

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Wednesday, December 6, 2017

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Approval of the November 1, 2017 Minutes**
3. **Phase 2 Expansion of Skateboard Park**
4. **Establishing Boat Launch Fees (discussion only)**
5. **Director's Report**
6. **Adjournment**

1. **Roll Call**

Present: Freckmann, Glodosky, Hall, Kirsch, McDonald, Okonek, Sorenson

Excused: Ald. McComb, Ald. Oberstadt, Ald. Slowinski, Smith

Also Present: Director Tom Schrader, David Skrzeczkoski, Warren Rudy, Matt Lazarski, Dennis Church, Jan Nelson, John Pearson, John Yang, Dillon Tutton, David Tutton, Jason Wendt, Tyler Dunn, Robert Sheahan

2. **Approval of the November 1, 2017 Minutes**

Motion by Glodosky, seconded by Hall, to approve the November 1, 2017 minutes and place them on file.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

3. **Phase 2 Expansion of Skateboard Park**

Director Schrader asked John Pearson to come up to the podium to address the commissioners. John Pearson stated that the skate park was built 7 years ago with the help of the Park Board and planned to do the Phase 2 at the same time but funding efforts fell short for Phase 2. The original skate board park was designed by a renowned company in Canada, the build team was from California and the general contracting firm was from the Fox Valley. They all were high end productions and now we have an excellent quality skate park. So now they would like to continue and build Phase 2. He has reached out to a few local builders and suppliers and has come up with an estimate for Phase 2 expansion. The professional skateboard builder's original estimate for Phase 2 was \$168,000.00 but using local professional builders it is 1/5 of that cost coming in at \$29,700.00. They would be raising this money themselves through events and from private sources by outreach to past donors, as well as partnering with new members and organizations interested in contributing to this vision of advancing the Park's current facilities.

John Pearson explained that Phase 2 will consist of a "natural terrain" theme which can be found at local schools, banks and businesses and would appeal to the natural attraction those elements hold for skateboarders. What will make this skate park different from other parks with this expansion is that we will integrate a public park to the skate park by adding a wall feature which will have a mural done by Alexander Landerman, a local skateboarder. The metal fabrication would be done by Dustin Gwidt and we're looking at a 3D central sculpture.

The size of the expansion would be just under 4,000 square feet and be 100 by 35 feet with the bottom edge by the river side being a little longer to accommodate meeting up with the existing park.

President Okonek stated he was involved with the initial skateboard planning and the decision where it should be placed. It's worked out well by being in Bukolt Park. It's a good thing added to the community. He wished them well with Phase 2.

Commissioner Hall thanked John for being fiscally responsible by looking for local businesses to construct the addition and by getting the local artist talent from SPASH.

Commissioner Sorenson asked about the timeline for building. John Pearson stated as soon as permission is granted to go ahead with the project they will begin fundraising.

Motion by Glodosky, seconded by Sorenson to approve the request for the expansion of the skate board park with Phase 2 concept, bring back to the Commission a final design for approval and to proceed with the fundraising efforts.

Ayes all, nays none; motion carried.

Commissioner McDonald stated that this skateboard park has brought in visitors into Stevens Point and has been well received in our community and outside of our community. It is a great addition to our parks and she is looking forward the completion of Phase 2.

4. Establishing Boat Launch Fees (discussion only)

Warren Rudy representing the 12 Apostle Club stated objections to the boat launch fees on behalf of his club. They voted in December to oppose the boat launch fees because they are the only ones being taxed unfairly when others walking, biking and picnicking don't pay any park fees. Their group does a lot of community service and they don't feel paying the boat launch fees will improve the area they would be entitled to use. The parking area is a swamp and paying fees doesn't guarantee them parking. He knows the boat launch fees are coming just because other municipalities are charging them but they want the money collected to be used for the ramps and improving the parking area. He would like to be assured a designated area big enough to hold vehicles and trailers for the boats. There should also be some restrictions so that other users in the park don't infringe upon their parking area when other events are going on in the park and parking is limited.

