

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

Monday, March 25, 2019

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 25, 2019 at City Hall. It was noted that the meeting had been  
3 announced and a notice posted at City Hall.

4  
5 Roll call was taken with the following members present: Ald. Jim Binash, Dan Stevens, Andrea  
6 Benco, Brian Udermann, Dennis Aspenson, Steven Nott, Ohbe Johnson

7  
8 Also Present: Parks and Recreation Director Dan Wick, Park Maintenance Supervisor Mark  
9 Hanson, Parks and Recreation Department Administrative Assistant Louann Keane, Parks and  
10 Recreation Department Intern Angela George, Ald. Kim Smith

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

13  
14 Motion by Andrea, second by Dan Stevens, 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.

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

20  
21 Steven called for anyone wishing to provide public input.

22  
23 **Michelle Skemp, Three Sixty Real Estate Solutions**  
24 **1245 Badger Street**  
25 **La Crosse**

26  
27 “We are hoping to do the Great River Residences. It’s been going very well so far. We would  
28 just like to say that with the Parks and Rec [Recreation Department], ORA, and their potential  
29 for creating a landing down there, we would be very interested and in support of that. The tax  
30 dollars we have going into that with the Great River Residences, we’d really like to use those tax  
31 dollars to promote that. I just wanted to speak in favor of [Item] No. 4 coming on board. Thank  
32 you.”

33  
34 Steven called three times for anyone else wishing to provide public input and closed that portion  
35 of the meeting.

36  
37 **Consideration and possible action on the following items:**

38  
39 **Item 4 – Discussion on Great River Landing trail/boardwalk system**

40  
41 Dan Wick said the Parks and Recreation Department has been approached by the Outdoor

Reviewed 3/28/19 by Dan Wick

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42 Recreation Alliance (ORA) about a possible partnership with trail development at the Great  
43 River Landing. Dan showed board members the results of a partnership ORA had formed with  
44 the City of La Crosse, which included creating a pump track in Leuth Park. Dan told board  
45 members he and staff have spoken with ORA Vice President Jed Olson, who is in attendance this  
46 evening.

47

48 Dennis inquired about ORA and its members.

49

50 **Jed Olson**  
51 **W5456 Boma Road**  
52 **La Crosse**

53

54 Jed introduced himself to board members and explained that ORA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that is  
55 primarily volunteer based. Jed further explained ORA's mission is to protect, promote, and  
56 develop outdoor recreational opportunities in the Seven Rivers Region. Jed told board members  
57 ORA's board is comprised of 16 to 17 volunteer board community partners, businessowners, and  
58 educators, and also that ORA performs community-based projects. Jed described the project that  
59 is before the board this evening as a good example of what he called a "hybrid park project." Jed  
60 told board members volunteers had performed some of the work on the Leuth Park project, while  
61 both the City of La Crosse and ORA paid contractors to also perform work. Jed said the  
62 combination of volunteers and fundraising had played a big part in creating "a project that is  
63 more of a community-owned collaborative project."

64

65 Dennis asked Jed how many ORA members reside in the City of Onalaska.

66

67 Jed told Dennis that David Nash, the singer performing on the slideshow board members had just  
68 watched, is an optometrist who is an ORA member and resides in Green Coulee. Jed also  
69 referred to a group of children and told board members approximately 40 percent of them  
70 wearing matching jerseys belong to the La Crosse Area High School and Middle School  
71 Mountain Bike Team. Jed estimated that 72 individuals were on the team this past year – 20 to  
72 30 of whom are City of Onalaska residents. Jed also noted ORA has volunteers who reside along  
73 the corridor, including the Village of Holmen, Village of Stoddard, and the City of La Crescent.

74

75 Dan Wick said Jed, ORA Secretary Scott Cooper, who also is in attendance this evening, and  
76 ORA board member Rick Diermeier have examined different opportunities at the Great River  
77 Landing. Dan noted the second rendering of the Great River Landing included plans for trails,  
78 and he told board members it is an opportune time to discuss a trail system due to upcoming  
79 larger projects. Dan said, "I think what we are looking here for is to say, 'Which direction does  
80 the board want?' ... If there's direction given by the board tonight to give us an opportunity [as  
81 to] which direction this committee would want us to go, we can continue to report back with  
82 looking at grant opportunities and [opportunities] like that. With ORA being a not-for-profit,

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83 when we apply for grants, if we apply as a city we're competing against cities all across  
84 Wisconsin. If ORA does it as a nonprofit, it's much fewer and a lot of times there's more  
85 funding available for those agencies. It's an opportunity to really look at all the partnerships  
86 available."

87

88 Dan Wick noted Tim Miller of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is in attendance this evening  
89 and said the two had discussed this project. Dan noted some of the area in question connects to  
90 the Wittenberg marsh, and he told board members the federal government also would be a  
91 partner in this venture.

