



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Koska Room - Community House 1520 17th
Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

Present Board Members: Daniel Cortte, Travis Kadow, Justin Klinkner, Kathy Peterson, Dorothy Tinkham Delo, Jason Scharping, Robert Reed Jr., Chase Mathias, Adam Wachowski- Council Rep, Jeff Dahlke-Council Rep

Excused Board Members: Brian Gallagher

Also Present: Greg Buckley- City Manager, Matthew Heckenlaible- Public Works Director, Mike Mathis- Parks & Recreation Director, Megan Marsh- Parks & Recreation Clerk

Registered Speakers of the Public: Bonnie Timm, Anne Dobbertin, Julie Schroeder, Betty Grams

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 13, 2022

Daniel Cortte Established Motion to Approve

Travis Kadow 2nd the Motion

3. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Overview on Neshotah Beach and Park Project:

a. The last plan for Neshotah Beach and Park took place in 2002. The project consisted of a 70-page plan.

b. Photos reviewed: The Tennis Court displayed deterioration, cracks in foundation and has reached the end of its lifespan. The Park Entrance revealed an undeveloped parking lot with inadequate nature preservation, appearance and attention. The Playground and Swings are outdated and display safety issues. The Benches are weakened and out of date. A narrow sidewalk was presented with inadequate walking/biking space. Multiple light pole fixtures exhibited cracks held up with duct tape. The WPA Rock Garden that was built in the 1930's exhibited safety concerns. The predicament of fixing and/or replacing the sum of Neshotah Beach/Park relies on funding from Large Capital Planning and a prioritization of options.

B. Park Planning (Unfolds 5-10 years TBD)

a. Phase 1: Visioning

-10/27 Parkitecture led a visioning session with ARB to learn more about challenges, assets and opportunities.

-12/13- Drafts, images and a map of potential updates were presented that derived from research of other comparable communities.

-1/10- Parks and Recreation Director and ARB discussed new, updated plans with input from the community, City Manager and Department of Public Works Director.

b. Phase 2: Goal Setting and Prioritizing

-Begin working on goals development for current plans.

-Draft a priority timeline.

-Share new draft visuals with the community.

-Revise plans and goals based on community feedback.

c. Phase 3: Approval

-ARB submits a decision to City Council.

d. Phase 4: Execution

-Funding executed by City Capital Debt, grants, partnerships, and donations.

C. OVERVIEW ON PLANS

a. New parking is a need. New restroom and shelter is restored. New pickleball and tennis courts (possible different sports complex) changes. A new playground placed on the old baseball diamond with constructed tree planting around. Expand the sidewalk coming into the beach with added light fixtures. New sidewalks to help ease people into the park that benefits the crowded single entrance currently. Remove unused shed. Add a natural, log playground to the North end of the beach. Provide dune enhancement to restore current dune and add native plants to help with sand with wildlife habitat. Add rental cabins (compared to cabins in Lincoln Park, Manitowoc). Add more sand volleyball courts where the existing court is placed. Create stormwater point for DPW. New native, cultural art to secondary parking lot/entrance. Add a trolley stop for easy access to Washington Street for the whole city to create revenue.

D. Email to Director

a. "I like the idea. I have lived on Garfield St. for 20 years. Only thing is taking green space for parking. You need to revisit the parking flow. I don't agree with the cottages."

b. "People do use the ball field and tennis courts. Changes are not thought out. We do not need more parking when we only have 10 days of full parking."

c. "10 year master plan with increased 30 proposed spots not needed. There are more than 37 spots by me, and they are not often used. They can use Walsh Field and walk."

d. "Natural areas and curvy trees are beautiful. Do not remove the trees, do not add in a parking lot. No tennis courts, I would rather have a bocce ball court. Keep the baseball diamond alone. If you want to consider parking, put a new parking lot by the maintenance shed for much more needed parking.

4. COMMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC (Limited to 3 minutes each)

1. Betty Grams- Master Plan in 2001 didn't have technical studies that recommended ways of managing problems associated with wind, water levels, traffic and beach access. A new plan needs to have better studies. Currently not enough garbage cans- overflow of trash, wind erosion has been ongoing, picnic area could use more tables and grills, revamping parking areas along Zlatnik Drive and 21st Street.
2. Julie Schroeder- On Garfield St there are already 10 spots to park. Adding 10 to make 20 spots and taking out trees for those spots won't make a difference. We need to focus on trash pickup and maintaining the current parks. We need more handicap accessibility and cameras. The new beach along pier needs a bathroom and parking. The parks need more grills, and added smaller parking spaces for motorcycles and golf carts.
3. Bonnie Timm- Supports business all over town. I understand updating the playground, but I want to be able to see the kids close by if at the shelters. This day and age the kids need to be watched closely. Who will upkeep the meters and who monitors, maintains them? Would we still have a rock garden, and have snowfest continue to their plans? I am for more research for park ideas.
4. Dean Hurble- I worked for DPW for 37 years. I was the one who maintained the meters previously. People would hit meters, and they would have to fix them. So, who takes care of them and repairs them, and watches over them?
5. Anne Dobbertin- Neshotah Park has natural beauty. Don't knock out trees for parking on Garfield St. We don't have a parking problem except for 10 days out of the year. Take out tennis courts and replace it with used space that is not a parking lot. I don't like paid parking. If it was to happen, would the return investment even be worth it? Do not put cabins in the woods, we don't want them.
6. John Gomez- Meters are the least inviting thing at a beach. Keep the baseball diamond, just fix it. People use it more than you think. What happens to the rides in the diamond for festivals? We need to repair and replace the beach and park, not make it something completely different.
7. Laura Gomez- I don't want to look at a parking lot outside my window. I live on Garfield St and parking isn't a problem. I was a professional gardener, and the trees have to be revamped. $\frac{1}{3}$ dead and $\frac{1}{3}$ are dying. Replace the trees and add more green areas. We have the best beach in Wisconsin. We have a great Main Street and it brings people from all over. We need to welcome travelers that are attracted by nature and bird watching.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Neshotah Beach Paid Parking Discussion

- a. Mike presented multiple examples of paid parking options: gate entry and exit, ticketed, booth, kiosk, digital QR code scanner, and license plate scanner.
- b. Jeff Dahlke explained there will not be fees for residents and disagreed with parking meters. Dorothy wanted more information on ROI (Return on Investment). Buckley suggested more research and disagreed with gate parking due to drive through sight-seeing strolls from vehicles. Jason agreed with no gate parking. Adam stated he was not for paid parking, but to start researching and added no deadline on research to help discover diverse paid parking options. Kathy is not in favor of paid parking, but will consider after the statement about locals not being charged. Rob thinks residents don't mind walking further rather than create more parking. Visitors that sit all day and park, don't mind if they pay to be there.
- c. Dorothy objects to any further research.
- d. The ARB Committee, besides Dorothy, accepted further research to be executed.

B. Neshotah Park Master Planning, Review Parkitecture Plan

a. Adam explained that the newer play equipment is not moving to the baseball diamond. The purpose of a new playground structure in the baseball diamond is to create more traveling throughout the entire park, not just in one area. Ideas have been created for new things to do throughout the whole park. Plans added activities and increased parking for disabled individuals. The plan is not to cut down trees, take away green space and lay a bunch of concrete. The current tennis court is not green space, it would be re- asphalted and changed into a parking lot. Creating a pathway in underutilized land generates more inviting areas for picnics. Need to think of the big picture- funding by grants and donations. Just because ARB makes a decision, does not dictate the City Council outcome, but helpful to have a plan executed and have it arranged and completed if needed. The arrangements for cabins are not airbnbs. They are cabin rentals compared to the cabins at Lincoln Park in Manitowoc. The cabins at Lincoln Park are successful and the shelters we have in Neshotah Beach/Park sell out very quickly.

b. Dorothy expressed much needed clean up with trash all over the park and beach from residents.

c. Jeff explained huge amounts of trees are not being removed. The plans have left 90% of trees there as they could and bad trees have to go out

d. Buckley stated funding is important. Adding more scattered picnic benches, new trees and native features to Neshotah. Also suggested restrooms and new parking for the new beach.

Motion to Approve

Daniel Cortte Established Motion to Approve

Jason Scharping 2nd the Motion

Motion Carried

6. OLD BUSINESS

N/A

7. OTHER BUSINESS

N/A

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

A. West Foundation Grant Update

a. Received a grant from the West Foundation and Woodland Dunes for Zander Park to add a natural play area and a story walk. Zander Park removed an old, run-down playground and will be replacing it with a Story Walk with help from Lester Public Library and Woodland Dunes.

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS

- Discuss Overall Neshotah Goals and Prioritize Projects
- Update on Playground Purchasing Process
- ARB to Provide Feedback on Forestry Policies

- Bocce Ball Court

10. NEXT MEETING-February 14, 2023, 6:00 PM

11. ADJOURNMENT

Please note, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs to disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, please contact the Office of the City Manager by calling 793-5532.

It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information; no other action will be taken by any governmental body at the above-stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice.