

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

Monday, January 22, 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, January 22, 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, Gretchen Newhouse,  
6 Brian Udermann, Victor Hill, Steven Nott, Ohbe Johnson. Andrea Benco arrived with the  
7 meeting in progress.

8  
9 Also Present: Parks and Recreation Director Dan Wick, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Mark  
10 Hanson

11  
12 **Item 2 – Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

13  
14 Motion by Ald. Binash, second by Ohbe, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as  
15 printed and on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

16  
17 On voice vote, motion carried, 5-0, with one abstention (Gretchen Newhouse).

18  
19 **Item 3 – Public Input (Limited to 3 minutes/individual)**

20  
21 Steven called three times for anyone wishing to provide public input and closed that portion of  
22 the meeting. Steven then said Item 8 will be addressed first.

23  
24 **Consideration and possible action on the following items:**

25  
26 **Item 8 – Food Truck Policies and Procedures Manual**

27  
28 Dan told board members he had distributed two documents created by staff, and also that he is  
29 not seeking a motion this evening to move this item forward. Dan described the Food Truck  
30 Policies and Procedures Manual as “an operational manual that we can utilize as we go forward.  
31 It’s really here for a discussion item as we look at and go through the document.” One of the  
32 documents is colored and shows all the changes that were made to the document that was  
33 included in board members’ packets. Dan said many of the updates were completed with the  
34 assistance of Andrew Fischer, the owner/operator of Sweet Lou Barbeque, who is attending this  
35 evening’s meeting. Dan said Andrew had contacted Mayor Joe Chilsen and inquired about  
36 operating a food truck in the city.

37  
38 Victor asked if food truck operators and individuals who operate an ice cream cart would be  
39 considered mobile food vendors.

40  
41 Andrew explained that most food trucks are designated as mobile food vendors, and he also said

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42 individuals who operate an ice cream truck – or in Andrew’s case, own a trailer – also can  
43 considered food vendors.

44  
45 Dan noted the term “food truck” had been utilized extensively throughout the original document  
46 and said Andrew had suggested replacing the term “food truck” with the term “mobile food  
47 vendor.”

48  
49 Steven referred to Section VIII(b)(i) in the original document, which states the hours of  
50 operation in Van Riper Park would be from 4:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. Steven said he had not seen  
51 any other hours of operation listed in the document.

52  
53 Dan referred to Section VIII(d)(a), which states “*Hours of operation are from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.,  
54 unless otherwise noticed. Food trucks are not permitted outside of these hours without prior  
55 written approval.*” Dan noted youth sporting events are held Mondays and Tuesdays in the  
56 summer from 5:30 p.m. until 9:30 or 10 p.m. at Van Riper Park. In addition, adult softball  
57 league contests occur Wednesday and Thursday evenings at Van Riper Park. Dan said, “We  
58 have a very captive audience there, and that’s what we were trying to look for.” Dan also said  
59 that in the past board members had expressed concerns regarding lost revenue at the Aquatic  
60 Center and stated, “That’s why we kind of limited the hours, and where they would go would be  
61 over by those fields.” Dan reiterated there would be a “captive audience” as parents would be  
62 bringing their children to the fields after leaving work and said, “If we provided an opportunity  
63 for a mobile food vendor to be set up in that location, it would give them that opportunity with a  
64 captive audience of people coming.”

65  
66 Steven referred to the 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. hours of operation and noted that some parks are located  
67 near residential areas. Steven asked if some activities occur at 6 a.m.

68  
69 Dan said no and stated, “We don’t want to make this too restrictive, and we don’t want to make  
70 this a management nightmare from the Park and Rec standpoint, so we set park hours. It’s a  
71 first-come, first-served basis. The park opens at 6 [a.m.], so if somebody wants to get there at 6  
72 ... We don’t have hundreds of food trucks that want to get in here, but we’d give people that  
73 opportunity to come in. If we want to change the operating hours, I’m fine with that.” Dan  
74 noted the original document included Section VIII(b) (“Hot Spot locations”), which were  
75 locations that would have carried additional fees. Dan said he had revised the document based  
76 on conversations with Andrew and stated, “I don’t want this to be a cumbersome process from  
77 our office. ... We’ve kind of retracted that a little bit to go back to an application fee and a  
78 designation fee – the \$150 and the \$50 – to try to minimize that process.”