92

93 Jed said a number of ORA board members are aware of the impact the Great River Landing has  
94 had, and also that the members had examined the past planning showing "accessory  
95 infrastructure" at the site. Jed said ORA board members believe there is an opportunity for  
96 individuals to see other parts of the Great River Landing, adding the ORA's core is based in  
97 silent sports and human-powered activities. Jed said ORA board members had looked at what  
98 would be easy as well as cost-effective, citing kayak landings, benches, and trails as examples.

99

100 Dan Wick began a slideshow showing the following proposed trail connections:

101

- 102 • **South Loop:** Jed said this option would include areas where pedestrians could view the  
103 river and the marsh spaces to the south.
- 104 • **Proposed connection to Lauderdale:** This option would include a boardwalk, and it  
105 also would connect the neighborhood to Main Street. Jed told board members ORA had  
106 created a connector trail between State Road Elementary School and Chad Erickson  
107 Memorial Park in La Crosse and said it serves a similar purpose in that a bluff and not a  
108 marsh separated these areas.

109

110 Andrea asked Jed if he envisions creating the same type of trail in Onalaska.

111

112 Jed told Andrea the trail would be comprised of crushed stone and wooden boardwalks.

113

- 114 • **North to Spillway:** Jed said many individuals are accessing this area by crossing the  
115 railroad tracks, and he told board members this option would include either a boardwalk  
116 or a trail into the hillside, thus allowing access to the spillway. A paddle portage also  
117 would be included with this option.
- 118 • **Bridge and Portage:** A bridge had been included as part of a past phase for the Great  
119 River Landing. Jed said a bridge could go either over or around the spillway. Jed said  
120 there also would be a surf option, noting the State of Iowa had removed eight to 12 low-  
121 head dams and created surfing features. This means when the water strikes a rock or a  
122 boulder, it forms a wave. Jed said it is a feature that boaters or paddleboarders could  
123 safely utilize.

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124  
125 Jed told board members the ORA has been able to connect with individuals who share a similar  
126 vision, and he said, “We’re coming forward saying, ‘How can we work with you? What would  
127 be the options? What would be the possibilities? What are some costs, and where could that  
128 money come from?’ ”

129  
130 Dan said the purpose of this item is to gather ideas from board members and determine which  
131 direction to go.

132  
133 Dennis asked Jed when the project could be completed if the board gives its approval this  
134 evening.

135  
136 Jed said the project would cost an estimated \$300,000 if it included a section of boardwalk to the  
137 spillway, the trails, and a gazebo.

138  
139 Dennis asked Jed if a contractor would be hired for the project.

140  
141 Jed told Dennis it typically is “a hybrid opportunity” and said ORA “usually start[s] with a seed  
142 and [tries] to grow it.” Jed said that seed could be a private donation, earmarked funds waiting to  
143 be spent, or a municipality that wishes to take action and is seeking to obtain additional funding.  
144 Jed said volunteers such as Boy Scouts also could participate on the project, perhaps by flagging  
145 corridor and cutting brush before a trail would go through. Jed said contractors would be  
146 responsible for larger jobs. Jed said that while all the planning has not yet been completed, he  
147 believes the South Trail Loop could be completed in 2019 with sufficient support.

148  
149 Dennis inquired about a financial figure.

150  
151 Jed said \$200,000 is a likely starting point.

152  
153 Dennis asked if the project would commence if the ORA is responsible for \$100,000 and the  
154 City of Onalaska is responsible for \$100,000.

155  
156 Jed told Dennis he believes that is feasible.

157  
158 Dennis said he believes this is an ideal time to do this project due to the upcoming construction  
159 of the Great River Residences.

160  
161 Andrea said several people have told her they would like to either see docks or one of the plans  
162 being proposed. Andrea said, “The demand to get to the spillway to fish ... The number of  
163 people who use that right now is tremendous. If we could make that safer and more accessible  
164 ... That to me would be the priority because that’s where the most citizen input has come from

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165 throughout all the planning processes.”

166

167 Dennis told Andrea that while he does not disagree with her, he would do the easy one first so it  
168 can be completed in 2019.

169

170 Andrea expressed skepticism the plan to which Dennis was referring is easy, noting it lies within  
171 the floodplain.

172

173 Jed said ORA is asking if this project is worth pursuing.

174

175 Dan Wick said the board is being asked if additional work should be done on this project. Dan  
176 asked if the boardwalk would go to the north, and he said, “How can we work toward that goal?  
177 Not to diminish anything else that we have planning down here ... We also have the [Railroad]  
178 Quiet Zone, where the railroad has said getting people to cross rather than crossing the tracks at  
179 the non-crossings, is to try to get this. If we’re going to put emphasis down here, to me, this is  
180 where I think we need to move forward and to start looking at and discussing.”

181

182 Dennis told Dan Wick he believes progress can be shown this summer by creating the trail.

183

184 Jed said constructing a structure in the floodplain and next to the railroad tracks presents more of  
185 a challenge compared to natural earth fill away from the tracks. Jed told board members ORA  
186 has worked on projects where a major complication arose on a small part of the project, but the  
187 primary portion of the project was easy. Jed said, “Without more time, it’s hard to say what the  
188 priority would be.”

