

**Parks and Recreation Board
of the City of Onalaska**

Monday, March 26, 2018

1

1 The Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board of the City of Onalaska was called to order at 5:15
2 p.m. on Monday, March 26, 2018. It was noted that the meeting had been announced and a
3 notice posted at City Hall.

4

5 Roll call was taken with the following members present: Ald. Jim Binash, Andrea Benco, Brian
6 Udermann, Steven Nott, Ohbe Johnson

7

8 Also Present: Parks and Recreation Director Dan Wick, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Mark
9 Hanson, Great River Landing Committee Chair Erik Sjolander, local artist Joyce Diveley

10

11 Excused Absences: Gretchen Newhouse, Victor Hill

12

13 **Item 2 – Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

14

15 Motion by Andrea, second by Ald. Binash, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as
16 printed and on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

17

18 On voice vote, motion carried.

19

20 **Item 3 – Public Input (Limited to 3 minutes/individual)**

21

22 Steven called three times for anyone wishing to provide public input and closed that portion of
23 the meeting.

24

25 **Consideration and possible action on the following items:**

26

27 **Item 4 – Consideration of Public Art at the Great River Landing**

28

29 Dan said the Common Council has directed the Great River Landing Committee to handle some
30 type of public art that would be installed at the Great River Landing. Dan told board members
31 the Parks and Recreation Board will be “heavily involved” in the process as the board will have
32 to maintain whatever is installed. Dan, who attended the March 15 Great River Landing
33 Committee meeting, said he asked Joyce to attend this evening’s Parks and Recreation Board
34 meeting and give board members an update.

35

36 Joyce introduced herself to board members, telling them she had served on a committee when
37 there were plans to construct the Great River Cultural and Tourism Center. Joyce also told board
38 members she is a local artist who does line drawing and creates pottery; is an author who just
39 completed a book for children; and also did architectural design work, including homes, for 33
40 years. Joyce said she had spoken to Planner/Zoning Inspector Katie Aspenson in 2016 and told
41 Katie she would like to be involved in the creation of artwork for the Great River Landing Plaza.

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42 Joyce said she also had contacted Mayor Joe Chilsen after the trees had been cleared at the Great
43 River Landing and asked for his thoughts regarding a sculpture for the site. Mayor Chilsen told
44 her someone already was working on that concept. Joyce told board members Ald. Harvey
45 Bertrand had met with a sculptor and was proceeding with an idea. Joyce said she contacted
46 Ald. Bertrand and told him she did not believe “this should just be one person’s idea.” Joyce
47 suggested creating a sculpture group and said 15 individuals from different backgrounds have
48 discussed what could be done. The group met and discussed different concepts for a sculpture,
49 and Joyce said group members decided the following elements were crucial:

50

- 51 • Decide what the subject will be – abstract or life form.
- 52 • Avoid controversy – do not dedicate to any one person or group.
- 53 • The sculpture will be here for 100 years, with the goal that there be sustainable interest in
54 the piece and that it be low maintenance.
- 55 • All citizens will see this. It will not be in a museum; rather, it will be public art.
- 56 • Public art will provide opportunities for tourists to take photographs.
- 57 • Emotion – does one feel happy? Is it a historical piece? Does it tell a story?
- 58 • Is there movement?
- 59 • Scale and setting – does it fit the site?
- 60 • Concerns for photo ops – sculpture would be close to State Trunk Highway 35. It might
61 be necessary to locate the piece in the middle of the existing cement pad raised on a base
62 or near the back of the existing plaza versus near the planter to the east because one
63 would need to stand in the street to take a proper picture. Photo opportunities would be
64 looking west.
- 65 • The hope is to take advantage of the view and not block it.
- 66 • A sculpture should have good movement, nice lines for a pleasant flow, and be
67 aesthetically pleasing.
- 68 • Benches could be integrated into the design. It should be a sculpture one wants to touch
69 or be near for people interaction.
- 70 • Materials – color, texture, using more than one medium together. Utilize metal instead of
71 wood.
- 72 • A sculpture must be long lasting and low maintenance. It could have lighting. No water
73 features.
- 74 • The element of surprise.
- 75 • A sculpture must have a tourist element to look for something not instantly seen in
76 Onalaska.
- 77 • The history of Onalaska – celebrate the past, or look to the future?
- 78 • A sculpture must be unique to Onalaska.
- 79 • A concept that becomes the symbol of Onalaska. The “LOVE” sculpture is a symbol of
80 Philadelphia, and the cherry and spoon sculpture is a symbol of Minneapolis.