79  
80 Victor asked Steven what his specific concerns are regarding the hours of operation.

81  
82 Steven said he would have concerns with the noise level if he had young children and resided

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83 near a park where food trucks were allowed to set up at 6 a.m. and operate until 11 p.m.

84

85 Victor inquired about the potential noise level.

86

87 Dan said Andrew suggested establishing a decibel level. Dan also said that per city ordinance a  
88 generator may be utilized outside, but the generator may not exceed 85 decibels from 7 a.m. until  
89 11 p.m.

90

91 Steven asked, "At what distance is that?"

92

93 Dan said the ordinance states an electric generator may be utilized while a vehicle is stationary  
94 and operated as long as it does not generate noise that exceeds 85 decibels.

95

96 Andrew said it would be at the generator, and "it wouldn't be any farther than, I would say,  
97 within a 5-foot span of that generator." Andrew noted many other locations are 70 decibels or  
98 lower and said, "If it's near a residential area, I would probably increase the timeframe. Most  
99 people are not going to be there at 6 o'clock in the morning. Realistically, I would say 7 a.m. If  
100 it's next to a residential area, I would say no longer than 9 p.m. unless there is something special  
101 going on. At that point you're not going to be making any money there. Your bread and butter  
102 is going to be lunchtime and dinnertime."

103

104 Steven said he believes 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. is a more reasonable timeframe for residential areas, and  
105 he asked if 70 decibels is an unreasonable amount.

106

107 Dan said, "I think what we are looking at from a city standpoint is what our ordinance says. We  
108 could make the recommendation in this document, then it would state that. ... We can write it in  
109 to be more restrictive than what we have."

110

111 Steven reiterated he would be more comfortable with a 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. timeframe for hours of  
112 operation.

113

114 Ald. Binash said he believes there should be a definition of what a mobile food vendor is. Ald.  
115 Binash also addressed Section IX ("Insurance Requirements: Commercial General Liability  
116 Coverage") and said he does not believe \$50,000 is sufficient for a fire damage limit (any one  
117 fire). Ald. Binash said, "If you have an explosion or there's a grease fire and it catches the  
118 building they're close to, they're going to be in trouble."

119

120 Dan said CVMIC (Cities and Villages Mutual Insurance Company) had provided the coverage  
121 rates.

122

123 Ald. Binash said, "I would look into that. Products – Completed Operations [\$1 million], I get

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124 that. Each Occurrence limit [\$1 million], without seeing the policy I'm not sure what they're  
125 covering and what they're not covering. To say 'Each Occurrence limit,' the policy will  
126 determine what that is. Without seeing that, I really don't know what it is that they're covering.  
127 It identifies what a fire damage limit is. That's contradictory to what each limit is."

128

129 Dan said, "I can get some more clarification on it."

130

131 Steven said he believes the Medical Expense limit (any one person) of \$5,000 seems very low.

132

133 Dan said this is the general policy CVMIC provides the city for all of its contracts, adding, "This  
134 is their recommendation coming back to us. We can go back and ask and try to get more  
135 clarification."

136

137 Ald. Binash explained, "Generally that means whether they are or are not responsible, they may  
138 have this coverage. If they are responsible, then there is liability coverage. They are two  
139 different, distinct things."

140

141 Gretchen said that according to the policy a vendor would pay a non-refundable designated park  
142 usage annual fee of \$150, and also a \$50 application fee, for a total of \$200.

143

144 Dan told Gretchen that is correct.

145

146 Gretchen asked if a vendor is then permitted to operate in any city park on a first-come, first-  
147 served basis.

148

149 Dan said no, stating, "Only the locations that we have specified that they can go to."

150

151 Gretchen asked Dan if he has looked into staffing costs regarding responding to any vendor-  
152 related issues such as complaints from residents.

153

154 Ald. Binash noted the board had discussed this particular policy at a previous meeting and said,  
155 "We wanted to give [vendors] enough leeway so that we knew they were in the area, but [we  
156 wanted to] give them enough leeway. If something were to happen, then we would be able to  
157 say, 'This is what we're finding.' Right now, this is more or less let's see how this goes. We  
158 want a permit. If we didn't have a permit, then we wouldn't know who is operating within the  
159 city. If we have a permit, we know who is interested in working. [Regarding] the private areas,  
160 they can go there and do what they want. With our areas like parks, if we have them with a  
161 permit, then we know that they're there."