President Okonek stated that tonight this is being brought up for discussion only. No action will be taken.

Dennis Church the President of Prime Water Anglers stated they are not against the boat launch fees but only want the fees to stay and be used for boat launch items. Prime Water Anglers designed, built and installed the fishing pods in the Bukolt lagoon area. They built the boat launches in Portage County and Stevens Point. They raised funds for lighting and piers and ask that any fees raised through the boat launch fees stay in a separate account and be only used for the boat launches.

Director Schrader referred to the letter from the boat club stating the same concerns as expressed already about the fees staying in an account to pay for boat launch improvements.

Warren Rudy questioned who will police the cars and trailers to see that everyone pays the launch fees or to see if they have a sticker to use the launch. How about kayaks, canoes and jet skis being launched. Will they be required to pay the launch fees? Director Schrader stated these are all good questions and we'll be looking into how other communities deal with the alternative watercrafts. This is only discussion tonight.

Matt Lazarski asked about the launch fees shown in the example of Marathon County. Marathon County has a boat launch fee but doesn't show that Wausau has one and so does Rothschild. Portage County has a boat launch fee already so in addition Stevens Point will have one, maybe Whiting and Plover will too. So what it amounts to is that boaters would have to pay at every launch in the County. Also asked what benefits the Wells Point marina renters are getting for their rent payments for the last 10 years or so. Director Schrader stated that the boat slips are maintained and repaired as necessary.

Commissioner Hall thanked the groups for donating time and help for youth activities. They do a tremendous job. She wishes it could be put out in the media so everyone would pick up on all of the good that is being done by these groups for young people.

Commissioner Glodosky stated that times have changed and we pay fees for a lot of recreational uses because budgets are getting tighter and tighter. He feels the fees paid at the boat launches should be kept in a designated account.

Commissioner McDonald thanked the organizations for all of their contributions that have been made. Nothing would be accomplished without community efforts and involvement. Money was raised and donations made for the Willett Arena and the skate park. Without community involvement in fundraising and donations made we wouldn't have these facilities.

Dave Skrzeczkoski asked how the boat launches will be monitored for payment of the fees. Some locations are monitored very closely and others are not.

President Okonek thanked everyone for coming out tonight and expressing their thoughts to the Park Commissioners. Where do we go from here? Do we form a sub-committee?

Commissioner Freckmann asked how much money has been spent on the piers. Director Schrader stated the cost is minimal but recently \$800.00 was spent for the stone placed in Bukolt. The rolling piers were installed after we received the \$10,000.00 donation from ATC after they cut the lines and trees. The work was all volunteer work. The rubber bumpers are replaced often because they keep getting stolen and that is our main expense.

Jan Nelson stated the cost of the 4 fishing pods in Bukolt costed about \$35,000.00 and was donated over the last 2 years along with use of donated equipment and donated time.

Commissioner Sorenson asked how many man hours went into all of this work. Financial contribution is one thing but time and effort is a consideration and what would this have costed the City to do this work. Jan Nelson estimated cost per pod of labor time is 100 hours.

Commissioner Glodosky suggested that maybe the clubs that have provided services not be charged and get stickers to use. The ball diamond leagues provide a service and are not charged to use the ball diamonds. Maybe this should be a consideration in the fees for the boat launch.

Commissioner Kirsch stated maybe a plan for improvement should be prepared for the boat launches.

Motion by McDonald, seconded by Hall to establish a sub-committee to review the boat launch fee issue and come back with a recommendation to this Commission about whether or not fees should be charged and if consideration should be given to the service organizations.

Ayes all, nays none; motion carried.

