



Parks and Recreation Board Minutes
Wednesday, July 16, 2025 – 5:30 pm
Cravath Lakefront Room
312 W. Whitewater Street
Whitewater, WI 53190
Hybrid Meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Kathleen Flemming, Dan Fuller, Neil Hicks, Stephanie Hicks, Mike Kilar, Steve Ryan, Deb Weberpal.

Absent: Justin Crandal

Staff: Kevin Boehm, Jennifer Jackson

Guest: David Stone, Beverly Stone, Sherry Stanik, Jannalee Johnson

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. Motioned by Mike Kilar. Seconded by Kathleen Flemming. Ayes: Kathleen Flemming, Dan Fuller, Neil Hicks, Stephanie Hicks, Mike Kilar, Steve Ryan, Deb Weberpal Absent: Justin Crandal

3. Hearing of Citizen Comments

- a. No Citizen Comments

4. Staff Updates

a. Director's Report

i. Kevin Boehm

- 1. Postings are up on the website for the following jobs: Youth Program Coordinator, Activity Instructor and After School Instructor, Life Guard, and Slide Attendants
- 2. Summer camp is off to a great start, this week is sports week. Next week will be water week at the WAFC. The children will be learning to be junior life guards, they will kayak and paddle board, along with much more.
- 3. Messy Fest is coming back and there will be a dunk tank where individuals can dunk a life guard. All donations will be given to the Sunshine Fund.
- 4. We are doing our School Supply Drive again this year and accepting donations. Donation locations are City Hall, WAFC, Seniors in the Park, the Community Space and Associated Bank.

5. The Lakes are active with wild life. Streets department cleared out the shoreline from the beach to the boat launch.
6. Flag Foot Ball registration is open. Along with a youth bags league.
7. We have had two movies so far and have been well received. The first movie had roughly 100 people in attendance and the second had about 60.
8. 5&6th grade girls' softball were Quad County Champs this past season.

5. Considerations/Discussions/Reports

- a. Discussion and possible action on request to install Born Learning Trail.
 - i. Jannalee Johnson, from the UWW Child Learning Center presented on the topic. The Born Learning trail focuses on engaging children birth to 5 years of age in being active and learning while they do it, this is great for all ages though. There are 10 signs with different activities on each sign. Jannalee said she has obtained funding for all items and would need help from the city putting in the signs and to sponsor the welcome sign. Jannalee proposed three different parks to use, Starin Park, Cravath Park, or Ray Trost Nature Preserve.
 1. **Neal Hicks:** Can we use the ground design templates at other parks, without the signs?
 2. **Johnson:** Yes we can.
 3. **Neal Hicks:** Starin Park seems to make the most sense.
 4. **Kathleen Flemming:** Stain Park would be a nice location for the community to use as well as the UWW Child Learning Center.
- b. Stephanie Hicks made a motion to have the Bron Learning Trail at Starin Park. Neil Hicks Second. Ayes: Kathleen Flemming, Dan Fuller, Neil Hicks, Stephanie Hicks, Mike Kilar, Steve Ryan, Deb Weberpal Absent: Justin Crandal
- c. Discussion and possible action on potential donation property for new dog park.
 - i. Boehm was approached by Teronomy, who wanted to donate land near Minieska Park, for a dog park. These locations are already used by those who live in the apartments nearby. Teronomy will pay for the park and then hand ownership over to the City for maintenance.
 1. **Ryan:** Would we keep the old dog park as well? What if we didn't?
 2. **Kilar:** Would there be an issue if we moved the dog park?
 3. **Boehm:** I don't think so. We don't know much more at this point.
 4. **Boehm:** We may be able to have Teronomy put up sun shades or something to add more shade.
 5. **Neil Hicks:** Could we offer to make the current one smaller and supply the fencing to make it cheaper for them so they would put up shaded area?

Boehm Will get more information about what they are looking at doing and bring it back next month. No action was taken.