162

163 Gretchen said no one will ever know who committed an infraction at a park because the city is  
164 not tracking which individual mobile food vendor is at which park.

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165  
166 Mark told Gretchen city staff is in the areas of the parks where vendors will be allowed to go  
167 several times a day.

168  
169 Steven told Gretchen he believes there would be several witnesses if a vendor was, for example,  
170 dumping grease in a park and a police report could be filed.

171  
172 Dan said, "This is our first time. We want to bring this mobile food vendors into our parks. I  
173 think it will be an asset to us. If we get to the point where we're having issues, then we can  
174 come back and be a little more selective. We can add more areas, and we can look at different  
175 things to try to get it. But let's get it out there and see if we have the interest. Then we can kind  
176 of go on."

177  
178 Ohbe asked if the vendors will be parking in the park or on the streets.

179  
180 Dan said vendors will be in the park and stated, "I'm hoping we can have this discussion and  
181 come back to the board with a clean copy, then go through the committees in February and it  
182 gets approved in March. Then we would end up marking certain areas." Dan said the permit  
183 process would involve supplying vendors with a map showing the area in which they may do  
184 business, and perhaps also physically going to a parking lot and pointing out the area. Dan  
185 referred to a location at Community Park that is heavily utilized Monday through Thursday  
186 evenings and suggested perhaps allowing a couple of trucks to utilize this area. Dan noted there  
187 will be construction in this area this year and said the manual states that the vendors can be  
188 relocated to the Community Center parking lot.

189  
190 Steven asked Dan if city ordinances address penalties for individuals who operate mobile food  
191 vehicles without a permit.

192  
193 Dan said, "Those are things that we are working on with the code. Right now, we say we take  
194 your permit. I think they would, in the situation [Ald. Binash] went back to where we got the  
195 DNR involved, I think that's where we could go back to and protect us."

196  
197 Andrea inquired about Section VI(a) ("Violations"), which states "*The City Administrator or*  
198 *designee shall have the ability to suspend or revoke a vendor's designated parking location,*  
199 *Mobile Food Vendor Permit, or participation in the Mobile Food Vendor Program for any*  
200 *violation of the Onalaska City Code, Zoning Ordinance, or Food Truck Policies and Procedures*  
201 *Manual.*" Andrea noted a vendor is not assigned a spot when he/she receives a permit.

202  
203 Dan said it should only be the Mobile Food Vendor Permit and not the designated location.

204  
205 Andrew suggested creating a calendar for vendors, who could contact city staff on a particular

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206 day and ask if a location such as the Great River Landing is available on a particular weekend.

207  
208 Dan referred to the city's Urban Deer Hunt, which allows individuals to hunt in certain park  
209 locations, and said hunters may only sign up for one zone per day. Dan said individuals must  
210 return and sign up four consecutive days if they wish to hunt all four seasons. Dan said, "This  
211 process, knowing we're talking about a much longer time and larger time, that's a process.  
212 That's why we took out the sign-up. ... We could have one mobile food vendor come in on a  
213 Monday morning and fill out the whole year that this is what they want and take it away from  
214 everybody else. That's where I came back from our standpoint of managing it. I don't want it to  
215 be a nightmare from how we're doing it. I don't know if there's a way we can do something  
216 from a Google calendar. I'm just trying to look out there to give people equal opportunity to  
217 sign up for times."

218  
219 Andrea suggested perhaps instituting a weekly lottery drawing.

220  
221 Dan told Andrea, "That's weekly. That's every week trying to get to it as they're trying to get  
222 schedules put together."

223  
224 Victor said there has to be a simple shared document to show available time slots.

225  
226 Dan said a possible solution would be to share a Google calendar with vendors. Dan also noted  
227 he has been contacted by five different vendors and said he is certain there are more who would  
228 be interested in operating in the city.

229  
230 Dan addressed special events (e.g. Celebrate Onalaska) on park or city-owned land, which are  
231 included in the manual, and said, "In those situations, they may not have the permit with us."  
232 However, Dan also said they will be covered under the Special Event Permit that events must  
233 have.

234  
235 Andrea suggested that a vendor who signs up for a spot and does not show up twice should lose  
236 the ability to do so.

