

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**  
**Tuesday, April 13, 2021**  
**6:00PM**  
**VIRTUAL**

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**AGENDA**

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL/EXCUSED ABSENCES
- C. PUBLIC COMMENT / CORRESPONDENCE
- D. MINUTES TO APPROVE
  - 1. Minutes of the March 23, 2021 Regular Park Board Meeting
- E. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS
  - 1. Placement of a Node at Clovis Grove Park
  - 2. Placement of Floats at Menasha Marina
  - 3. Lawson Canal Draft Concept Plan
    - a. Park Board Resolution R-1-21
- F. REPORT OF DEPARTMENT HEAD/STAFF
  - 1. Department, Recreation and Senior Center Report – PRD Sackett
  - 2. Park, Pool and Forestry Report – DDMO Brown/Superintendent MacDonald
- G. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER LISTED ON THE AGENDA
  - Five (5) minute time limit for each person
- H. ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF MENASHA**  
**Parks and Recreation Board**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**March 23, 2021**  
**MINUTES**

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chr. Dick Sturm at 6:09pm.

**B. ROLL CALL/EXCUSED ABSENCES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chr. Dick Sturm, Brian Adesso, Rachael Dowling, Ald. Ted Grade, Tim Hale, Lisa Hopwood, Tom Marshall

OTHERS PRESENT: PRD Megan Sackett, DDMO Thad Brown, DPW/P Superintendent Travis MacDonald, Sandra Dabill-Taylor, Ald. Stan Sevenich, Ald. James Taylor, Ald. Randy Ropella, Ald. Rebecca Nichols

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE**

S. Dabill-Taylor commented on attendance at the Lawson Canal Mtg, feels it may be difficult to get appropriate funding, questioned if Brews on 'Bago was a Rotary or City event – opposed to it unless it is strictly Rotary.

**D. MINUTES TO APPROVE**

1. **Minutes of the February 16, 2021 Park Board Meeting:** Moved by Ald. T. Grade, seconded by T. Hale to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2021 Park Board meeting. Motion carried.

**E. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Amendment to Park Ordinance 12-1 Park Regulations:** Ald. T. Grade moved to approve the recommended changes, seconded by T. Hale. Motion carried.
2. **Overview of Brews on 'Bago:** PRD Sackett presented as a family friendly event with games/food trucks. There were questions about the hours (5-8p), if Kargus Dr would be closed, using Stone Arch – do tapped kegs need to be purchased and is Stone Arch the only option, and concern about the lack of children's activities. Rotary is the main contact/organizer. Ald. T. Grade moved to approve moving forward with plans for Brews on 'Bago, seconded by T. Hale. Motion carried 6-1 (Nay-Rachael Dowling).
3. **Summer 2021 Recreation/Pool Programming:** will be partnering with MJSD on some programming; guide will be going out early-mid April; planning the Family First Series with modifications keeping COVID in mind; moving forward with Community Fest and Grunski; pool scheduled to open the second week of June with more evening lesson times and capacity at 200 (25% of max).

**F. REPORT OF DEPARTMENT HEAD / STAFF**

1. **Department Report**

PRD Sackett reported on the following:

- Jefferson Park playground project is in motion
- Lt. Oleszak is proceeding with the Hart Park survey
- A Rec Supervisor/Senior Services Manager has been hired
- Senior Center opening the beginning of May

2. **Park, Pool and Forestry Report**

DDMO Brown reported on:

- Lights at the pump house
- Tree removal is complete
- Ninth St. boat launch bumper, deck and handrails upgraded

- Built shelving for rec programs at Clovis and Jefferson
- Smith Pavilion roof addressed next month
- Conservancy/Memorial Building
- Ald. Grade inquired about the Jefferson shorewall status. Thad indicated some work may happen this year, possibly not all of it due to staffing changes. Chr. Sturm asked to revisit this discussion and get an update at the November or December Park Board meeting.

**G. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

Sandra Dabill-Taylor expressed concern about the Senior Center opening and the partnership with the YMCA. She does not approve of Brews on 'Bago citing COVID concerns and that it is not a family event; Ald. Taylor feels that Kargus Drive should be considered a street and have a proper closure permit, Menasha breweries should be considered for beer garden.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by L. Hopwood, seconded by T. Marshall to adjourn at 7:07pm. Motion carried.