81

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82 Joyce said the group discussed ideas, and she and another group member drew sketches. Joyce
83 said local sculptors Michael Martino, Elmer Petersen and David Gates were then contacted. All
84 three sculptors work in metals. Joyce said the group's vision was shared with all three sculptors,
85 and each one was told the goal is to create a unique piece for the City of Onalaska that cannot
86 already be seen in the Coulee Region. Joyce said, "We kind of set up a timeline; I don't know if
87 it will happen exactly. We've been informed by an individual they have somebody who may
88 potentially pay for the sculpture, so we're not necessarily going to be looking for city funds. But
89 should that philanthropist not come forward, our plan is we are meeting to put together the final
90 criteria on the sculpture April 2. We hope on April 30 to meet with each of the sculptors and do
91 an interview and decide who we feel we would like to work with. He would come up with ideas.
92 Our hope would be that they could get a budget and an idea together by the end of May. Then if
93 we needed to raise funds we would go out, start fundraising and spend six to nine months
94 fundraising. He would have the winter to build it, and hopefully next spring or early summer it
95 would go into the park."

96
97 Andrea asked Joyce where she is considering placing the sculpture.

98
99 Joyce said the sculpture either would be located either in or right behind the cement patio. Joyce
100 said there had been a suggestion to put the sculpture in the planter; however, it would be
101 necessary for someone wishing to take a photograph of the sculpture to stand in the street.

102
103 Andrea said it is her impression that the sculpture will be rather large.

104
105 Joyce said that is not necessarily the case and told Andrea, "It might not be big at all. We're
106 waiting to see what the sculptors come up with and what their concepts are." Joyce said the
107 group has discussed drawings with the sculptors and reiterated the sculpture will not necessarily
108 be large. Joyce also reiterated that a sculpture should not block the view.

109
110 Steven said it was his understanding that a sculpture would be completely funded by private
111 donors.

112
113 Joyce told Steven he is correct and said, "We don't plan to unless we get to where we needed
114 something to solicit money from the city necessarily. But it would have to be dedicated to the
115 city with their approval."

116
117 Steven inquired about the use of materials for the sculpture based on ease of cleaning.

118
119 Joyce said that while she cannot say for certain the sculpture will be made of some sort of metal,
120 she doubts it will be made of wood. Joyce said, "Of the sculptors we have chosen, they have all
121 done a lot of outdoor sculptures. I think they've been successful in the work they have done, and
122 I don't think they're going to propose something that would need [significant maintenance]."

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123 Joyce cited the example of a bean sculpture located in Grant Park in Chicago and noted it must
124 be cleaned consistently because it is constantly being touched. Joyce said she does not see
125 something like that occurring in Onalaska.

126

127 Steven said he is more concerned about people defacing the sculpture with graffiti.

128

129 Joyce said graffiti is one of the risks that comes with having artwork in a city, adding that
130 Steven's concerns will be kept in mind throughout the process.

131

132 Andrea said, "When we have been brainstorming this whole thing from the beginning, the
133 concept was we had this magnificent waterfront, and that was our feature. That's what we
134 wanted to promote. I'm struggling with the concept of something human-made right there
135 because to me that invades that natural space, which has been so well laid out by the architects.
136 You walk in, and everything is open. You have this magnificent view. The trees are full of
137 stuff. There are people milling around. There is room. Everything is very inviting, and it's very
138 serene. I struggle with some kind of a thing down there [in the open space at the end of Main
139 Street]."

140

141 Joyce asked Andrea, "Isn't it all surrounded by a building and lighting and cement and a
142 planter?"

143

144 Andrea responded, "Right. But they were all part of that plan."

145

146 Joyce reminded Andrea that public art also was part of the plan.

147

148 Andrea said, "Instead of putting it right there where it will be in the middle of what right now is
149 a really spectacular view, what if it went just on the other side by the empty parking lot to liven
150 the parking, which is pretty barren? We talked about how to hide the hideous transformer
151 station. If we put it somewhere there so that it wasn't right in the middle ... It just seems to me
152 that it's going to be stealing the object that we were originally trying to promote when we
153 planned the Great River Landing. Not everybody likes the same kinds of sculptures and art, so I
154 guess I struggle with just putting this in there. Not knowing what it looks like is obviously huge.
155 But it just breaks up what I think right now is a really well-defined ... It's a space for mingling
156 and enjoying and just being."

157

158 Joyce said, "Except for if you go down there nobody is ever in that space, on the cement at the
159 end of Main Street, behind the planter." Joyce noted she has seen visitors to the Great River
160 Landing playing with the musical instruments or utilizing the swings. Joyce added, "There is
161 nothing there [cement at the end of Main Street]. There's nothing to go there for. Our hope was
162 to have some sort of interaction thing."

163

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164 Joyce addressed Andrea's comments regarding putting art in the Great River Landing parking lot
165 and told board members she had just spoken with Toni Asher, Executive Director of the Pump
166 House in the City of La Crosse. Joyce said Toni told her a sculpture is being relocated from the
167 Pump House parking lot because "nobody wants their art in a parking lot" and "People don't pay
168 attention to that." Joyce said, "An artist would like their thing to be someplace where everyone
169 sees it, and where everyone can enjoy it. I don't think if it was something you could climb on or
170 interact with that in the parking lot would be an appropriate place."

171
172 Andrea said, "To me, the open space of that plaza is a beautiful complement to the open space of
173 the view behind it. If you put something in it you can't look past it."

174
175 Joyce told Andrea the artwork would have to be transparent or see-through.
176

177 Andrea said, "If it wasn't natural and it's in the middle of the natural view, to me that's going to
178 take away that view."

179
180 Steven said something that perhaps should be taken under consideration is that the design either
181 augment or enhance the original architectural concept.
182

183 Andrea said, "To me, the feature there is the building and the view – not something we're going
184 to put in there to become the focal point."

185
186 Steven said he believes most artists will work with conceptual designs and stated, "If you give
187 them a left and right border [and tell them], 'Don't go beyond these, but there's this huge area in
188 the middle and you figure it out,' they might actually come up with something that actually does
189 go there and you'll say, 'That really augments this.'" Steven said he is suggesting that perhaps
190 the artwork needs to augment or enhance the original architectural design.
191

192 Andrea said artwork such as a low bench where visitors to the Great River Landing could
193 congregate might be interesting. However, Andrea reiterated artwork that is large in size and
194 obstructs the view will not fit. Andrea added she believes any artwork must be maintenance free.
195

196 Steven said it has been his experience in working with artists that they create amazing pieces if
197 the emotional aspect and the big picture are discussed beforehand.
198

199 Andrea reiterated she is concerned about the proposed location of public art.
200

201 Steven asked Andrea, "Is it the location, or is it the impact it might have on the overall
202 architectural design?"
203

204 Andrea responded, "That's dependent on its location for me. If it's low and it doesn't affect the

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205 view ... For me, the area down there is this magnificent waterfront view that nobody even knew
206 was there.”

207

208 Steven said he agrees with Andrea on that point, but added, “My view is that if we give some
209 guidance to the artists that is very broad [and tell them not to] detract from the original
210 architectural design, let’s see what they create.”

