

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2016**

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of the April 6, 2016 Minutes**
- 3. Request to host/close Crosby Avenue for Gus Macker Basketball Tournament September 9-11, 2016**
- 4. Emerald Ash Borer update**
- 5. Election of Officers**
- 6. Director's report**
- 7. Enter into closed session under Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) (deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session) for discussion of a potential purchase of additional park land.**
- 8. Adjournment**

1. Roll Call

Present: Freckmann, Glodosky, Hall, Kirsch, Ald. McComb, Okonek, Ald. Slowinski, Sorenson, Smith
Excused: McDonald, Ald. Oberstadt,
Also Present: Director Tom Schrader, Betty Bruski Mallek, Ald. Duggan

Acting President Okonek stated that Sue Hall would like to make an announcement. Sue Hall invited everyone to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day this Saturday, May 7th starting at 8:00 a.m. at Iverson Park sponsored by the Audubon Society.

2. Approval of the April 6, 2016 Minutes

Motion by Hall, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the April 6, 2016 minutes and place them on file.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

3. Request to host/close Crosby Avenue for Gus Macker Basketball Tournament September 9-11, 2016

Director Schrader referred to the Special Events application for the Gus Macker Basketball Tournament attached to the agenda for review by the Commissioners. Their application will be going to the Public Protection Committee for the street closing.

Motion by Glodosky, seconded by Freckmann to approve the request to host the Gus Macker Basketball Tournament September 9-11, 2015 and request to close Crosby Avenue for the tournament.

Ayes all, Nays none; Motion carried.

4. Emerald Ash Borer update

Director Schrader reported that Emerald ash borer bug is here in the City of Stevens Point. We've started the program adopted by the Common Council in July 2015 which is Option 2 for addressing Emerald ash borer management alternatives. There is no option to stop it so all we can do now is deal with it. We do have time-- we won't see the real effects for another 5-8 years when we'll see the massive die off trees. Currently there are 853 ash trees in the City street right-of-ways and 325 in city parks. Option 2 would call for the treatment of 551 ash trees in city right-of-ways and the removal of 302 ash trees in the right of ways. In addition, the option would recommend the removal of 325 ash trees located in city parks by staff/contractor as time permits. Option 2 treatment cost would be approximately \$20,880.00 annually. The 551 trees will be treated differently depending on their size: the 225 trees between 7"- 12" in diameter will be treated annually through a soil

injection. The cost is \$2.50/diameter inch X est. diameter 10" x 225 equals \$5,625.00 and the 226 trees which are 12" in diameter will be treated half the trees every year through direct injection. The cost is \$7.50/diameter inch X estimated diameter 18" X 113 equals \$15,255.00.

The cost comparison of removing a tree versus treating trees was discussed. The cost to remove a 12" tree is estimated at a cost of about \$210.00 and then to replace it with a 1.5" tree replacement with watering and pruning cost will be about \$385.00 for a total of \$600.00. Treating a 12" tree with soil injection is estimated to cost about \$300.00 annually for a 10 year period. Treating a 12" tree with direct injection is estimated to cost about \$450.00 every other year for 10 years. These costs do not take into account inflation or the benefits lost by removing a tree.

Commissioner Freckmann asked what effect this will have on the Parks, Recreation and Forestry budget. Director Schrader stated when the Common Council approved Option 2 last July, \$450,000.00 was set aside out of the reserve fund. This money is for tree removal and replanting. We didn't put any money in the operating budget because we didn't think it would happen this fast. He'll be asking Finance Committee next Monday for the \$20,000.00 to come out of contingency to treat the trees this summer. Seventy five trees in the downtown area have already been treated with the drench and we'll be trying the injections next. It was explained to us that the soil drench works better in spring and fall but not in summer because of the way it is absorbed.

Director Schrader stated that 5 or 6 more trees have been found in the Center Street area with the Emerald Ash borer. We've been getting information out on the web and Channel 3 regarding treatment of trees. We have already removed 75 green and white ash trees. These 75 trees have been replaced with 21 different species of trees. Ash currently make up 11.4% of our street trees. A common goal now is to keep any genus to 10% or less. We're getting closer.

Commissioner Smith stated he's read of some kind of chemical or pheromone to inject into trees to draw more of the emerald ash borer to it as a target tree and then remove it. Could we try something like this? A couple of tree companies are coming in next week to discuss treatments. On line we are cautioning residents to go to a licensed arborists for treatment. Also see if the licensed arborists will warrantee their treatments so that if the tree dies the arborist will take it down and also replant the ash tree replacement.

Any of the 302 right-of-way trees to be removed, can be treated by a private landowner at their own expense if they choose to try and keep the tree. We'll be establishing a program that a resident can follow through our department. This was a suggestion from Ald. McComb last month.

5. Election of Officers

Sue Hall nominated John Okonek for President of the Commission and Mike Glodosky as Vice President. Sorenson seconded the nominations and a unanimous vote was cast for both President and Vice President of the Commission.

Ayes all, Nays none; Motion carried.

6. Director's report

Director Shrader reported

- Parks are officially open
- The first handicap accessible fishing pier is in at Bukolt Park which was built by the Prime Water Anglers. They will continue to install others piers in this area.
- Pool opens Saturday, June 4th
- Little League and Adult Softball have started
- Grass cutting has started, no seasonal employees yet. Have been concentrating on the athletic fields at this time.

- Westside boardwalk is complete near Jackson School. Wisconsin Conservation Corp rebuilt it—approximately 200 feet increasing it from 5.5 feet in width to 8 feet. Green Circle paid \$11,000.00 towards the cost and the remaining \$3,000.00 was taken out our Parkland dedication account.
- Sculpture Park grand opening is June 11th. In the process of putting in 5 new sculptures.
- Mead shelter is open. We're just finishing the stone work on the columns.
- Pfiffner restroom/shelter still working on it. Waiting on state approved plumbing plans. If it gets too late we may not bid the construction of it until January 2017.

7. Enter into closed session under Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) (deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session) for discussion of a potential purchase of additional park land.

Motion by Ald. Slowinski, seconded by Sorenson to adjourn into closed session under Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) (deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session) for discussion of a potential purchase of additional park land.

**Roll Call: Ayes: Freckmann, Glodosky, Hall, Kirsch, McComb, Okonek, Slowinski, Smith, Sorenson.
Nays: None. Motion carried.**

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ald. Slowinski, seconded by Sorenson, to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried, 7:10 p.m.