5. Director's report

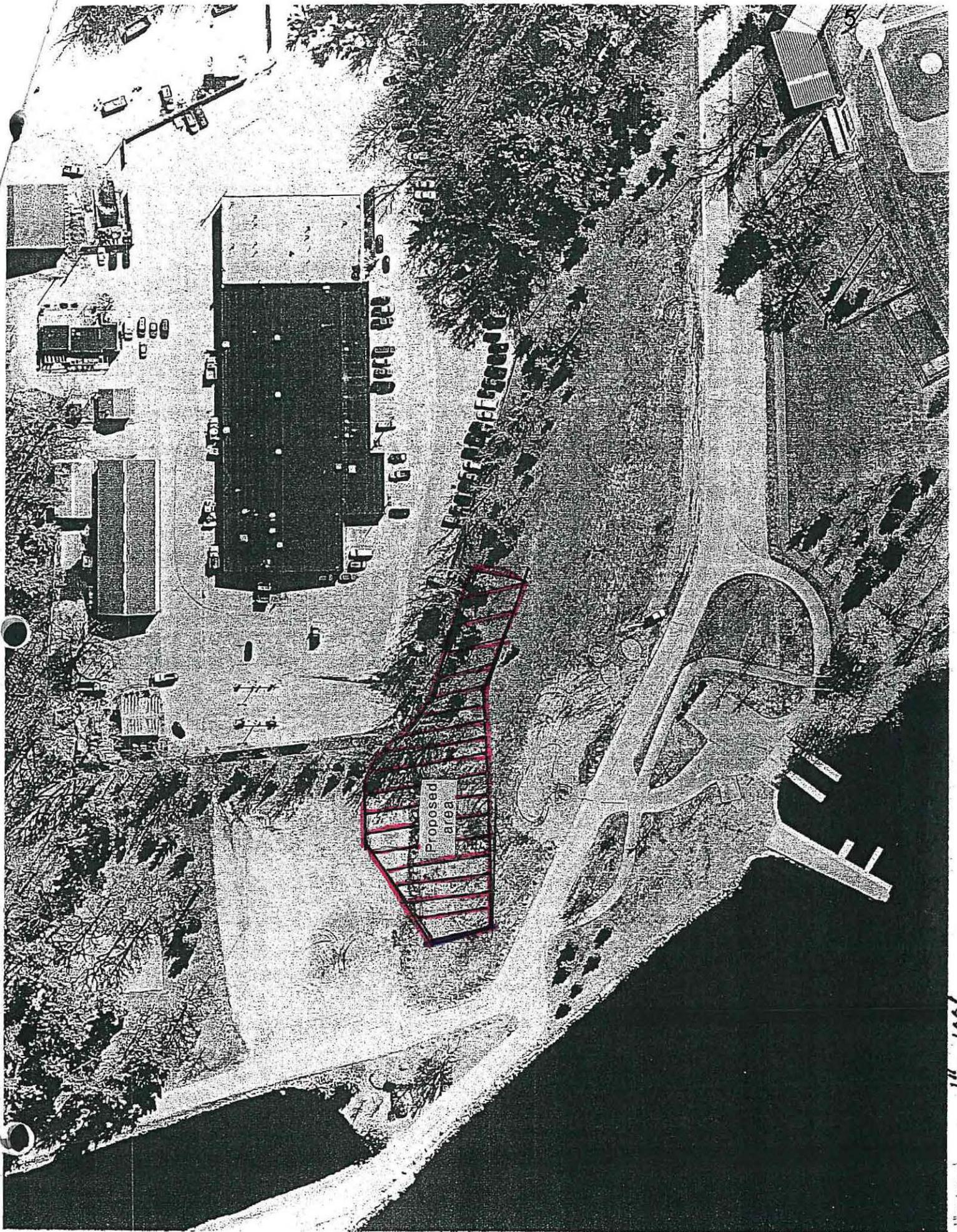
- WPS donated \$3000.00 to be put towards park tree planting due to the storm in June.
- 550 ash street trees have been selected to be treated and removal of the remaining street ash trees will be completed by 2019
- The Spring 2018 planting list is being compiled and the majority of the trees have been ordered
- Planting is focusing on trees lost in June's storm and replacing pending ash tree removals.
- Oak wilt diseased trees are being removed at the Yulga Disc Gulf area
- A Tourism Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 11th to review the 2018 funding requests

6. Adjournment

Motion by Hall, seconded by Sorenson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.





Proposed area

10-1007