237  
238 Victor asked if allowing vendors to operate in the Great River Landing will cause challenges due  
239 to the restaurant that will be opening on Main Street.

240  
241 Dan said no and told Victor he believes there have been conversations with the owner, who did  
242 not object to having mobile food vendors present.

243  
244 Steven said perhaps it would be possible to create a sign-up calendar that would not open until 6  
245 a.m. Once a location is full, other vendors will be locked out.

246

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247 Dan said it is possible a vendor could request a time via ACTIVE Net software.

248

249 Andrew said the City of La Crosse has a sign-up schedule for its parks.

250

251 Andrea asked if the new version of the manual defines what vendors receive with a permit.

252

253 Dan said yes and told Andrea, “The permit would give you the opportunity to work in  
254 Community Park, Rowe Park, Van Riper Park by the shelter near the ballfields, and City Hall  
255 was an area we suggested.” Dan said he will be seeking approval for this item at the February 26  
256 Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

257

258 **Item 4 – Discuss the leasing/rental of space at the Great River Landing to Explore La**  
259 **Crosse**

260

261 Ald. Binash, who also sits on the La Crosse County Convention & Visitors Bureau, said he had  
262 spoken with LCCVB Director A.J. Frels and LCCVB staff about the possibility of the LCCVB  
263 manning the Great River Landing. Ald. Binash said, “They were fully in favor of it, so I thought  
264 we would bring it here to see whether you do or you don’t want to go forward with possibly  
265 having Explore La Crosse staffing the little space we have.”

266

267 Andrea asked, “What kind of hours?”

268

269 Ald. Binash replied, “It would be seasonal, so it’s hours to be determined. The first question is,  
270 do you want to do it?”

271

272 Dan told board members that any negotiations would not be conducted in Open Session and said  
273 the discussion revolves around whether or not the board wishes to entertain the idea. Dan said if  
274 the board is in favor of it, its members likely would discuss the matter in Closed Session through  
275 the negotiation process with the LCCVB.

276

277 Andrea asked if the LCCVB would have items in the room it is utilizing at the Great River  
278 Landing.

279

280 Gretchen asked which space will be utilized.

281

282 Ald. Binash said the LCCVB would utilize a room that measures approximately 200 square feet.  
283 The LCCVB would have an employee in this space as well as an interactive digital board sharing  
284 information regarding events in the La Crosse area. Ald. Binash also said visitors either could  
285 walk up to the window in the room or enter it.

286

287 Steven asked if allowing the LCCVB to utilize this space would remove the option of either

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288 leasing or renting it.

289

290 Dan said, “There was no consensus from this group of doing it, and I also don’t believe there is  
291 any consensus at the Council level of looking at it. I think it’s an opportunity to bring this  
292 business in that is promoting our area and having it there.”

293

294 Andrea said, “I think having somebody in there who can answer questions and tell people where  
295 to go and make suggestions and help them understand what’s available in that facility or  
296 elsewhere, that’s such a huge benefit to the city. I don’t know how we couldn’t entertain the  
297 thought of leasing to that group. I’m not in favor of leasing that space in general to birthday  
298 parties, but this would be a great compromise because I think it would sell the whole region.”

299

300 Dan said he believes there would be several positive aspects involved with leasing the space to  
301 the LCCVB, noting that many individuals utilize the Great River Landing on a daily basis.

302

303 Ohbe asked if there would be any negative aspects involved with leasing the space to the  
304 LCCVB, adding he does not believe there are any.

305

306 Dan said he does not believe there are any.

307

308 Gretchen said the city would lease the space to the LCCVB, which would hire an employee, but  
309 the city would technically be managing the employee.

310

311 Dan said the LCCVB would manage the employee. Dan also noted it would be a Tourism  
312 position and said, “I think it’s hard for us to manage the hours because they may have somebody  
313 there seven days a week. Knowing what hours they’re going to be there and not be there, I think  
314 it would be helpful to have times posted for when somebody will be in the building. But that  
315 would be their gig.”

316

317 Andrea said she believes the city lost a lot when the city’s former Tourism staff left because the  
318 LCCVB employees at Riverside Park “are not promoting this end of La Crosse County. They’re  
319 promoting where they are. I think if they could put a person up here ...”