- d. Discussion and possible action on disbanding the Urban Forestry Commission
 - i. Boehm: There was a meeting held with Kevin Boehm, Brad Marquardt, Andy Beckman and Emily (new economic development/ zoning) on Thursday afternoon about the role of the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC). Emily had asked a question about a city of whitewater planting guide due to verbiage. Having issues giving information to developers. Emily wants to mainstream zoning and economic development plan with needed department directors. Any projects, at this time, that have a landscape plan goes to UFC who makes recommendations. If dissolved the park board would have to take care of what UFC is taking care of.
 - 1. **Ryan:** I think this is a terrible idea. They are more than developers, sounds more like a guide book problem.
 - 2. **Stanek:** Landscape guidelines are typical for most communities. UFC emphasis has been to diversify the urban forestry. In the past it used to go to park boards and would be approved contingent on the UFC approval to keep invasive species out of the area. Landscape is the last thing that goes for approval so this board is not holding back development since they can still build and reside in that location. The landscape may take a little longer. Not sure if this is Emily's concern that it will hold development back.
 - 3. **Boehm:** I spoke to Llana, in the zoning department. Her message was, to reduce the redundancy of having so many boards do the same thing. Would it be beneficial to take the landscape planning and give that to Emily and continue doing what UFC is already focusing on?
 - 4. **Ryan:** I see that it is possible for a developer to come in and want to rush things through, plant what they want and think that whitewater doesn't know any different. However, we are able to say we do have a group that knows the difference. It has worked so well, why screw it up?
 - 5. **Neil Hicks:** In the note you have had a hard time getting quorum. Does that happen often? Is it 5 or 7?
 - 6. **Stanek:** We have a total of 7 so we need 4 of us to be there
 - 7. **Neil Hicks:** Would it be easier to take it down to 5 people?
 - 8. **Stanek:** Our chair travels with his employment and that may be the issue.
 - 9. **Ryan:** If it came to park board who do we have to refer to if they are not there?
 - 10. **Flemming:** That is not our specialty
- e. Steve Ryan made a motion to continue the Urban Forestry Commission as a subcommittee of the Park and Recreation Board. Neil Hicks Second. Ayes: Kathleen

Flemming, Dan Fuller, Neil Hicks, Stephanie Hicks, Mike Kilar, Steve Ryan, Deb Weberpal
Absent: Justin Crandal

- f. Discuss/ Input from community survey for Park and Open Space Plan
 - i. **Boehm:** I included in the packet the survey results. Sent out June 1st and was closed at the end of June. We had 426 responses, we would like to get 5% of the population but we have never had this much. a lot of great feedback, very little negative. Some comments are no parks in neighborhood and no parks in our immediate neighborhood. 66.2% said they can access the park by walking. Majority of the individuals live outside of city limits. We will work on how we are presenting our parks and their amenities. Starin park was the most visited. 39% of individuals uses Trippe Lake Park. 50+ said they would like to see a splash pad. Not aware of offerings is a large portion of why individuals don't participate. Cost, poor planning, and communication is a large reason.
6. Items not on the agenda that was discussed- Splash Pad
- a. **Boehm:** Several options of places to put a splash pad. I like the idea of starin Park but everything is going on at that park. My suggestion is to place it behind the Cravath building where the gazebo is, we would move the gazebo and create a nice area. We would need to raise about \$400,000 to build a splash pad.
 - b. **Kilar:** I would like to see it more in the open not so tucked back. Maybe have it out by the Amphitheater instead of tucked back.
 - c. **Flemming:** I like the idea not having it at Starin
 - d. **Neil Hicks:** what about Big Brick Park?
 - e. **Flemming:** we would have to build everything. There is no seating or shade.
 - f. **Boehm:** I have until the end of the month to have the UW- Madison architecture design something for us. We can still use our own vendors they are just designing it. Would you like me to have them do it? All we pay for is their travel time and the printing of the landscape.
 - g. **Ryan:** I know everyone would love to have one. We have a large repair bill at the Aquatic Center. Splash pads are very dangerous due to it being unsupervised. It will be used 3 months maximum. It will be great for the really hot days but other days it may not be used so much. The money could be better used to go toward the WAFC for repairs.
 - h. **Boehm:** What about the families that cannot afford the WAFC?
 - i. **Neil Hicks:** Every splash pad we pass is very full.
 - j. **Kilar:** if it was at Starin it would be used the majority of the time.
 - k. **Stephanie Hicks:** Splash pads bring in a lot of people due to the fact that it is a free day to go, daycares will also use the splash pad. Some pads use a button to turn it on whenever you want. Look at the way the water is used and if it is not recycled through it would be very cold.

- I. **Ryan:** If we had one I would say Starin Park

7. Future Agenda Items

- a. **Splash Pad**

8. Adjournment

- a. Adjournment at 7:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Jackson

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