## Clovis Grove Node Location



\*\*approximate location noted by blue box



## MEMORANDUM

To: Park Board

From: Megan Sackett, Director of Parks and Recreation and Diane Schabach, Harbormaster

Date: April 9, 2021

RE: Jet Ski Floats for the Marina

Harbormaster Diane Schabach has been approached about the use of a slip at the Marina for jet skis. In order to hold jet skis in our marina, a specialized float system would need to be installed. A representative from the company has been to the marina and met with City Staff to go over equipment and installation.

After consulting with the installer, it has been determined that attaching mounts to the piers is the preferred method of installation. Minimal mounts would be needed and would allow the floats to go up and down with lake levels. The pictures included show the floats with the side mounting system.

These floats are made to withstand being left in the water during winter, so nothing will have to be taken out of the water after the boating season.

The requesting party has agreed that 100% of any expense is their responsibility. Maintenance throughout the year would also be the renter's responsibility.

Diane has reviewed possible locations in the marina and has recommended Slip #19. It is designed for one boat, but will be able to accommodate two floats. The floats are 14 ft. long. With two floats, the rental fee would be 28 ft. x \$40 per ft. = \$1,120.

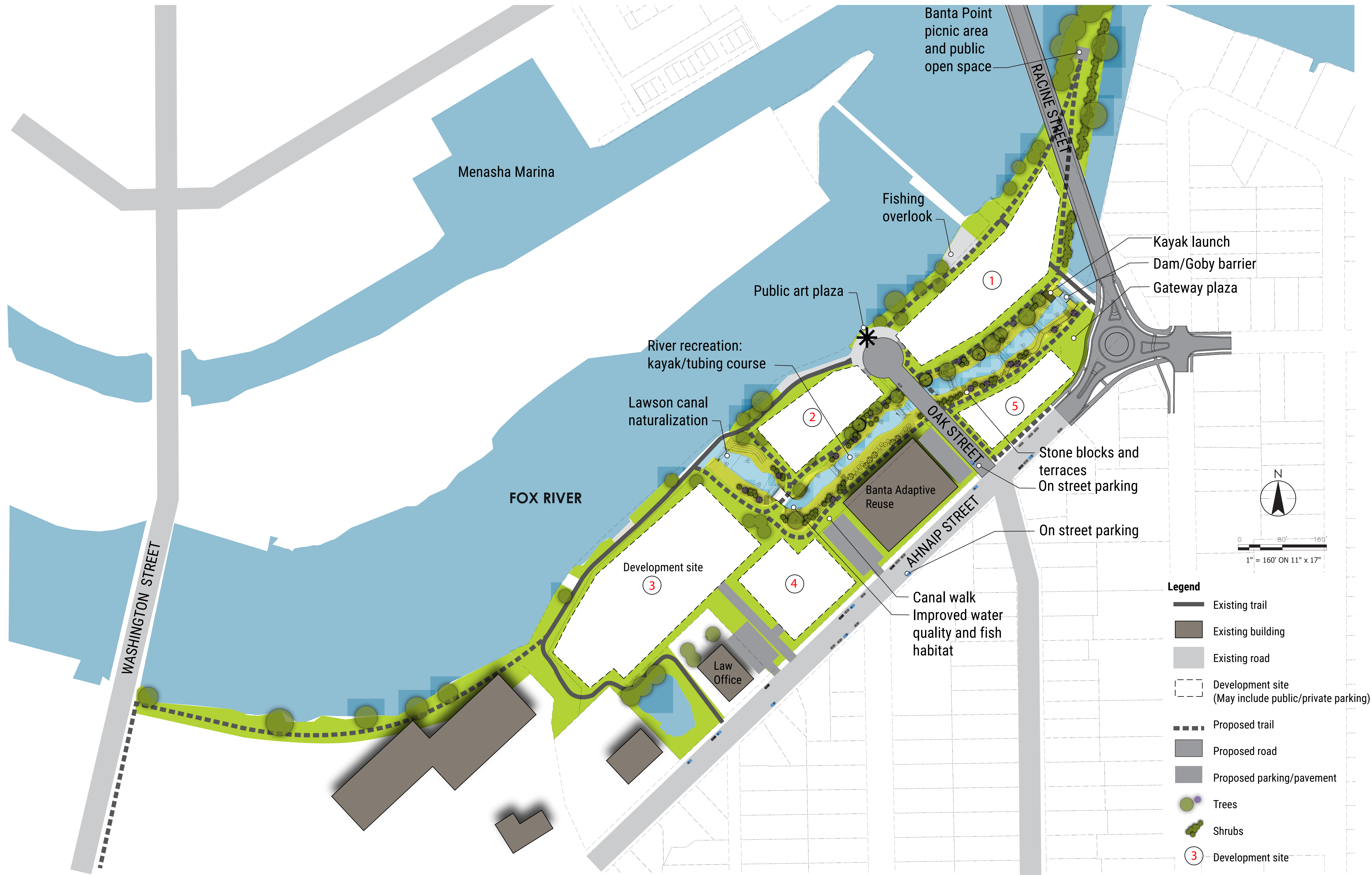
Upon approval, an amendment to the slip rental seasonal contract will be drafted and agreed upon. The renter's contract will also include language addressing when and if the renter does not return, the floats are his property and what the removal process would entail.

