

Menasha aldermen occasionally attend meetings of this body. It is possible that a quorum of Common Council, Board of Public Works, Administration Committee, Personnel Committee may be attending this meeting. (No official action of any of those bodies will be taken).

**CITY OF MENASHA
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
Menasha Library, Company E Room
440 First Street, Menasha**

May 13, 2013

6:00 PM

AGENDA

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL/EXCUSED ABSENCES
- C. MINUTES TO APPROVE
 - 1. [Minutes of the April 8, 2013 Park Board Meeting](#)
- D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER RELATED TO CITY PARKS AND RECREATION
 - Five (5) minute time limit for each person
- E. COMMUNICATION
 - 1. [E-mail from Laurie Spiegel](#)
- F. REPORT OF DEPARTMENT HEAD/STAFF/OR CONSULTANTS
 - 1. Department Report – PRD Tungate
 - 2. Park, Pool and Vandalism Report – PS Maas
- G. DISCUSSION
 - 1. Park System Garbage Can Policy
 - 2. Pool Study and Jefferson Park/Neighborhood Planning
 - 3. Pickelball Court in Smith Park
 - 4. [Site Visit to New Park off Tana Lane \(approx. 7:00 PM\)](#)
 - a. Preliminary Public Access into the Park
- H. ACTION ITEMS
 - 1. None
- I. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER LISTED ON THE AGENDA
 - Five (5) minute time limit for each person
- J. ADJOURNMENT

CITY OF MENASHA
Parks and Recreation Board
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor City Hall – 140 Main Street
April 8, 2013
DRAFT MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chr. Dick Sturm at 6:05 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL/EXCUSED ABSENCES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chr. Dick Sturm, Lisa Hopwood, Cindy Schaefer-Kemps, Ald. Kevin Benner, Luke Schiller, Sue Pawlowski

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Nancy Barker

OTHERS PRESENT: PRD Tungate, PS Maas, Mayor Don Merkes, Tom Marshall- Friends of Menasha Pool

C. MINUTES TO APPROVE

1. **Minutes of the March 11, 2013 Park Board Meeting**

Moved by S. Pawlowski seconded by Ald. K. Benner to approve the March 11, 2013 Park Board minutes. Motion carried.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM OF CONCERN ON THIS AGENDA

Five (5) minute time limit for each person.

No one spoke.

E. COMMUNICATION

1. **Correspondence from Jack Fry – 318 Willow Lane**

The Board reviewed Jack Fry's letter which indicated a willingness from a group of volunteer nature professionals to do an evaluation and enhancement recommendations for the Conservancy. The Board supported this offer. Members are invited to an onsite meeting on May 15, 9:00 a.m. at the Conservancy.

F. REPORT OF DEPARTMENT HEADS/STAFF/ OR CONSULTANTS

1. **Department Report – PRD Tungate**

PRD Tungate reported that a significant amount of his time has been devoted to preparing a grant application for the Gilbert site. Assembling the staffs for summer recreation and the pool is also proceeding. The department had representation at the Kids Activity Fair held on March 23 at the Boys' and Girl' Brigade

2. **Park, Pool and Vandalism Report – PS Maas**

PS Maas reported on the retirement of Steve Griesbach and the short and long term plans to replace this position. Ball diamond prep has begun. Pool chemicals and consultation will be provided at the pool for this season by Carrico Aquatics. They are well respected in the pool industry. April 26 will be the Arbor Day ceremony starting at 9:00 a.m. at the UW-Fox Valley Children's Center.

G. DISCUSSION

1. Pool Analysis/Future Options (draft document available at meeting) – PRD Tungate, PS Maas

PRD Tungate and PS Mass covered the information contained within a draft pool study prepared by Water Technologies Inc. The current condition of the pool and three possible alternatives for the pool were described. Staff indicated that this was the start of a long, slow process to determine what the community ultimately wants to do with its swimming pool. It was pointed out that it makes sense to begin now because while the pool is not in critical condition, something should be done within the next five years. The Board focused their discussion less on some of the nice amenities that a new or renovated pool could offer, but more on the process of engaging the public to truly find out what they want. It was suggested that the city may wish to follow a similar path that the School District followed with the high school renovation. This would include some sort of valid community survey and defined strategy to listen to the thoughts of many different user groups - from seniors to young children and everyone in between. Staff is planning to meet with the project consulting firm that assisted the School District to see if there would be benefits in working with such a group. Lastly, if a survey was to be developed it would include Jefferson Park and the surrounding neighborhood and likely incorporate the information from the current Water Technology study. Staff is working on a date for a public (workshop) presentation on the pool study to be held at the Menasha Library.

