

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Wednesday, March 7, 2018**

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Approval of the January 3, 2018 Minutes**
3. **Proposed addition to City Garage**
4. **Sub-Committees recommendation not to initiate Boat Launch Fees**
5. **Update on Willett Arena upgrades**
6. **Director's Report**
7. **Adjournment**

1. **Roll Call**

Present: Freckmann, Glodosky, Hall, Ald. McComb, McDonald, Ald. Oberstadt, Okonek, Ald. Slowinski,
Excused: Kirsch, Smith, Sorenson
Also Present: Director Tom Schrader, Warren Rudy

2. **Approval of the January 3, 2018 Minutes**

Motion by Hall, seconded by Glodosky, to approve the January 3, 2018 minutes and place them on file.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

3. **Proposed addition to City Garage**

Director Schrader referred to the agenda notes stating that the Committee working on developing a new City Hall met with the Director of Public Works as to space needs in the new City Hall and the Director of Public Works stated he felt it would be better if his office was closer to his staff at the City Garage instead of in City Hall. Currently he is with his engineering staff located in City Hall and the Streets Department staff is located in the City Garage. The Board of Public Works committee voted to have Bray and Associates look at the possibility of adding onto the existing City Garage for the Director of Public Works to move to the City Garage. At this point the City Hall Committee is just looking at the possibility.

Seeing that the City Garage is located in a park and is mentioned in the Comprehensive Outdoor Park Plan to review for relocation the Parks Commission will need to make a recommendation whether to approve or deny the proposed addition.

Commissioner Glodosky asked if they add onto the existing garage how much longer do they plan to stay in Bukolt Park. Director Schrader stated that we've been trying for the last 25 years to move the City Garage out of the park and with this proposed addition it will prolong them staying there. Glodosky feels this is not an ideal place for the City Garage.

Commissioner McDonald stated in the Comprehensive Outdoor Park Plan it calls for the removal of the City Garage from the park. She feels the City has missed out by not obtaining the two properties that became available for purchase as directed in the Comprehensive Outdoor Park Plan. Both of those properties could be added to the park for expansion of the parks. We need to draw the line somewhere here and adhere to the Comprehensive Park Plan. We need to look at the long term needs of the Community not just the short term needs. What attracts people coming to our community is the parks system and we need to protect them long term.

The Portage County Gazette had an editorial against the expansion of the City Garage in Bukolt Park and in the Journal Tom Brown, a constituent of the 4th district where the park is located wrote an open letter against the expansion at the City Garage and urged residents to lobby to have the Garage moved out of the park.

Commissioner Freckmann stated the Park Board is an advocate of parks and as such we need to look long term to protect the parks for the citizens of Stevens Point. It's a beautiful park along the Wisconsin River and placing the City Garage there was a mistake.

Commissioner Oberstadt stated when she ran for alderperson of the 4th district she had questioned what the plans were if we had a catastrophic failure with the salt storage shed being close to the water. She is in favor of moving the garage out of Bukolt Park but also trying to anticipate the budget scenario of building a new city hall and a city garage at the same time. Looking at the long term plan of having the Director of Public Works in the New City Hall until the city garage can be moved out of the park and then the Director of Public Works can be moved into the new City garage.

Commissioner Slowinski agrees with the statements of Commissioner Oberstadt when she says to move the Director of Public Works into the New City Hall until the City garage can be moved out of the park. By adding more concrete at the City garage at this time it will only make it harder to move it in the future.

Commissioner McComb agrees with her colleagues and looking at the long term view moving the Director of Public Works to the City Garage is not a priority with everything else that is going on. She is not in favor of adding onto the garage because if the addition takes place we might as well say it'll be the city garage forever.

Commissioner Freckmann moved, seconded by Commissioner Glodosky to reject the proposed addition to the City Garage.

Ayes all, nays none; motion carried.

4. Sub-Committee's recommendation not to initiate Boat Launch Fees

Director Schrader reported that the sub-committee met back in December to study the idea of establishing boat launch fees in the city and now recommends that we do not implement boat launch fees at this time especially since many of the clubs and organizations work with the city to make improvements to the launches through funding and labor. At some point we may need to look at this again.

Commissioner Oberstadt stated she has had correspondence from these groups in support of this recommendation being made tonight.

Commissioner McComb stated that she brought this item forward upon the request of a constituent in her ward. She feels the City should be charging a fee, money is short and she recommends we initiate a fee for the boat launches. She wonders how many boat launch users are members of these organizations. She supports boat launch fees.

Commissioner McDonald feels that we'll need to be looking at this again. She wonders if we could get a university student to survey the boat launch users over the summer to see who uses it and if they are residents or non-residents. She respects the work of the sub-committee and will support their recommendation.

Commissioner Glodosky supports the City partnering with these groups to keep costs down for the City. He is in favor of not charging boat launch fees at this time.

Commissioner Hall was on the sub-committee and she was unaware of everything the organizations were doing with their own resources for the boat launches. She appreciates all of their work they are doing at this time.

Commissioner Oberstadt moved seconded by Commissioner Slowinski to approve the sub-committee's recommendation not to initiate boat launch fees at this time.

Ayes; majority, nays: Commissioner McComb; motion carried.

Warren Rudy representing the 12 Apostles Musky Club thanked the Commissioners for their support in not charging launch fees.

5. Update on Willett Arena upgrades

Director Schrader referred to the memo he distributed tonight regarding the repairs to the Willett Arena. We need to start the process of replacing the 35 plus year old concrete floor and its entire refrigeration system/mechanicals and R-22 Direct refrigeration system with a new Indirect glycol refrigeration system for two reasons. First, the piping in the floor is failing and secondly, the R-22 refrigerant we currently use is being phased out starting on January 1, 2020. In addition, again due to their age, we also need to look at replacing the boards and glass around the arena at this time.

There is over 10 miles of piping in the concrete floor that the refrigerant flows through to freeze the floor. Sections of this piping have been failing (leaking) since 1983. The costs to repair these pipes started out relatively low, however, over the past years the amount of pipes failing has increased, along with the costs to repair them. Over the past several years our repair costs have been in the \$60,000.0 to \$80,000.00 per year range. Because of the age and the amount of failure we are having it is no longer wise to continue repairing them.

We sent out Requests for Proposals on January 11 and received three proposals. The three were from: Stevens Ice Rink engineers, Hudson, WI; CJL Engineering, Pittsburgh, PA and McKinstry, Madison, WI. The Facility Supervisor, Assistant Facility Supervisor, Director Beduhn and I evaluated the proposals on the following:

- Quality, completeness and clarity of proposal
- Consultant's understanding of the project
- Consultant's technical approach to the project
- Pertinent experience and qualifications of the team
- Consultant's proposed schedule
- Number of visits to the site

Our recommendation to the Finance Committee would be to hire Stevens Ice Rink Engineers out of Hudson, WI to evaluate the rink and see what we can reuse to bring down the costs. Stevens Ice Rink has designed over 230 rinks in the United States. Locally they did a rink in Eau Claire and one in Madison. All their references checked out. With the new equipment and lighting we should be saving 10-15,000.00 per year in energy savings.

6. Director's report

Director Schrader reported

- Winter Sports area is closed for the season. With the snow now we'll open the gate and let people in to sled
- The Ice Snow is scheduled for April 7 with shows at 2 and 7 and on April 8 at 2:00
- Working with the McDill Association to trim some of the trees out of the channel

7. Adjournment

Motion by Ald. Oberstadt, seconded by Hall, to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.