320

321 Ald. Binash told Andrea that the LCCVB is promoting the City of Onalaska, noting that the  
322 LCCVB is both utilizing and promoting the Omni Center. Ald. Binash said the interactive  
323 digital board will list restaurants and events occurring in La Crosse County. Ald. Binash also  
324 noted that the LCCVB is considering utilizing volunteers at the Great River Landing.

325

326 Gretchen asked why the city would lease the space to the LCCVB if it is utilizing volunteers,  
327 also asking why the city should not utilize its own volunteers “and run our own operation.”

328

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329 Dan responded, “Because the [LCCVB] might pay us.”

330

331 Gretchen said, “You lose control when you lease a property.”

332

333 Andrea asked Gretchen, “So you’re interested if the details are right?”

334

335 Gretchen said yes, telling Andrea the city could utilize its own volunteers and have “total  
336 control” as opposed to leasing the space to someone else. Gretchen added it might not be worth  
337 it for the city to lease the space.

338

339 It was noted that finding and scheduling volunteers would add to city staff’s duties.

340

341 Motion by Andrea, second by Brian Udermann, to entertain the possibility of leasing/renting  
342 space at the Great River Landing to Explore La Crosse.

343

344 On voice vote, motion carried.

345

346 **Item 5 – Donation request from American Legion for playground equipment**

347

348 Dan said Ald. Jerry Every had asked him to bring this item before the board for consideration. A  
349 letter from the Sons of the American Legion Committee was included in board members’  
350 packets.

351

352 Steven said, “Speaking as a member of the American Legion and a member of the Veterans of  
353 Foreign Wars and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, I support all our veterans’  
354 organizations. But I don’t understand why we have this. This is private property. This would be  
355 a private capability on private property. It looks like they have \$23,000 of \$45,000. If they want  
356 to raise the additional monies they need for that, then God bless them. Are they asking for city  
357 money for private property? We can’t get into that business.”

358

359 Andrea said, “I would agree with that. That was my concern. I think the thought is great. I love  
360 the thought of a playground, but I don’t know how we could do this without not doing this for  
361 every ...”

362

363 Ald. Binash noted he is a member of the American Legion and a board member, and he said he  
364 did not know Ald. Every was going to make this request “until I found out later. The fact is that  
365 a lot of people do use this, and the public is welcome there. It may be private property, but the  
366 public is welcome. We do have events that happen there that the public is there. Children do use  
367 this facility even though there isn’t a baseball game or something going on. We don’t discourage  
368 it. I’m not sure if this is a proper way for an entity such as the American Legion to request the  
369 money. I don’t know if that is even possible based on how the money is obtained for the Park

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370 Fund. I don't know if there is anything written in there that says there is an exclusion for those  
371 areas that are not developer-created. And I think it's the developers who pay the money so that  
372 the ..."

373

374 Dan told Ald. Binash, "We can't donate Park Fund money. Park Fund monies are for city-  
375 owned property."

376

377 Ald. Binash said, "That may be the exclusion why this cannot be ..."

378

379 Andrea asked if the American Legion is a tax-exempt property.

380

381 Ald. Binash said most of it is, adding he does not believe all of the property is tax-exempt and  
382 noting the Food Basket also is present on the property.

383

384 Andrea said it would be "interesting" to donate tax dollars to a tax-exempt organization that does  
385 not pay taxes.

386

387 Ald. Binash said, "The exclusion might be that it is private versus ..."

388

389 Dan said, "From a Park Fund standpoint, I do not believe that anywhere in statute it says we can  
390 donate."

391

392 Ald. Binash said, "I don't think we can, as much as it wouldn't be a bad idea."

393

394 Gretchen suggested that perhaps the American Legion could approach a corporation.

395

396 Ald. Binash told Gretchen the American Legion is doing "some real big fundraisers."

397

398 Motion by Gretchen, second by Victor, to deny a donation request from the American Legion for  
399 playground equipment.

400

401 On voice vote, motion carried, 6-0, with one abstention (Ald. Binash).

402

403 Steven noted his American Legion membership is not with Post 336; therefore, there is no  
404 conflict of interest.

405

406 **Item 6 – Award 2018 Summer Activity Guide Printing – bid deadline is 1:00 P.M. on**  
407 **January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

408

409 Dan said he had received two quotes in the mail, noting La Crosse Graphics had not submitted a  
410 bid. Crescent Printing submitted a bid of \$2,720, and Quality Resource Group submitted a bid of

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411 \$6,586. Dan said he recommends approving Crescent Printing, adding he believes the cost of  
412 direct mail (\$320) is on top of the \$2,720. Dan said \$320 is Crescent Printing's cost to presort,  
413 and thus he believes the maximum cost will be \$3,040.

