

**MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2016**

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Approval of the June 1, 2016 Minutes**
3. **Request to name former WI Central Limited Railroad Land along Wisconsin River (adjacent to Edgewater Manor) after Rear Admiral Albert Weston Grant. (Portage County Historical Society)**
4. **Request to have Event in Park after 11:00 pm closing time (Point of Discovery School)**
5. **Update on property in Bukolt Park (no action required)**
6. **Director's report**
7. **Adjournment**

1. **Roll Call**

Present: Freckmann, Glodosky, Hall, Ald. McComb, McDonald, Ald. Oberstadt, Okonek, Ald. Slowinski, Smith

Excused: Kirsch, Sorenson

Also Present: Director Tom Schrader, Jen Zach

2. **Approval of the June 1, 2016 Minutes**

**Motion by Hall, seconded by Ald. Oberstadt, to approve the June 1, 2016 minutes and place them on file.**

**Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.**

3. **Request to name former WI Central Limited Railroad Land along Wisconsin River (adjacent to Edgewater Manor) after Rear Admiral Albert Weston Grant. (Portage County Historical Society)**

Director Schrader referred to the information in the meeting packet regarding information on Rear Admiral Albert Weston Grant. The Portage County Historical Society is requesting to name the park parcel that currently is not named along the Wisconsin River. The parcel was purchased from the Wisconsin Central Limited Railroad a number of years ago for developing the Green Circle. This particular park was chosen because of its location on the river. The park being located on the river ties very well into what Admiral Grant did most of life that is command military fleets. He was also an instructor at the naval Academy, authored a book that was used at the academy and had a Fletcher class destroyer named in his honor. The Historical Society will work with us in developing the appropriate sign/signage for the park.

**Motion by Glodosky, seconded by Ald. Oberstadt, to approve the proposed recommendation to name the former Wisconsin Central Limited Railroad land along the Wisconsin River (adjacent to Edgewater Manor) after Rear Admiral Albert Weston Grant.**

**Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.**

4. **Request to have Event in Park after 11:00 pm closing time (Point of Discovery School)**

Director Schrader introduced Jen Zach from the Point of Discovery School who could provide information on this request. Jen Zach explained that this will be fundraising run with the proceeds being used for professional development for staff. It will be a family event with a 1 mile run at 9:00 p.m. and the 5K run starts at midnight. Because the parks close at 11:00 p.m. she's here asking for a variance to have the run at midnight and be in the parks after 11:00 p.m.

Sue Hall asked why a night run and Jen explained they wanted to something "unusual" being the Point of Discovery School. Doing something different will attract people which will help their fundraising efforts.

Liz McDonald asked about lighting along the trails. Jen explained volunteers along the trail will have lights and there is lighting in the park too. Runners will be wearing reflective gear.

**Motion by Ald. Oberstadt, seconded by Smith, to approve the request to allow Point of Discovery School to hold a Run in the Park after 11:00 p.m. on October 22, 2016.**

**Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.**

**5. Update on property in Bukolt Park (no action required)**

Director Schrader distributed a copy of the settlement agreement to the Commissioners. He explained this is the former Kulas property and the current owner never had the property surveyed before he purchased it. After he purchased it he did have it surveyed and found out that the driveway and garage were actually on city property. After numerous meetings with our attorney and their attorney our city attorney Logan Beverage advised the City to settle the claim in order to avoid the costs of litigation. This settlement agreement has been to Plan Commission and was approved at the Plan Commission. In exchange for the 14 feet by 130 foot parcel from the City, the property owner will make a \$20,000.00 donation to the City.

Director Schrader suggested that this item be pulled at the Council meeting and a motion made that the Council place this money in the account that was created when ATC donated \$10,000.00 for the powerline work done in Bukolt Park. The account was established for Bukolt Park improvements. Money has been used for the fishing pier and some will be used for bleachers at the skatepark. If this donation is accepted it should be placed in this account and used for improvements at Bukolt Park.

Regarding the Rachick property the Common Council voted not to proceed with this property purchase.

**6. Director's report**

Director Schrader reported

- Director Schrader referred to the Capital Improvements listing that was submitted for consideration. Items presented needed to be prioritized by departments. On page 2 carpet replacement for the Parks and Rec building is listed as priority #4 and the broadcast spreader is listed as priority #3. As you can see the carpeting here in the Parks and Recreation building is worn and needs replacing, our current broadcast spreader is on its last legs. Priority item #5 are the bathrooms at Iverson Park next to the ball diamond. We are in the process of checking to see if one of the stone buildings along Hy 66 in Iverson Park could be moved and re-purposed for the bathrooms. These are stone buildings used for storage at the moment. Re-purposing an existing building may be cheaper than building from scratch. On the next page the priority #RT 1 is room tax money for new batteries for the Zamboni. Priority #7 is replacing the last section of deck chairs at the pool. Priority #1 is re-roofing the Bukolt Park Lodge. Priority #6 is replacing the irrigation system at Pfiffner Park which is shallow and leaks. A slit seeder is priority #8 and is used for slit seeding medians with irrigation. Priority #2 is a Comprehensive Park Plan. Our plan expired last year and we have always done them for the last 20-25 years. The City is having a comp plan done for the entire city and this was the quote for them to do it for the parks. It might be nice for an outside firm to do the rec plan for the City. We might get a different perspective with an outside firm doing it.

Liz McDonald asked if we'll have access to room tax money for the Zamboni batteries. Director Schrader stated yes for repairs this year only. After this year it will be up to the new tourism committee. Money set aside before for major improvements like the Willett refrigeration is shifted to other accounts for these improvements. The committee will start with new money after January 1, 2017.

Mike Glodosky asked about the makeup of the new tourism committee. Director Schrader stated that it is made up of 5 members and that President Okonek is one of the members.

Liz McDonald asked if there will be a transition from the old way of allocating money to the new way under the new rules. Will the new tourism committee be given historical documents and will there be some indoctrination for these new members so they understand the importance of this money and the role it has played in the community.

Director Schrader stated Comptroller has asked him to provide him with a list of all the projects and the philosophy of the last five long range plans. Director Schrader provided him with the breakdown of the 65/15/10/10 percent for funding and arts endowment.

- The Forestry department has injected 133 ash trees to date. This fall they will start with the soil drench. 12 trees were injected on Clark Street by Sentry Insurance.
- Vandals are removing the name plaques off of the tree memorials at Mead, Bukolt and Pfiffner so they have been taken down. We are going to try recessing the names on the plaques.
- We have wood chipped all of the playgrounds that needed woodchips.
- Baseball and softball is pretty much finished for the season
- Football is starting this week with the semi-pro game at Goerke and high school football will start in about 2 weeks

Liz McDonald asked if anything can be done to treat the large elm trees on private property. Some of them are gorgeous and should be preserved. Director Schrader stated that we try to educate property owners on the treatment vs. the cost of removing them after they get DED because a lot of the trees are in the back yards and hard to get at when it time to remove them.

Sue Hall asked if the entire portion of the small dog park could be mowed instead of just cutting strips in it.

Ald. Oberstadt showed a picture of the new swing at Morton Park that someone sent to her. What a great addition to the park.

Commissioners thanked Director Schrader and parks employees for another successful RiverFront Rendezvous this year. Director Schrader stated he'll pass along the compliments to employees.

## **6. Adjournment**

**Motion by Ald. Oberstadt, seconded by Glodosky, to adjourn the meeting.**

**Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried, 6:55 p.m.**