

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2013**

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Approval of the July 3, 2013 Minutes**
3. **Naming Riverfront Arts Center "The Annette and Dale Schuh Riverfront Arts Center"**
4. **Director's Report**
5. **Adjournment**

Roll Call

Present: Freckmann, Glodosky, Hall, McDonald, Ald. O'Meara, West, Ald. Slowinski, Sorenson, Ald. Wiza

Excused: Bahling, Okonek

Absent:

Also Present: Director Tom Schrader, Betty Bruski Mallek, Chris Wiza and Comptroller/Treasurer Corey Ladick

2. Approval of the July 3, 2013 Minutes

Motion by Ald. O'Meara, seconded by Hall, to approve the July 3, 2013 minutes and place them on file.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

3. Naming Riverfront Arts Center "The Annette and Dale Schuh Riverfront Arts Center"

Director Schrader informed the Park Commissioners that the City was approached by Sentry Insurance for a way to honor Dale Schuh in his retirement from Sentry with an "arts related" donation in the Schuh's name. Suggested to Sentry were the Arts Center and the Sculpture Park. The Sentry Board selected the Arts Center. The Sentry donation of \$35,000.00 was made to honor Dale Schuh in conjunction with his retirement from Sentry Insurance since the Schuhs are big supporters of the arts with Annette being an artist along with their son Owen. Annette has displayed her work at the Center and the Schuhs have been very supportive with the fundraisers for the Arts Center. The City's Public Park and Facility Naming Policy will be followed with this request for naming of the Arts Center. If we move forward with this request as the policy states a public notice of the name change will be published twice during a 60 day period in the City's official newspaper. In December the Commission will review the comments received and then officially name the Arts Center. Sentry Insurance will work with the City in changing over the signage for the Arts Center. Some of the money may be used for improvements but the majority will be set aside into an endowment account. Nancy Thorson, Director at the Arts Center suggested a few improvements that could be made with the donation but agreed the primary use of the donation would be to establish an endowment to pay for exhibits at the Arts Center. The City could build on this endowment with donations.

Ald. Wiza asked if the donation was exclusive for the Arts Center and Director Schrader stated yes it was exclusive for the Arts Center and that the Arts Center will be working with the Schuhs on the endowment plans.

Motion by Glodosky, seconded by Wiza to approve the recommendation to change the name of the Riverfront Arts Center to "The Annette and Dale Schuh Riverfront Arts Center".

Comptroller Treasurer Ladick stated he needs to point out that this account has a negative \$41,269.00 according to his records. If we're going to use this money for other things, for an endowment or improvements how is this going to get covered? He doesn't like to stare at red ink and knows it's tough to make a profit at the Arts Center.

Ald. Wiza asked about the Arts Center's budget and how did it fall into a negative balance. Director Schrader stated its part of the room tax account of the City budget.

Comptroller Treasurer stated basically it happens because expenditures exceed revenues and it's been negative for a number of years.

Ald. Wiza asked what the annual budget of the Arts Center is and Director Schrader stated about \$75,000.00. It ran into the negative for a while because we had to pay for health insurance for the employee at the Arts Center and it was never budgeted. The current employee does not need health insurance. We're gradually coming out of the hole now. Through room tax we had 5 percent that was set aside for endowment and 5 per cent set aside for grants. We have not been using the grant money. We used to allocate out \$12,500.00 in grants and doesn't know how they are accounting for this money against the losses.

Sorensen asked if this deficit in the account precludes us from taking action on this gift. Director Schrader stated no, it doesn't.

Ald. O'Meara stated this is something for the Council to review at budget time and it's not unusual to show a negative balance.

Director Schrader stated he hoped that with these new changes on how we will be looking at the budget, the Council and the Comptroller take a close look at all departments because a lot of services are offered that don't make money or break even. Public service is part of the quality of life.

Comptroller Treasurer Ladick stated that there is another department that he is very focused in on that is continually running a negative balance. We need to budget for these deficits and regarding this case it looks like we can re-allocate some room tax money to some extent.

Ald. Wiza asked Comptroller Ladick to look at the deficit for the last 6 to 10 years and see if we're catching up on the deficit or is it going the other way. The Council can work with this if we're catching up and if not then the Comptroller and the Mayor need to work something out with the Council at budget time.

Commissioner Freckmann stated he hopes something can be done about this deficit by the Council because it's bad public relations and will discourage donations if we have to use part of this donation to pay for the deficit.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

4. Director's Report

Director Schrader reported:

- Regarding Emerald Ash Borer, it has been found in 2 locations outside of the Southeastern counties. One in Lake Delton of Sauk County and one in Superior of Douglas County. And being budget time, requests were made based upon the recommendations from the EAB Management Plan
- An intern from UWSP is currently estimating the amount of ash on private lands in the City
- Ellis Street Construction monitoring is continuing. Due to the lack of room on this project, the contractor has found working around the trees more challenging with few options. Tree planting will take place in Spring
- Dutch elm disease was relatively high this summer probably because of last year's drought. Over 140 notices were sent out condemning diseased trees. The Forestry department has hired first Choice Tree Care to treat 13 American elm street trees
- 18 playground sets are inspected monthly. Three slide sections needed to be replaced. The replacements at KASH caused by vandalism were covered under warranty
- Root pruning and inspection took place as part of the City's sidewalk replacement program. City tree roots could possibly be attributed to about 18 per cent of all sidewalk replacement this year, not 90 per cent that someone reported in another committee meeting
- The months of July and August were dry and required more tree and flower watering
- Compressors were started at the rink yesterday and Willett will open on September 14th
- Spud Bowl is this weekend
- Riverfront Rendezvous is scheduled for July 3, 4, 5, 2014. Fireworks on Saturday the 5th of July

Motion by Ald. Wiza, seconded by Ald. Slowinski to approve and place on file the Director's Report.

Ayes all, Nays none; Motion carried.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ald. Wiza to adjourn at 6:48 p.m.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.