211

212 Andrea said she believes Dash Park is an ideal location for public art as it would soften up the
213 park.

214

215 Ald. Binash said, “There are a couple things. One, I think we should make it clear that no city
216 funds will be involved. When you start talking about the Great River Landing, there is an
217 element that wants no city funds involved. There also is an element that does not want anything
218 more down there. There also is another group that thinks maybe we should have plaques –
219 something that tells the history of the city; the history of the development of this particular area;
220 what we found down there, the architectural remains and what was Native American to that
221 particular area; and also the railroad that was there. There is a group that thinks we should have
222 plaques and not a statue. I don’t think we should get locked in to a particular type of statue. To
223 bring this all together, eventually the public is going to make the decision. We’ll be presenting it
224 to them. We may do it like they’ve done in the past where we have these specific designs, and
225 pick something at a public forum – what do you think? Right now, I think we’ve really
226 discussed it to the point where you have some great ideas, so bring them forward. There will be
227 some other ideas coming, and then let’s move on with it.”

228

229 Andrea asked, “How do we decide, or who has the authority to decide, what gets put in down
230 there? Do the plaques go in? Does the sculpture go in? Do we let everybody put things in?”

231

232 Joyce said the Great River Landing Committee makes the decision, and she told board members
233 the signage might be installed “down a little lower.”

234

235 Andrea said, “They want to do that and you want to do this and somebody else wants to do
236 something else. Eventually we have all of this stuff, which is ...”

237

238 Joyce responded, “Not necessarily, because the Common Council has to approve it.” Joyce also
239 reiterated the Common Council went on record stating it would like to have public art at the
240 Great River Landing. Joyce said, “I think every consideration is going to be taken as far as
241 maintenance and from your end and aesthetics from the public’s end.”

242

243 Erik said, “The whole point of having Joyce here is that we want the Parks and Recreation Board
244 to have input into this. It’s equally as important that this board be heavily involved in this
245 process so that it meets the needs and expectations of this group as well as the future

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246 maintenance of whatever potentially does go down there. The final decision will come through
247 the Great River Landing Committee and then be recommended to the Council. But through this
248 entire process, whether it's Victor reporting back to you on what's going on at the Great River
249 Landing Committee meetings or if Joyce or myself have to attend these meetings for continuous
250 updates and feedback, there's not really an easy approach to make this happen. But we want to
251 do it as smooth and as streamlined as possible."

252

253 **Item 5 – Potential change to the May meeting date to May 21st**

254

255 Dan noted that May 28, the fourth Monday of the month, is Memorial Day and said he is looking
256 to move the May Parks and Recreation Board meeting to Monday, May 21.

257

258 Motion by Ald. Binash, second by Andrea, to change the May Parks and Recreation Board
259 meeting date to May 21st.

260

261 On voice vote, motion carried.

262

263 **Item 6 – Memorandum of Understanding between Wisconsin Department of Natural
264 Resources and City of Onalaska for the Great River State Bike Trail**

265

266 Dan said a copy of the draft MOU has been included in board members' packets. The MOU
267 follows many of the same guidelines that were put together on the trial base utilized in 2017.
268 Dan said he had spoken with Wisconsin DNR representative Lois Larson, who works at Perrot
269 State Park in Trempealeau and is the local head of the Great River State Bike Trail, and he told
270 board members, "This is mostly done by counties that would take over large sections of the trail,
271 so we're one of the first, if not the first, community looking at taking over a portion of the trail
272 within the city. It's a lot of taking the word 'county' out and putting the word 'city' in and trying
273 to work through this." Dan said he had three questions after receiving the draft MOU, and he
274 told board members the city's legal counsel had reviewed and signed off on the document. Dan
275 told board members the Wisconsin DNR is attempting to answer his questions, and he asked
276 them if they want to examine the document page by page, or if they want to discuss the questions
277 he has raised.