2. Gilbert Site Plan/Grant Update – PRD Tungate

PRD Tungate explained the progress being made on the grant application for this site. A preliminary landscape plan was explained to the Board. Final site plans will be available if the grant is successful.

3. New Neighborhood Park Planning

PRD Tungate explained that the closing on the land for the new park should take place later in April. Staff has had discussions with Thomas Dunbar, who is a retired landscape architect with many years of park planning experience, who has offered to assist in planning for the new park. Much of the planning can be done in house, but there could be some matters that Mr. Dunbar could assist with. Staff is formulating plans to create a “bubble” map that would show some proposed locations of specific park amenities or features that the Board, the public and others could weigh in on. The “bubbles” on the map would correspond with a sample photograph or rendering of, for example, playground equipment. Staff and the Board seemed to be in general agreement that the park would take on a nature based type of theme. Once the weather improves, staff will visit the property and begin to create the referenced concept map.

H. ACTION ITEMS

1. PFD Station – Memorandum of Understanding Between City of Menasha and U.S. Coast Guard (updated copy may be available at meeting)

Motion by L. Hopwood, seconded by S. Pawlowski to approve the installation of the PFD Station at the Jefferson Park boating landing while forwarding the MOU for final approval by CA Captain.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER LISTED ON THE AGENDA

Five (5) minute time limit for each person

Tom Marshall from the Pool Friends group spoke supportively about how the Board is handling the pool study. The Pool Friends is ready to support the Board and City in any way possible to ensure a positive future for the pool.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by S. Pawlowski, seconded by L. Hopwood, to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. Motion carried.

Brian Tungate

From: Brian Tungate
Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2013 10:30 AM
To: 'Laurie'
Subject: RE: Time to clean up the name MenTRASHA!

Laurie:

Boat slip garbage picked up mid-morning today. Can should not have been placed in the same spot where the litter occurred and will be moved.

We have found the vast majority of people will not simply throw litter on the ground. We have cans by our main facilities like shelters and ball diamonds (all of them are not out yet) so it's not like we don't have any cans in our parks. If you care to share your feelings on this issue with our Park Board, they meet the second Monday of each month a 6:00 pm. Thanks again for bringing this to our attention. I believe this more of an aberration than a regular occurrence in Jefferson Park.

From: Laurie [mailto:lspiegel@new.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2013 10:08 AM
To: Mark Radtke; Greg M. Keil; vmoss@ci.menasha.wi.us; Don Merkes; Brian Tungate; Timothy Jacobson
Subject: Time to clean up the name MenTRASHA!

Brian,

Thank you for being the only person to take the time to return an email or call. I just want to set things straight. The garbage over by the rented boat slip fence area was there still this morning and happened from this weekend when there was roughly 6-8 vehicles of younger adults parked over there hanging out, having whatever "fun" they were having, they did leave a big mess and it is still there.

So I would like to ask if that's the case on this garbage can policy, why 2 hours later was the garbage picked up and then a can placed there at the exact site then? There is an ongoing issue that needs to be addressed and consider changes being made to benefit this community.

Just because something is mirrored doesn't mean it is efficient and works. The problem I have with mirroring things the state parks are using is the distances between land and water for state parks versus this park in question. There is so little distance so when the wind blows it will end up in our waterways so maybe this should be revisited and thought of the whole picture which I don't see. Where is there any signage telling people to pack up what they bring in and take it out? Baseball diamonds and kids and you expect no litter? Swimming pools and pavilions and you want people to bring their own garbage cans for their celebrations? Fishing and boat ramps you think people are all going to be responsible and not throw something on the ground when it would be so much easier to have a garbage can where they could and would walk over to throw it in proper place? Where is the logical thinking process in all of this? As a mother of 5 children I am thinking someone fell down and bumped their head when they thought all kids would even contemplating taking and putting garbage in their pockets and taking it home.

Again something that needs to be revisited and maybe follow up data, real actual raw data that affects OUR community, not the stuff you read about on paper!

Thank you again for taking the time and we will discuss this more real soon I hope!

Laurie Spiegel
Operations Manager
Beckman Properties
(920)968-6000 Office
(920)470-2245 Cell

From: Brian Tungate [mailto:btungate@ci.menasha.wi.us]
Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2013 9:48 AM
To: 'Laurie'; Mark Radtke; Greg M. Keil; vmoss@ci.menasha.wi.us; Don Merkes; Timothy Jacobson
Cc: Vince Maas; Kevin Benner
Subject: RE: Time to clean up the name MenTRASHA!