414

415 Motion by Gretchen, second by Andrea, to award the 2018 Summer Activity Guide printing to  
416 Crescent Printing Company at a cost not to exceed \$3,040.

417

418 Ald. Binash said it is possible there was an error with the calculation because "that seems quite a  
419 spread" between Crescent Printing and Quality Resource Group.

420

421 Dan said, "We increased 500 items to go to 11,000 rather than print the 10,500. This is right in  
422 line with what they bid last year. In looking at the two bids from last year, Quality Resource  
423 Group was very similar pricing both sides."

424

425 On voice vote, motion carried.

426

427 **Item 7 – Award volleyball standard quote to Games People Play in the amount not to**  
428 **exceed \$12,159**

429

430 Dan said the funds come from the Tourism Fund for the Omni Center. Dan noted there are two  
431 sets of volleyball standards that were purchased several years ago from the Wisconsin Surplus  
432 website. Dan said Bison, Inc., which submitted a bid of \$15,564, "is the manufacturer that we  
433 get [and] is like the two units we have right now. We could go to the company and buy it, but  
434 they work with a number of vendors and give them a much better price." Dan said Games  
435 People Play's bid includes shipping, noting that the units weigh approximately 350 pounds  
436 apiece. Dan noted that funds are available to purchase the standard and said, "By doing this we  
437 were able to work the price that it actually adds the court adder in between. This would get us to  
438 six courts we can run in the Omni Center."

439

440 Motion by Andrea, second by Gretchen, to award volleyball standard quote to Games People  
441 Play in the amount not to exceed \$12,159.

442

443 Ald. Binash noted he and Dan had discussed bringing in volleyball tournaments to the Omni  
444 Center.

445

446 Dan noted the high school volleyball tournament the Omni Center had hosted in 2017 attracted  
447 18 teams and said 20 teams will participate in 2018.

448

449 On voice vote, motion carried.

450

451 **Item 9 – Report from La Crosse County Bluffland Steering Committee**

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452  
453 Dan noted the committee had met the week of January 14-20 and said it is in the process of  
454 hiring a part-time Blufflands Coordinator. Dan noted he had participated with La Crosse County  
455 in the interview process, and he said La Crosse County has funded the position for 2018. Dan  
456 said the Blufflands Coalition will have to undergo a significant amount of change over the next  
457 six to eight months, noting it will have to create bylaws. Dan said information pertaining to  
458 these bylaws likely will come before the committee in March and April.

459  
460 Andrea asked if the Memorandum of Understanding will come after the bylaws.

461  
462 Dan said it will come at the same time, noting the committee had had extensive discussions  
463 regarding the MOU. Dan said only a few communities are funding this process, noting that the  
464 City of Onalaska and La Crosse County are the two primary funding sources. Dan also noted the  
465 Blufflands Coalition is working on potentially purchasing two properties: one located in the  
466 Town of Shelby, and one adjacent to the City of Onalaska. Dan said the Mississippi Valley  
467 Conservancy is involved with the property adjacent to the City of Onalaska.

468  
469 **Item 10 – Report from Onalaska Enhancement Foundation**

470  
471 Dan said he had not been able to put together an agenda for the night the OEF was scheduled to  
472 meet. Dan said he attempted to host a meeting the following week, but there was no quorum.

473  
474 Ald. Binash asked if is possible to obtain an OEF budget.

475  
476 Dan said the OEF does not really have any funds it gives out, noting “it’s agencies working  
477 within them.” Dan said the John Fleis Scholarship Fund, Community Thanksgiving Dinner, and  
478 Celebrate Onalaska all are a part of it. Dan said the OEF “has some funds that they have in it,  
479 but these different funds kind of make up that.” Dan promised to try to bring a budget to show  
480 the Parks and Recreation Board after the OEF’s next meeting.

