

CITY OF MENASHA
Parks and Recreation Board
Menasha City Hall, 100 Main Street, Room 133
March 1, 2023
MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chr. Dick Sturm at 5:35pm.

B. ROLL CALL/EXCUSED ABSENCES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chr. Dick Sturm, R. Dowling, Ald. Ted Grade, E. Wickman, B. Adesso, T. Marshall

OTHERS PRESENT: PRD Megan Sackett

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Tim Hale

C. PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was shared from President of the Heckrodt Board of Directors announcing Luke Schiller as the new Executive Director effective March 6, 2023.

D. MINUTES TO APPROVE

1. **Minutes of the January 10, 2023 Regular Park Board Meeting:** Moved by Ald. T. Grade, seconded by T. Marshall to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 Regular Park Board meeting. Motion carried.

E. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

1. **Election of Officers:**
Chr. D. Sturm opened nominations for the Chair position. Motion by Ald. T. Grade, seconded by R. Dowling nominating Dick Sturm for the position of Park Board Chair. No other ballots were cast. Dick Sturm was unanimously elected Chair for 2023. Chr. D. Sturm opened nominations for the Vice-Chair position. Motion by Ald. T. Grade, seconded by E. Wickman to nominate Brian Adesso for the position of Vice Chair. No other ballots were cast. Brian Adesso was unanimously elected Vice-Chair for 2023.
2. **MOU with Fox Valley Athletics from 2023-2025:**
Director Sackett gave an overview of the agreement outlining the advantages of creating a partnership with FVA to rebuild the softball program in Menasha and noted that the Park Board and Council have recently made a commitment to keeping an adult softball program in Menasha with the approval of a new softball diamond in Jefferson Park. Sackett also noted that improved facilities are one step in rebuilding a program and creating a partnership with FVA would allow further growth and development of the program. Discussion ensued about how the Park Board sees the value of FVA to the adult softball program and this partnership.

Motion was made by Ald. T. Grade, seconded by E. Wickman for the recommended approval of the MOU with Fox Valley Athletics for the term of 2023-2025. Motion carried.
3. **Marina Harbormaster Agreement for the 2023-2024 Navigation Seasons**
Director Sackett gave an overview of the agreement noting the only change would be to adjust the annual increase for the agreement from \$750 to \$1000. The Board noted that the City has been fortunate to have Diane Schabach as Harbormaster for so long, but wanted to ensure we are preparing for the future by comparing our annual Harbormaster Management compensation to other communities in case an adjustment is needed to be made.

Motion was made by Ald. T. Grade, seconded by R. Dowling for the recommended approval of the Harbormaster Agreement for the 2023-2024 Navigation Seasons. Motion carried.

Chr. Sturm made a request to have a discussion with the City Attorney, Mayor and the members of Park Board regarding the purpose of the Park Board and their roles and responsibilities. Chr. Sturm stated his frustrations with the lack of support from the Common Council regarding the decisions and recommendations made at the Park Board. Sturm stated he feels the Park Board is wasting their time if decisions and recommendations from the Park Board are reworked at the Council without sending them back to Park Board for further discussion if they are not

happy with them. Chr. Sturm stated he is dissatisfied, disgruntled and disheartened at the lack of support from the Common Council and the demonstrated lack of value of the Park Board. Members of the Park Board agreed with these sentiments.

Ald. Grade questioned how it is determined what is brought to Council for approval. Director Sackett indicated she will set up a meeting with City Attorney, Mayor and Park Board to review the roles and responsibilities of each board.

F. REPORT OF DEPARTMENT HEAD / STAFF

1. **Department Report:** See attached written report. Director Sackett also gave an overview of the Bird Scooter program for 2022 and noted the number of calls to Bird Scooter at 64 and 10 to Menasha Police with no noted issues along the trail system brought to Director Sackett's attention. The Board determined they did not need to review the trail ordinance relating to electric scooters again.

Ald. Grade requested an update regularly on the Jefferson Park project and timeline. B. Adesso requested a discussion on the estimated lifespan on the current pool and potential costs and implications of major failures.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER LISTED ON THE AGENDA

None

H. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by T. Marshall, seconded by B. Adesso to adjourn at 6:59pm. Motion carried.

Staff Reports from the Parks, Recreation, Forestry & Cemeteries Department

February 2023

PARKS

- Jefferson Park Playground: Commitment has been received from our major donor allowing us to proceed with ordering the equipment with an estimated delivery in mid-Fall.
- Koslo Park: Drain tile has been installed at Koslo Park to improve drainage of the area around and in the playground. It seems to already be working, pulling water out of the trouble areas and draining into the storm sewer. Next up: grass restoration this spring.
- Staff received confirmation that the City of Menasha was awarded \$1,100 for the Banta Point Shoreline Restoration.

RECREATION

Summer Preparations

- Summer Activity Guide is being finalized and will go to the printer the first week of March. Look for new programs like our Jr. Lifeguard Camp, Kidstage, and STEM for Tots. Resident registration begins on March 6th.
- 33 applications for seasonal positions have been received so far! We're 66% of the way towards our staffing goal for Pool and Recreation.
- One of our planning goals for this year is creating systems for collecting feedback around the pool experience and engagement. Prior to finalizing our details for the 2023 Pool Season, we released a survey around two themes—hours and events. We received 299 responses for our pool survey. All of them were sorted through and will help guide our decisions for this upcoming summer.

Programs

- NEW Upcoming Programs:
 - * Tots and Tunes starts 2/28. This program is led by a trained voice coach and encourages 2-3 year olds to notice music and sounds in every day life.
- We had our first of three Volleyball Open Gym times on 2/15.
- January's &Me preschool program at the Public Works garage allowed participants to explore the trucks and check out the facility.

POOL

- Staff has started to remove chipped material in the filter tank. This procedure will prevent chipping of the epoxy paint and settling in the filter tank, allowing the filters to stay cleaner during the filtering process.

FORESTRY

- Staff has completed trimming trees on Doty Island and in the Shepard Park neighborhood. They will continue to work in the area of Main St. and Downtown and then will be working their way west of Tayco to Ninth St. boat launch. When they are finished with that, they will be east of Tayco, west of Racine between 9th street and 3rd street.



Special Events

- Winter Gala was fantastic! There were over 200 people in attendance that were able to enjoy chili from the NMFR (which raised \$500 in donations for their Santa float), hot cocoa and cookies from Doty Island Development Council, broomball, snow sculptures, cross country skiing, along with activities such as winter snow golf and soap carving.
- Our first Bogey in the Books Mini-Golf event at the Menasha Library was held on Superbowl Sunday with 10 families joining us! We set up 9 holes across the library for participants to practice their mini-golf skills.

Our department partners with the library on a number of opportunities including nature backpacks, movies in the park, various storytelling and preschool playdates.
- The Wisconsin Be Active Challenge has communities tracking their active time each week to compete with other Wisconsin communities from March 1-31. The event averages the number of minutes by the team, so small communities can be competitive. This event is organized with Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association in order to encourage activity during dreary March. Menasha competed in 2022 and took 37th. *New this year, we have a calendar of activities that our participants have access to aide in getting people active. These are also open to non-team members for a small fee.



Upcoming Programs/Events

- Volleyball Open Gym: March 1 and 15 at Maplewood Middle School
- Leprechaun Hunt: March 10-19
- Open Gym: every Wednesday thru March 29 at Menasha High School
- Arbor Day Celebration: Friday, April 28 at Barker Farm Park
- Be Active Wisconsin Challenge: March 1-31