278

279 Steven asked Dan to address the questions he had raised.

280

281 Dan first addressed Section V ("Obligations of the City"), Subsection 3, which reads, "*The City*
282 *will participate in or conduct public meetings, which are necessary for the management and*
283 *improvements of the Trail, including for any major changes to the trail plan such as eliminating*
284 *or adding allowed trail uses or authorizing special events not addressed by the trail plan.*
285 *Attempts should be made to comply with the intent of Chapter NR 44, Wis. Adm. Code, as it*
286 *relates to public participation.*" Dan said this is in reference to the plan called out by the

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287 Wisconsin DNR and told board members, “In our conversation with the DNR, I asked them if we
288 could see what they have set for the Great River State Bike Trail, but that’s incorporated in their
289 state management plan. It’s just a piece to that puzzle, so they don’t have a specific plan for just
290 the trail. In talking with Lois, this is something we need to refine and put together. She said her
291 opinion of this plan, which isn’t the way it reads in here, is that we sit down a couple times a
292 year and talk about the projects coming up and what we have.” Dan said the Wisconsin DNR is
293 reviewing this part.

294
295 Andrea said the goal would be to eliminate the need for public meetings, which are costly in
296 terms of time and money.

297
298 Dan next addressed Section V, Subsection 5, which reads, “*The City will assume all monitoring,*
299 *enforcement, and maintenance responsibilities on the Property as defined in Section II.*” Dan
300 said, “This is not something we had ever planned on. It’s a very small portion of the trail. I
301 don’t anticipate anybody coming in and doing anything with the type of enforcement. In our
302 conversations with the DNR, they have rangers on the trail that they would just keep up with
303 that. If we see people we could talk with them and encourage them to buy into the trail system,
304 and to help it for the betterment of the area.” Dan said the Wisconsin DNR is reviewing this
305 item.

306
307 Dan next addressed Section VI, Subsection 6, which reads, “*The City assumes complete*
308 *responsibility for the development, operation, maintenance, and repair of the Trail. The*
309 *Department has no obligation to develop, operate, maintain, or repair the Trail at any time.*”
310 Dan said the city would work with the Wisconsin DNR if it is bringing in trail base as part of a
311 project. Dan said he is concerned about the Wisconsin DNR reaching County Trunk Highway Z,
312 “jumping over” the city’s portion of the trail, and then continuing on. Dan also said Lois has
313 assured him the Wisconsin DNR wants to work with the city, adding that this section also is
314 under review by the Wisconsin DNR.

315
316 Ald. Binash referred to Section IV (“Obligations of the Department”), Subsection 3, which reads,
317 “*The Department will work with the City to identify funding sources for the operation and repair*
318 *of the Trail. The City shall sell State Trail Passes and maintain 70 percent of the monies to*
319 *operate, maintain and repair the Trail. The remaining 30 percent shall be remitted to the State.*”
320 Ald. Binash asked if this amount will be sufficient based on prior sales to cover the expenses the
321 city will incur because of the trail. Ald. Binash also asked, “Where did the money come from
322 before?”

323
324 Dan said, “We wouldn’t do anything on the trail. No funding from the city would ever be
325 allocated to the trail. That was all done via the DNR would handle that. The difficulty we’ve
326 run into, especially since we’ve opened the Great River Landing, is everybody sees this beautiful
327 location and everything is well-manicured and taken care of, and they go 100 feet up the trail or

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328 down the trail and it's in very tough shape. Then they come back to us ... and we're unable to
329 really do anything with it. By entering into this agreement, it's going to give us an opportunity
330 to maintain a portion of the trail – almost all of the trail – within the City of Onalaska. We're
331 fortunate enough with the Parks Department and the equipment we have for doing all of our
332 other jobs and our Public Works Department, we have a lot of equipment that we can go in there
333 and take care of that and maintain it. The 70 percent, in working with Lois – and this was all
334 reviewed during our budget process – Lois thought we could estimate around \$20,000 in trail
335 pass sales, with us collecting 70 percent based on history the DNR has using a five-year average.
336 I put \$10,000 in the 2018 Budget to be very conservative with the numbers to try to see where
337 we're at.”

338

339 Ald. Binash noted Dan had said the Wisconsin DNR would “continue to do things” on the trail,
340 but the city would receive 70 percent of the sales to maintain the trail. Ald. Binash asked, “What
341 is our duty? According to this we're supposed to.”

