

CITY OF MENASHA
Joint Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board and Plan Commission
Council Chambers, City Hall – 140 Main Street
March 7, 2017
MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Plan Commission meeting was called to order at 4:41 PM by Mayor Merkes. The Parks and Recreation Board meeting was called to order at 4:41PM by Chairman Sturm.

B. ROLL CALL/EXCUSED ABSENCES

PLAN COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Merkes, Ald. Benner, EA Gordon, and Commissioners Sturm.

PLAN COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: Commissioners Homan, Cruickshank, and Schmidt.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chr. Dick Sturm, Lisa Hopwood, Tom Marshall, Brian Adesso, and Ald. Alex Zelinski.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Rob DeLain and Nancy Barker.

OTHERS PRESENT: CDD Buck, PP Englebert, PRD Tungate, PS Maas, Blake Theisen (Ayres Associates) Arnie Collier (708 Appleton Street), Pat Zolkoske (928 Third Street), Dean Moede (858 Broad Street), James Taylor (340 Broad Street), Bill Becher (103 Main Street), Tim Lenth (204 Main Street), Tom Nudelbacher (3486 Rosenberry Court), Kathleen Nudelbacher (3486 Rosenberry Court), Phil Weston (935 Brighton Drive), Phil Taylor (931 Brighton Drive), Gail Barten (917 Brighton Drive), Julie Filapek (1800 Appleton Road), Steve Heindel (957 Brighton Drive), C Murino (945 Brighton Drive), Pat Faulkner, Tim Gosz (Menasha Utilities), Kathy Stahl (225 Railroad Street), and Rebecca Nichols (402 Elm Street).

C. REPORT OF DEPARTMENT HEADS/STAFF/CONSULTANTS

1. Jefferson Park and Neighborhood Vision Plan presentation by Blake Theisen - Ayres Associates – Final Vision Plan Concept to be Presented

Blake Theisen (Ayres Associates) provided an overview of the final Jefferson Park and Neighborhood Visioning Plan Concept. Mr. Theisen explained that the two draft concepts presented at February's Joint Park Board and Plan Commission meeting have been refined to one concept, and he provided an overview of the refined concept. Mr. Theisen and staff are seeking recommendations from the Park and Recreation Board and Plan Commission to advance the plan to the Common Council. It is anticipated that the final Jefferson Park and Neighborhood Vision Plan, including the written report, will be presented to the Common Council on April 18th.

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

Julie Filapek (1800 Appleton Road) – Commented that there should be an effort to preserve decorative plantings that volunteers installed near the Broad Street entrance to the park.

Dean Moede (858 Broad Street) – Spoke in favor of one softball diamond instead of two but suggested that it could be located on the west side of the park.

Kathy Stahl (225 Railroad Street) – Ms. Stahl would like to see two softball diamonds in order to accommodate league play in the park. Ms. Stahl doesn't think one diamond is enough for leagues but suggested the city could accommodate leagues elsewhere in the park system.

Pat Zolkoske (928 Third Street) – Ms. Zolkoske spoke against the proposed location of the pool. She is concerned with the pool being relocated in front of her home which would therefore block her views of the park. Ms. Zolkoske favors the new location for the amphitheater.

Pat Faulkner – Commented in favor of the final concept. Ms. Faulkner expressed that she is

happy with the drive through the park but wants to maintain parking along the drive. Mr. Theisen explained that parking would be preserved.

Phil Weston (935 Brighton Drive) – Mr. Weston is concerned with safety and policing in the Avalone property if the city acquires it and opens it for park use.

Dean Moede (858 Broad Street) – Stressed the importance of bike and pedestrian facilities in the park plan.

Arnie Collier (708 Appleton Street) – Mr. Collier spoke against locating an amphitheater in the park. Mr. Collier would like to see more restrooms in park facilities, and is in favor of the city purchasing the Avalone property and using it as a dog park.

Steve Heindel (957 Brighton Drive) – Mr. Heindel expressed concern about the city acquiring the Avalone property due to the environmental condition of the property.

Dean Moede (858 Broad Street) – Spoke in favor of having an amphitheater in the park. Mr. Moede commented that live music in parks encourage park use and development.

Gail Barten (917 Brighton Drive) – Spoke against acquiring the Avalone property for park use. She expressed concerns regarding policing and safety on the property as well as environmental issues on the site.

Tom Nudelbacher (989 Brighton Drive) – Mr. Nudelbacher is against acquiring the Avalone property and doesn't like the idea of a disc golf course on the property. He is worried about safety of users and neighbors.

E. ACTION ITEMS

1. Jefferson Park and Neighborhood Vision Plan

Commissioners and board members discussed the following:

- The adequate number of ball diamonds in the park
- Viewsheds in the park as it relates to water features and entrances to the park
- Potential uses for the settling basin and Avalone properties
- Options for locations of the pool facility
- Parking and bathrooms needs for boaters and park visitors
- Trail system throughout the park

Plan Commission – motion by Mayor Merkes, seconded by EA Gordon, to recommend approval of the Jefferson Park and Neighborhood Vision Plan with the following conditions: relocate the basketball court to open up the western viewshed, improve trail flow on the east side of the park, shift parking area towards the amphitheater, add a second driveway to the boat launch parking lot, and relocate pool building to the west or other location to maximize viewsheds. The motion carried 4-0.

Park Board - motion by Lisa Hopwood, seconded by Tom Marshall, to recommend approval of the Jefferson Park and Neighborhood Vision Plan with the following conditions: relocate the basketball court to open up the western viewshed, improve trail flow on the east side of the park, shift parking area towards the amphitheater, add a second driveway to the boat launch parking lot, and relocate pool building to the west or other location to maximize viewsheds. Motion to amend the motion by Ald. Zelinski, seconded by Tom. Marshall, to remove the Avalone property from the Jefferson Park and Neighborhood Vision Plan. The amendment failed 4-1 with Ald. Zelinski voting for it. The original motion carried 4-1 with Ald. Zelinski voting against.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Plan Commission - motion by Ald. Benner, seconded by EA Gordon, to adjourn at 5:50 PM. The motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Board – motion by Lisa Hopwood, seconded by Brian Adesso, to adjourn at 5:50 PM. The motion carried.