Staff Recommendation: To approve the installation of the float system as recommended by the installer and to work with the City Attorney to amend the current Marina seasonal rental contract as needed upon approval of the installation.









**PLAN**  
LAWSON CANAL SUB AREA PLAN





## Lawson Canal/Banta Naturalization and Public Access Public Survey Results

April 2021

### QUESTION #1

**Design of the Lawson Canal area (a sub-area of the 2017 Downtown Vision Plan) is based on three guiding principles; to what extent do you agree with each of the principles listed below?**

1) Provide exceptional public access to the waterfront

	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Disagree	1	1%
Neutral	8	13%
Agree	13	21%
Strongly Agree	40	65%

2) Provide a range of activities and opportunities to draw people to the area to recreate, live, & work

	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly Disagree	1	1%
Disagree	1	1%
Neutral	6	10%
Agree	13	21%
Strongly Agree	42	67%

3) Provide sustainable development that balances economic, environmental, and social needs

	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly Disagree	1	1%
Disagree	1	1%
Neutral	5	8%
Agree	18	29%
Strongly Agree	36	57%

**QUESTION #2**

**What are the top three amenities or uses that would draw you to the Lawson Canal district? (*circle up to three*)**

	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Fishing Areas	12	7%
Kayaking/Tubing Opportunities	22	12%
Bike Trails	19	11%
Walking Trails	41	21%
Nature Observation Areas	26	15%
Public Art	5	3%
Outdoor Seating	14	8%
Broader Range of Housing Options	7	4%
Co-working Opportunities	1	1%
Eating/Dining Opportunities	32	18%

**QUESTION #3**

**What three aspects of a trail system are most important to you? (*circle up to three*)**

	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Downtown Loop	18	10%
Connections to Loop the Lake/Jefferson Park	37	21%
Connections to regional trail network	20	11%
Separate areas for bike and pedestrians	9	5%
Opportunities to be at water's edge	37	21%
Opportunities to be overlooking park/water	25	14%
Benches/Seating	16	9%
Bike Repair Station	3	2%
Regional Wayfinding Map/Information	9	5%



**QUESTION #4:**

In one word, please tell us what is missing from the draft plan

Item Identified	Number of Votes
Affordable Housing	1
All Inclusive use of property	1
Brains	1
Connection	1
Consideration	1
Cost	4
Dining	1
Flrepit	1
Focus	1
Green Space	2
Hotel	1
Maintainable	3
Music	2
Natural Area	2
Neighboring Impact	2
Not Needed	1
Nothing	9
Parking	8
Pavilion/Gathering Sites/Picnic Areas	3
Pier	1
Pickleball	1
Restrooms	3
Seating	1
Sidewalks	1
Speed/Hydro Power	3
Timing	1

## **QUESTION #5:**

### **What additional comments do you have regarding the draft concept plan?**

Should provide opportunities to highlight Menasha's industrial heritage

Not sure why we are looking at apartments, wouldn't it make sense to looking into Marriott or Hilton build a Hotel. This would generate money to the city by charging a city sales tax and draw more visitors into our wonderful city. Maybe even my taxes would go down? If you look at the Marriott that is built on the Fox River in Appleton, it is always booked.

Kayak/tubing course is not necessary

Please consider safe street crossings for Ahnaip Street. Many people will be crossing that street to get to the new spaces.

This is SO exciting for the community, thank you! My husband and I along with our two young daughters reside on Riverway. Once things develop, the naysayers will adjust as needed naturally and the others will end of really enjoying it, keep moving!! We attended the initial meeting regarding these plans and have been excited to hear more ever since! You have embodied a perfect balance of recreation, aesthetic appeal and privacy for residents all while taking into consideration environmental factors, thank you! Can't wait to hear more about private funding/ donation options!