342

343 Dan estimated the Wisconsin DNR has approximately 22 miles of trail system of which Lois is
344 in charge, and he also estimated that Lois' 2017 budget to maintain those 22 miles was
345 approximately \$20,000.

346

347 Ald. Binash referred to Section V, Subsection 16, which reads, “*The City will indemnify and*
348 *hold harmless the Department and its employees against all claims, damages, costs, and*
349 *expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising from the performance of this MOU by the*
350 *City, its agents, contractors, servants, licensees, permittees, or employees. In case any action or*
351 *proceeding is brought against the Department or its employees by reason of any such claim, the*
352 *City, upon notice from the Department, will defend such action or proceeding.*” Ald. Binash
353 said it is his opinion that “just knowing that any inherent or latent defects, known or unknown at
354 the time of the agreement, should not be the responsibility of the city.”

355

356 Dan said he believes that with recreation immunity in the State of Wisconsin, “it really protects
357 us both.” But Dan told Ald. Binash he will ask the city's legal counsel to review Section V,
358 Subsection 16.

359

360 Ald. Binash suggested the following verbiage be added: “*For any latent or inherent defects,*
361 *known or unknown, at the time of the signing of this agreement.*”

362

363 Steven said he believes there must be a time limit for developing the plan. Steven also asks who
364 approves the plan.

365

366 Dan said Lois, who serves as trail director, would approve the plan.

367

368 Andrea referred to Section V, Subsection 1, which reads in part, “*The City, with the assistance of*

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369 *the Department, will coordinate and prepare an informal plan for the Trail that describes trail*
370 *management and operation within six months of the conveyance of the easement.”* Andrea said
371 she assumes this is the same plan discussed under Section V, Subsection 6.

372

373 Dan told Andrea she is correct and said, “As we sit here right now, that is what the DNR is
374 working toward. They are trying to develop it. Again, we are the first ones in the state that are
375 looking at doing this. This is very new territory for them, and that’s why we need to review it
376 and come up with it.”

377

378 Steven referred to Section V, Subsection 8(a)(1), which relates to trees and forest cover, and
379 reads in part, “*When active management is proposed, the City shall coordinate review of the*
380 *proposed management activity with appropriate Department staff.*” Steven asked if department
381 staff has veto authority over trimming trees.

382

383 Dan told Steven he does not know at this time and promised to look into it.

384

385 Steven addressed monitoring and enforcement, noting that a majority of the individuals utilizing
386 the trail are “historically very compliant.” Steven said he wants to ensure that the city has the
387 capability to enforce legal action (e.g. a response by the City of Onalaska Police Department)
388 against any individuals who become belligerent.

389

390 Dan noted the city does not have a final agreement from the Wisconsin DNR and said he
391 anticipates the draft MOU coming back before the board at its April 23 meeting.

392

393 **Item 7 – Food Truck Policies and Procedures Manual**

394

395 Dan said the definitions that were requested have been added; the sign-up process has been
396 updated; and the city’s legal counsel has reviewed the manual. Dan referred to a map of
397 locations in the city being shown to board members and noted that vendors might have to be
398 relocated to the Community Center lot this year due to potential maintenance at the wellhouse at
399 Community Park. Dan pointed out the areas at Van Riper Park, Rowe Park, City Hall, and the
400 Great River Landing where food vendors will be allowed to operate.

401

402 Andrea referred to the area near the Great River Landing where there have been “some
403 challenging crossing situations” and asked if perhaps the presence of a food truck will enhance
404 those. Andrea asked if it would be possible to install a push-button crosswalk at the intersection
405 of 2nd Avenue North and Main Street.

406

407 Ald. Binash told Andrea what she is discussing is not on tonight’s agenda.

408

409 Andrea said she is concerned that there will be more traffic if a food truck is located at the Great

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410 River Landing.