481  
482 **Item 11 – Report from Great River Landing Committee**

483  
484 Victor said he had shared the board’s concerns regarding art projects at the December 14 Great  
485 River Landing Committee meeting. Victor noted that Joyce Diveley had presented a proposal at  
486 the meeting and said that while some individuals at the meeting expressed their approval, he said  
487 he had advocated opening up the project to whomever wanted to submit ideas. Victor said  
488 concerns had been raised regarding allowing someone from out of the area to submit an idea.  
489 However, Victor also said he has personally seen a good idea come from an individual who had  
490 visited somewhere. Victor said he believes the committee “generally was in agreement that the  
491 idea was they want to keep it kind of open.”

492  
493 Andrea asked if the Great River Landing Committee still wants to place art at the Great River  
Reviewed 1/24/18 by Dan Wick

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13

494 Landing, but has not determined who will put art at the site.

495

496 Victor said the committee still is working on the details.

497

498 Ald. Binash noted that Joyce Diveley had spoken to the Common Council on January 9 and said  
499 the Council had agreed that a separate committee will not be created. Ald. Binash said the Great  
500 River Landing Committee was charged with serving as the lead committee for placing art at the  
501 Great River Landing.

502

503 Andrea asked if a location for public art had been determined.

504

505 Ald. Binash said there had been a discussion about the definition of art and what to place at the  
506 Great River Landing – perhaps a sculpture or plaques describing certain events that have  
507 occurred in the area. Ald. Binash said, “It just gets exponential. It was such a simple idea that  
508 has turned into a real monster.”

509

510 Victor said he did not see the point of forming an extra committee, as the Great River Landing  
511 Committee had discussed. Victor said that while he does not want to diminish the talents of local  
512 artists, he would like members of the community to also have input.

513

514 Ald. Binash noted that a sculpture was mentioned when the Great River Landing was being  
515 structured; however, it was not part of Phase One due to cost restraints. Ald. Binash said, “Now  
516 they’re in a position to do something, but what that something is, everybody here would have an  
517 opinion.”

518

519 **Item 12 – Director’s Report**

520

521 **a. Parks Update**

522

523 Mark reporting the following:

524

- 525 • Staff is performing tree work both in city parks and on city streets.
- 526 • Tables, benches, trash holders and ballfield fencing are being repaired.
- 527 • Monday’s rain/wintry mix/snow caused flooding in Sandalwood Park.
- 528 • He is attempting to do an inventory of everything the city has in its parks, including tools.

529

530 **b. Recreation Update**

531

532 Dan reported the following:

533

- 534 • Winter programs are underway. Enrollment varies among the different age groups.
- 535 • He met with pickleball players about advancing that program.

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- 536           • Staff is working on a spring volleyball program that the Parks and Recreation Department  
537           will coordinate.

538

539           **c. Aquatic Center Update**

540

541           Dan said the sledding hill adjacent to the Aquatic Center had been open for a few days.

542           Maintenance staff turns off the lights in the evening. The restrooms are left open.

543

544           **d. Omni Center Update**

545

546           Dan reported the following:

547

- 548           • The Building Supervisor has injured his back and requires surgery that will keep him out  
549           six to eight weeks. The Building Coordinator resigned in December. An offer has been  
550           extended to an individual, who must give four weeks notice because he/she is a  
551           department head at his/her current job. The new Building Coordinator could begin  
552           his/her employment in mid-February.

- 553           • It has been necessary for Buildings Manager Brian Babiash to work seven days a week  
554           because the Omni Center is short-staffed for Zamboni drivers (there currently are three).  
555           Dan said Parks Department and Public Works Department staff have assisted at the Omni  
556           Center.

- 557           • Approximately 100 high school football coaches utilized the banquet room for a clinic on  
558           January 20. Gander Outdoors utilized the banquet room later in the day, with  
559           approximately 70 employees participating in a new employee orientation.

- 560           • Approximately 260 individuals who will be providing security for Super Bowl LII in  
561           Minneapolis utilized the banquet room on January 21. Three members of the NFL  
562           Security Team led the training.

563

564           Dan introduced Ben Marquardt as the Parks and Recreation Department's intern. Dan also noted  
565           that James Stetzer is serving as an intern at the Omni Center and said James has been invaluable  
566           in assisting Brian Babiash.

567

568           **Adjournment**

569

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

571

572           On voice vote, motion carried.

573

574

575           Recorded by:

576

577           Kirk Bey

Reviewed 1/24/18 by Dan Wick