building of the Kentwood Ice Arena. The ice facility is the only ice arena built on public school property in the State of Michigan. Joe achieved his level 4 with the American Hockey Association of the United States.

Joe and his family moved to Stevens Point, Wisconsin in 1986 with a job transfer with Sentry Insurance. He became involved with the local hockey organization. After a few years he felt there was a need to make hockey available to all children regardless of their financial status or ability and found an opportunity to begin a new Hockey Organization. He applied for a grant from the National Hockey Players Association. With many volunteers who put in countless hours and with the help of the community, the NHLPA Goals and Dreams Arena became a reality in November of 2000. For the next 10 years many children have been given the opportunity to learn and play hockey.

Joe was awarded the Green Bay Packers' Community Quarterback award in 2008. Funded by the Green Bay Packers and NFL Charities, the Community Quarterback Award recognizes outstanding volunteers within the state of Wisconsin. Non-profit organizations nominated outstanding volunteers who demonstrate leadership, dedication and a commitment to bettering their communities through volunteerism.

The Central Wisconsin Saints Junior Hockey team was founded in 2009 and has played at the KB Willett Arena since then. In 2011, the Saints and the KB Willett Arena hosted the leagues championship series, called the Lakes Cup. In those years, the team has brought over 100 young adult members into the community with the goals of advancing to Tier I & Tier II Hockey teams or to the collegiate ranks.

Joe tragically passed away in July 2012, leaving us all too soon. But Joe's wife, Diane, has dedicated herself to running the team in his memory.

Online memorials and Facebook comments from can only being to provide an understanding of what Joe did for the youth and the community.

The Bench:

A solid concrete bench will be purchased from Wausau Tile by the Central Wisconsin Saints Joe Zuniga Memorial Fund. The anticipated cost of the Bench will be ~\$1,500. Wausau Tile bench TF5065 is 84" long by 24" wide and 36" high. It will be made with a blue weatherstone glass base. This style is sold at a 30% upcharge due to its use of recycled glass.



There are three options for personalizing the bench. Please see the attached photo for samples. They are:



Style A - A plaque on the back of the bench



Style C - The team logo on the back of the bench with a memorial statement engraved into the bench and filled with an epoxy on the front of the seat of the bench.



Style B - The team logo on the back of the bench with a memorial statement engraved into the bench and filled with an epoxy on the back of the bench.

The family and I propose Style C with the message as written. However, we would insure the wording would meet any guidelines or restrictions the city and Parks Department would suggest.

The Location:

Currently there is an old modest bench to the left of the doors at the Minnesota Avenue entrance. I am proposing this bench can replace that bench or they both can remain. I am leaving this to the discretion of the KB Willett Arena staff, the Parks Department and the committee. I have attached photos of the current layout and a few proposed options.



Current Bench and Location



Replacing the bench next to the doors.



Placing the bench on the other side.

The Rules:

Looking over the “Public Park and Facility Naming Policy”, I have highlighted several areas that I think pertain to this request. They are:

- **Objectives and Goals – “purposeful, suitable, symbolic”-** There is no better place to put a tribute to a man that gave everything for the sport of hockey than in front of the hockey rink his team played and practiced at.
- **Objectives and Goals – “not be for a living person”-** As we mentioned, Joe passed suddenly on 7/12/2012 due to an accident and the young age of 67.
- **Objectives and Goals – “actively involved in giving unselfishly of himself for the betterment of the community”-** Joe gave of himself in every community he lived, making hockey affordable for all. The memorials given by the community state repeatedly that he gave unselfishly of himself. Being awarded the Green Bay Packer Quarterback Award in 2008 depicts the recognition that other prominent organizations could see in Joe.
- **Selection Criteria – “a local organization, business or group” –** The Central Wisconsin Saints are one of the primary tenants of the KB Willett arena, generating tens of thousands of dollars per year in revenue for the city of Stevens Point.
- **Selection Criteria – “one who has made a major contribution to the community” –** Again, to the work and devotion Joe has shown to make hockey affordable in Stevens Point.
- **Selection Criteria – “Person’s Name” –** He was a large donor (ice rental and/or the purchase of the bench), local hero (as attested to in the memorials) and local individual (residing in the area since 1986 and touching the youths of Stevens Point hockey community since then).
- **Other Naming Alternatives – “will be allowed under stated classifications and criteria when donations result in a substantial contribution to the proposed facility” –** The Central Wisconsin Saints Joe Zuniga Memorial Fund will cover 100% of the purchase and delivery costs. This is a gift to the city and the hockey rink from for a man that could not stop giving of himself.
- **Use of Plaques and Markers – “blend with and complement the existing” –** We agree to work with the city to come to an agreement on an appropriate message and display on the bench.
- **Use of Plaques and Markers – “written maintenance agreement”-** The Saints will agree to maintain the plaque or team logo in case of vandalism or wear. The team would also request the right to relocate the bench (perhaps to private property) in the event the KB Willett is no longer used as an ice hockey facility or at any other time, at the agreement of both parties.