411
412 Ald. Binash referred to the copy of the mobile food vendor permit application included in board
413 members' packets and said he believes the words "per year" should be included at the end of No.
414 2, which reads, "*The application for this permit is \$50, and the park usage fee is \$150.*" Ald.
415 Binash then addressed Section xii(b) in the manual, which states hours of operation are 4:30 p.m.
416 to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and he asked if food vendors will not be allowed to
417 operate on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

418
419 Dan told Ald. Binash the manual had been formatted incorrectly and said that is only for Van
420 Riper Park.

421
422 Steven referred to Section ii ("Definitions"), Subsection 'a,' and said he believes it should be
423 edited to read as follows: "*Mobile food vendor is a self-contained food service operation,*
424 *located in a readily movable motorized wheeled or towed vehicle, used to store, prepare, display*
425 ***and** serve food intended for individual portion service."* The subsection currently states "*used to*
426 *store, prepare, display **or** serve food intended for individual portion service."* Steven next
427 referred to Section vii, Subsection 'a,' which reads, "*Valid Mobile Food Vendor permits must be*
428 *openly displayed in the window on all approved vehicles, carts, or similar apparatus."* Steven
429 suggested rewording 'a' to state "*openly displayed in a window where it is easily visible to*
430 *patrons."* Steven also said he was under the impression hours of operation would be from 7 a.m.
431 until 9 p.m. and not until 10 p.m. as stated in the manual.

432
433 Dan said, "We had our park hours of 6 [a.m.] to 10 [p.m.]. There was no motion and there was
434 no direction given."

435
436 Steven said he does not object to 10 p.m. as long as there is the understanding that the vendor
437 may begin occupying the park at 7 a.m., and must vacate it by 10 p.m.

438
439 Andrea returned to Section ii, Subsection 'a' and said she believes it should be worded to say,
440 "*used to store, prepare, display **and/or** serve food intended for individual portion service."*

441
442 Ohbe inquired about vendors vacating parks 30 minutes prior to closing.

443
444 Dan said city parks are open until 11 p.m. and told Ohbe that at first the hours of operation were
445 listed as 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

446
447 Andrea noted that events at city parks end at 10 p.m. and asked why vendors would be limited to
448 10 p.m.

449
450 Steven said there are residential neighborhoods near some of the parks.

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451
452 Andrea said she believes there are individuals who will want to buy food on their way out of the
453 park when events end at 10 p.m. Andrea said vendors will have to shut down their trucks by 9
454 p.m. or 9:30 p.m. if they must vacate a park by 10 p.m.

455
456 Steven said vendors are not asked to vacate by 10 p.m. they might not shut down their trucks
457 until 10:30 p.m. As a result, a truck operating at 85 decibels will be a disturbance to
458 neighborhood residents.

459
460 Dan asked board members for a motion to move this item forward and noted it will have to go
461 before the Plan Commission so that Conditional Use Permits may be obtained for the areas in the
462 parks.

463
464 Motion by Ald. Binash, second by Andrea, to approve the Food Truck Policies and Procedures
465 Manual, with the recommended procedural and policy changes.

466
467 On voice vote, motion carried.

468
469 **Item 8 – Report from La Crosse County Bluffland Steering Committee**

470
471 Dan said the committee had met the week of March 18-24 and discussed projects currently
472 underway by the Bluffland Coalition. A coordinator has been hired, and La Crosse County is
473 funding this half-time position. The bylaws and the MOU will be coming before the Parks and
474 Recreation Board at its April 23 meeting, and from there go before both the Finance and
475 Personnel Committee and the Common Council for approval. Dan said, “It will be talking about
476 how the Blufflands Coalition will work, how it will be, how it will be funded. Funding doesn’t
477 want to be a major part of this. It has to be discussed.”

478
479 **Item 9 – Report from Onalaska Enhancement Foundation**

480
481 Dan said there are plans for the OEF to meet Tuesday evening.

482
483 Ald. Binash asked if it would be possible to obtain the financial breakdown of the OEF, meaning
484 the funding available for each entity involved.