Laurie: thanks for bringing this to our attention. It was unfortunate that a picnic group chose to leave all their litter behind. This is a very rare occurrence. Many years ago we adopted a garbage can policy that mirrors what is being done in our State park system (and followed by many counties and cities). This "pack out what you pack in" policy has generally worked very well. It has saved a substantial amount of time for our crew as they try to meet the challenges of maintaining our entire system with fewer people than we had in years past. Some of your other photos appear to be trash that had blown in with the leaves near a fence line. Spring usually uncovers a lot of litter (i.e. note the State highway system) I believe all the litter in the photos has been picked up. We will continue to do the best we can to pick up all litter in a timely fashion.

From: Laurie [mailto:lspiegel@new.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2013 8:47 PM
To: Mark Radtke; Greg M. Keil; vmoss@ci.menasha.wi.us; Don Merkes; Brian Tungate; Timothy Jacobson
Subject: Time to clean up the name MenTRASHA!

Good morning everyone,

Attached to this email is pictures from 7:37 am this morning.

I am writing in regards to the sadness I encounter every single day while living here in the city I myself and my family grew up in our whole lives.

It saddens me but makes me sick that this community has succumbed to the name of Mentrasha (yes we have all heard the name before) but yet still very little seems to be done to fix it, now that time has got to stop and we need to bring beautification projects to Menasha and bring this city back to where it once was! I am not saying it is going to be easy but there is such a need for it before the rental rate in Menasha inches higher and higher then the huge amounts right now. That rental rate plays a big part in why we are having this problem where no one takes pride in ownership and lets things go down hill fast leaving decaying buildings, trash everywhere, crimes, and vacant homes.

Let me start out by saying this, my profession is Real Estate agent. I have been in the real estate business for 10 years and I want each of you to know that Menasha is one of the toughest sells we as agents have in the Fox Valley, lets ask ourselves "why this is?"

We all know the higher taxes played a big part in that nature of the beast and yes solutions are in place to try and fix that situation slowly but surely. What we need to stop is investors buying up houses here to rent them out because there is such a big market for that here. Again another story and time. I could go on and on about problems that have plagued us over the years but that's not what this email is about.

Every morning I drop my daughter off at the high school and on my way home I drive through Jefferson Park to look out at the lake and park I remember as a child growing up in. What is sickening is the fact that it has garbage strewn everywhere throughout the park, and if you look there is NOT one single garbage can in that park. Someone please answer me why that is? I am a tax payer and would like to know where my tax payer dollars are going and why me as a tax payer are continuing at no fault of my own to pollute the rivers and lakes. We are all guilty of pollution when we see this travesty and do nothing about it. My grandfather worked for the city almost his whole life and I don't ever remember a time where there we not garbage cans in the parks. Who thought this was a good idea? I cant believe anyone would go along with this idea either.

I remember talking to Mayor Merkes about this and he said it was because some people would bring their home garbage to the cans and so it was an easy solution to take the garbage cans out of a park that is used constantly? I am sorry but that is the dumbest thing I have heard of in my life. Remove cans where conscientious responsible people will take the time and dispose of garbage correctly and give in to the few irresponsible ones? Did any of you drive through the park on Saturday at all? I know I did several times and there must've been at least 200 people in the park between noon and 4 pm the times I drove through. Where do you suppose all of that garbage went? Even half of that garbage? Lets hope not in our rivers and lakes but we are all smart enough to know that's where they will end up!

So now as a tax payer I get to pay for removal of garbage cans and the ease of using automated garbage truck and save money to lower taxes some day, to instead pay city workers to walk through the parks who knows when at \$15+ an hour times 2-3 guys for several hours? Not sure this is a cost effective solution for a few extra so called bags of garbage that can be easily removed with the automated system. Me as a woman, the handler of money and budgets in the household, the one who does all of the shopping and such doesn't seem to think this is saving anybody money at all. If you look at the photos attached and the picnic areas not having a garbage cans, all the garbage left could have been diverted by a simple plastic can don't you think? Lets think with our heads and do what is right. Why have a recycling program within the city if we can have a system in place to stop pollution into rivers, lakes, and safe drinking water for future generations.

I wanted to make all of you aware of this persistent problem and hopefully time has come for a change and we truly fight for the city we love and live in before its too late and it turns into a LANDFILL!

Laurie Spiegel
Operations Manager
Beckman Properties
(920)968-6000 Office
(920)470-2245 Cell
(920)243-1744 Fax

As a local governmental entity, the City of Menasha is subject to Wisconsin statutes relating to open records. Any e-mail received by anyone at the City of Menasha, as well as any e-mail sent by someone from the City of Menasha are subject to these laws. Unless otherwise exempted from the Open Records law, senders and receivers of City e-mail should presume that any e-mail is subject to release upon request.





WOODLANDS NATURE PARK

PHASE 1