Restoring some of the natural habitat is very important.

Downtown Golden Colorado is the epitome of what could be done with the Lawson Canal yet you never mentioned this redevelopment project in your examples. Are you not aware of it? Their Economic Development Dept has \$\$ numbers to show the benefit of this effort. Small group gathering sites - places to meet for a picnic lunch or sit by the water with a cup of coffee were packed with people in Golden when I visited - and this was in late fall. They also had a small concert area that had activities all through the summer. Not hundreds of people but think more like Neenah's lunch hour concert series. People bought refreshments from surrounding businesses and sat on benches and the grass to listen to music, Question - if I paddle into the canal from Lake Winnebago, is there a way to get over the Gobi barrier without getting out of my kayak or will you design an easy to use portage path? Loop paths are much more enjoyable than out and backs. So, I paddle in from Lake Winnebago, go through the Lawson canal, go out to Little Lake Butte does Morts, portage (or go through the lock), paddle back through the boat canal and do another loop. Will this ultimately be possible??

Love the idea so far. Again development areas will be key as two the mix. I think not every site can be the same type of development. Mixed use is key.

"Please make it happen!! It would be thrilling to see a kayak tubing feature in our community.

I think it would help to draw young upwardly mobile people to want to live here."

"I am not in favor of Oak St extending over the canal, this road should end prior to the trail or remain as it currently is with no extension.

I would like to see more space be available for the canal site by including the site currently set for redevelopment that recently had the Banta building torn down on. This will also make this space more opening and welcome to public as the way it is currently planned the canal area will be hidden from most people and if you didn't know it existed then you could easily pass by it. "

More green space and good places to fish

Overall, the concepts are fantastic! I jog along the existing path and will be excited to see the area beautified and complement the channel.



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How about an accessible "BANTA" Museum somewhere??

I'm impressed by the public trail access. Will it be a problem for potential residents that they have not private outdoor space?

"Handicap access to the new bridge should be considered. Upscale lighting and walkways with ""resting benches"" will also help improve the desirability of the area.

Overall very nice!

Some of the above could have been doubled together, walking/bike trail, just plain connecting to trails, add a question on what plan you favor more, add a mixed urban/natural option, extend under the bridge. Would like to see it done in two years, monitor cameras, restrooms. I'm afraid with the natural plan it will get overgrown like it did under the bridge and flower beds in round abouts with obnoxious weeds, brush and trees. Add to it later like the parks get new and improvements. Thank you this is finally getting worked on.

Can't wait until it's done.

Round about is not the best option, traffic comes off the Racine St bridge to fast and I don't feel that have walking paths right there is safe. I would not spent time there unless I felt safe and to me this doesn't. I feel there is enough water access on the other side by Main St at is barely used so why add more. Why not work on building up the downtown area before adding more

Enough parking so it wouldn't always be on street parking

I like all the water access. Might need more parking

We are very concerned that you are not taking into account the privacy of the homes along Riverway. We already have a lot of problems with people on the peninsula. We would ask that you put in place a plan to have privacy shrubs, bushes and trees along the canal side of the peninsula or you will greatly reduce our property values. Additionally, we are concerned about the plan to increase flow in the canal without proper consideration for the safety of our families using the canal.

Adding a sign about history of the Lawson Canal and the paper mills that were around it would be nice to have.

Thank you for your work.

Parking looks like it will be an issue

What impact will this have to the currently quiet, established neighborhood(s) to the east. Seems there will be minimal parking - if drawing people to the area from away, what is done to avoid parking on nearby residential streets/traffic patterns.

The plan creates a unique destination area for Menasha that gives people more reason to live, work and play downtown. It also helps in marketing Menasha as a vibrant, progressive community. Cities all over the country have either created something similar or are planning to do so. I am a resident of the city and support this effort!

No kayak launch in my backyard, please! We love our peaceful neighborhood, please don't ruin that with a tourist destination for all of northeast Wisconsin. I have three small children that I want to raise here, please don't put crowds of people in my backyard! 508 Riverway...

My concern is that this plan is trying to be everything to everybody right now. It's important to focus on a few things with consideration to how they fit into Menasha's overarching goals, and then do those things WELL. I think it's really important to ask ourselves how this site can compliment downtown businesses and how it could hinder downtown businesses and apply ask those same questions about the neighboring residential areas.