485
486 For clarification, Dan asked Ald. Binash if he wants to know how much funding is available in
487 each account.

488
489 Ald. Binash said yes.

490
491 Dan said it will be necessary to ask Financial Services Director/Treasurer Fred Buehler.

492
Reviewed 3/28/18 by Dan Wick

**Parks and Recreation Board
of the City of Onalaska**

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13

493 **Item 10 – Report from Great River Landing Committee**

494

495 Ald. Binash said Explore La Crosse is examining the cost of installing a monitor at the Great
496 River Landing trailhead building that displays weather conditions. Ald. Binash also said
497 Ironcore, Inc. is putting together estimates for such a monitor that he can present to the Room
498 Tax Commission. Ald. Binash said one possibility is installing a monitor that not only displays
499 local weather conditions, but also advertising.

500

501 **Item 11 – Director’s Report**

502

503 **a. Parks Update**

504

505 Mark reporting the following:

506

- 507 • Staff is working on preparing the softball and soccer fields.
- 508 • Cleanup at the park shelters may occur the first week of April.
- 509 • Staff is cleaning the pool.

510

511 **b. Recreation Update**

512

513 Dan reported the following:

514

- 515 • The spring volleyball program has begun. There are seven traveling volleyball teams.
516 The tournament season begins April 12 and runs until May 19.
- 517 • A large number of first through fourth graders are playing soccer. Staff compiled
518 schedules for approximately 160 area teams.
- 519 • The activity guides have been delivered.

520

521 **c. Aquatic Center Update**

522

523 Dan encouraged board members to encourage anyone who might be interested in working this
524 summer at the Aquatic Center to fill out an online application.

525

526 **d. Omni Center Update**

527

528 Dan reported the following:

529

- 530 • Three events (La Crosse Area Builders Association, railroad show, gun show) have been
531 held in Arena No. 1 the last three weekends.
- 532 • Removal of the ice in Arena No. 2 will begin April 12, and it will be reinstalled either in
533 late May or early June after the arena has been cleaned.
- 534 • The Driftless Sports Convergence plans to utilize both Arena No. 1 and Arena No. 2 for

Reviewed 3/28/18 by Dan Wick

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14

- 535 its event, which is scheduled for May 19.
- 536 • Mark Bell, a La Crescent, Minn., resident, wrote a letter to the La Crosse Tribune
- 537 thanking the Omni Center and its staff for hosting the 37th annual La Crosse and 3 Rivers
- 538 Model Railroad Show. It was the first year the event was held at the Omni Center.
- 539 • Staff is obtaining leads for more events at the Omni Center. One group is coming in for a
- 540 fall event, and the same group would like to hold two yearly events (one in the spring,
- 541 one in the fall) at the facility.
- 542

543 Brian asked Dan if he had elected not to announce on the Omni Center display that the gun show

544 had been held last weekend at the facility.

545

546 Andrea said the event had been shown on the lighted display this past Saturday.

547

548 Dan said a number of events are rotated through.

549

550 Brian asked Dan if he could share the final urban deer hunt statistics at a future meeting.

551

552 Dan said he hopes to share that data with the board at its April 23 meeting.

553

554 Brian noted the trees had been cleared so that it would be possible to walk up to the spillway, and

555 he also noted the water levels were extremely high in the spring of 2017. Brian said the water

556 was halfway up to the railroad tracks and he noted that fishermen will be unable to walk on the

557 path if water levels are that high again this spring.

558

559 Dan said staff has worked with Burlington Northern Santa Fe and stated, “You have to be on the

560 south side of the tracks. [Fishermen] have to come in on the park side, and they have to walk. If

561 they’re going to cross the tracks other than at the crossing, they will fine you – no question

562 asked.”

563

564 Dan noted that Administrative Assistant Samantha Berg had submitted her resignation March 23.

565

566 **Adjournment**

567

568 Motion by Andrea, second by Brian, to adjourn at 6:21 p.m.

569

570 On voice vote, motion carried.

571

572

573 Recorded by:

574

575

Kirk Bey