I would love for this area to add value to our homes in the area. Please keep it upscale if possible.

Old News - Forget the Kayak Launch and just fix the shoreline and plant some trees. Too much money spent on trails and developer incentives

I hope you keep the Erdmann memorial picnic area that is already there.

This plan looks SO VERY exciting! As a fellow Doty Islander, I can't wait to have better access to the water (in a rejuvenated and cleaned up space). I would love to see an additional GREEN SPACE (park, trees, area open to the PUBLIC- in addition to trails). Developing the entire space seems short-sided. Open space for a concert venue, outdoor gatherings, etc. In addition, undeveloped land/ green space would support the HUGE amount of bird wildlife down by the current river trail. I hope the large trees (site 1?) get to stay! As a family with young kids, having water access similar to the photos in the pdf, looks so fun (as well as the kayaking/ tubing)...this would really create a unique space in the Fox Valley. Thank you for all your hard work on this, it has been fun to see this space evolve over the years.

I love these plans overall! I'm so excited for this space to become a community outdoor space with options for dining, recreation, or art. Fantastic!

Oklahoma City is a good example of how to update a river walk for a city. There could be some ideas with how they redid their downtown.

Oklahoma City is a good example of how to update a river walk for a city. There could be some ideas with how they redid their downtown.

This looks fantastic. I just hope that we keep environmental stewardship at the forefront of these decisions and planning.

Calendar/timeline. Concerned about foot traffic, boat docking on the Banta peninsula

Don't lower water levels so that dock is unusable.





## **RESOLUTION R-1-21**

### **CITY OF MENASHA PARK BOARD**

#### **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE LAWSON CANAL NATURALIZATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS CONCEPT PLAN, THE APPLICATION OF GRANT FUNDING, THE CONTINUATION OF DESIGN/URBAN RENEWAL, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT**

Introduced by Alderperson Ted Grade.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Menasha approved the creation of Tax Increment District No. 11 (TID 11) and associated Project Plan on July 16, 2007 to facilitate the continuing redevelopment of Menasha's waterfront, downtown, and near downtown business districts along the Ahnaip Street Corridor; and,

**WHEREAS**, said TID 11 Project Plan called for the possible acquisition and development of the Lawson Canal estimated at a cost of \$1,400,000.00; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Lawson Canal Project, naturalizing and providing additional public access, will support and encourage economic redevelopment and urban renewal along the south shore of the Fox River below the Menasha Dam and create a unique public outdoor recreation amenity that will draw visitors to downtown Menasha and create a safe, non-motorized boat passage/portage around the dam; and,

**WHEREAS**, this Project has been identified in the City's Downtown Menasha Vision Plan 2017-2027; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Menasha Common Council on October 1, 2018, motioned to direct staff to analyze the feasibility, purchase options and potential funding sources for the possible acquisition of the Lawson Canal to be brought back to the Common Council for its consideration; and,

**WHEREAS**, this Project has been identified in the City's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) 2020-2024; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council reviewed and approved through Resolution R-19-20 on May 18, 2020 authorizing staff to take necessary action to move the Lawson Canal Project forward including: obtaining/executing options to acquire both parcels of land at no/nominal cost including the canal parcel with water rights, continue design development with budgeted funds, and complete grant applications for the Lawson Canal Restoration Project AND to authorize the

Redevelopment Authority to acquire the first parcel for the purpose of carrying out blight elimination and urban renewal projects without the need for adopting redevelopment plan; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Menasha Common Council on April 5, 2021 motioned to approve and enter into the Right to Purchase Real Estate agreement with PJC Group L.L.C for the Lawson Canal Restoration Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City of Menasha Park Board hereby supports the Lawson Canal Naturalization and Public Access Concept Plan as presented supporting the redevelopment and economic growth of the community; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Menasha Park Board hereby recommends the City of Menasha Common Council accept the conceptual plan, authorize the City of Menasha staff to submit grant applications including but not limited to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource (DNR) Stewardship Grant, for the continued design and construction of the naturalization and public access of the Lawson Canal, authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documents required for said applications, and authorize acceptance and use of such funds as it relates to the design, investigation and implementation of the Project.

**Passed and approved this 13th day of April, 2021.**

Recommended by:

Motion/Second:

Vote:

Pass/Fail:

Requires: Majority Vote

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Donald Merkes, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Dick Sturm, Park Board Chair