189

190 Dan Stevens said that while he supports proceeding with outdoor amenities such as these, he also  
191 noted there had been a decrease in staffing hours over the last year as well as available payroll  
192 for maintenance. Dan asked Mark if staff could handle such a project, or if “something else  
193 would need to fall away. I know you can handle it. How much more difficult would it make it  
194 for staff?”

195

196 Mark said locations that see significant activity would need to be prioritized, noting that there  
197 currently is significant activity without a boardwalk.

198

199 Andrea asked Mark how flooding will impact access in this area, adding she assumes that area  
200 currently is under water.

201

202 Mark asked if the boardwalk would be at flood stage, or if it would be 13 or 14 feet. Mark said  
203 this year would be ideal on which to judge, noting that the river is expected to crest at more than  
204 14 feet.

205

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206 Andrea said she is more concerned about the gravel, noting there is an area of the trail that needs  
207 to be replaced during the summer as the river washes it away. Andrea asked Mark if he believes  
208 the gravel will need to be replaced every year, assuming flooding occurs yearly.

209

210 Dan Stevens asked if that area could be protected against flooding.

211

212 Jed said the velocity in that area would need to be studied.

213

214 Andrea noted the velocity is faster on the south side and said she believes the area to the north is  
215 more feasible as it is slightly higher. Andrea also said the portage would be an ideal connection  
216 to the docks that will be installed.

217

218 Brian said it appears board members support continuing the conversation without having specific  
219 discussions, and he asked if perhaps a motion should be made to that effect.

220

221 Dan Wick asked board members what a feasible timeframe would be for ORA to return for  
222 further discussions.

223

224 Dennis asked if ORA can create a package in less than 60 days.

225

226 Jed said it is doubtful, noting that ORA is involved with several other projects that are in process.

227

228 Dan Wick told board members May 1 is the deadline for a grant and said it is not feasible to meet  
229 the deadline for a 2019 grant application. Dan said a 2020 grant application, and deciding to  
230 which agency to apply, is more realistic and the best opportunity to apply if the project were to  
231 move forward.

232

233 Dennis reiterated he would like to see something occur in 2019.

234

235 Steven said that likely will not be feasible.

236

237 Andrea said one item board members have not an opportunity to discuss is the vision for the  
238 lower portion of the Great River Landing. Andrea also said, "I would like to see us look forward  
239 on this, but look forward with an overall plan for the down area. It fits in with the overall goal  
240 for that space, but we don't have a vision for that yet."

241

242 Steven asked when ORA would return before the board with additional details.

243

244 Jed said he believes 60 days is an appropriate timeframe, adding it is the ideal time to make some  
245 observations and determine if the project is realistic.

246

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247 Dan Wick said he believes 60 days is an appropriate timeframe for board members to receive  
248 another report.

249

250 Andrea inquired about ADA compliance for the trails.

251

252 Dan Wick told Andrea that topic will be discussed under Item 9.

253

254 Ald. Binash reminded board members this is an expenditure that is not in the budget, and he said  
255 perhaps some of the funds designated for the park as the Great River Residences are constructed  
256 may be utilized toward development at the Great River Landing if the area in question is called a  
257 park. Ald. Binash noted there had been discussions regarding the construction of a boardwalk  
258 from the Great River Landing to the spillway, and he also noted camping was considered in the  
259 area to the south. Ald. Binash noted water washes away the sand and gravel in Holiday Heights,  
260 and he said recent weather patterns must be examined as flooding has increased and water levels  
261 are rising. Ald. Binash asked if it is feasible to have something to the south rather than the  
262 boardwalk that goes to the spillway. Ald. Binash told board members the project may not  
263 proceed if the funding is not there, and he also said that while room tax funds have been set aside  
264 for the pier that will be constructed, "We can only do so much this year. That's not going to be  
265 enough to pay for anything that's going to be going on there."

266

267 Dennis told Ald. Binash it is irrelevant whether or not the expenditure is in the budget if  
268 sufficient funding is raised, those funds are deposited in the ORA's account, and the ORA pays  
269 for the project.

270

271 Steven told Dennis there is no funding source for the \$100,000, and he noted budget processes  
272 typically do not occur within 60 days.

273

274 Dennis asked board members if they want to see the project completed, or if they want to wait 60  
275 days before resuming discussions.

276

277 Andrea told Dennis board members want to see the project done correctly and thoughtfully.

278

279 Steven said the board must determine if it wishes to proceed with planning.

280

281 Motion by Andrea for the Parks and Recreation Board to proceed with discussions on what its  
282 members want to see regarding a trail/boardwalk system at the Great River Landing, and also  
283 that its members entertain concepts that work to meet some of the goals established for the area.

284

285 Steven asked Andrea if the board should resume discussions in 60 days.

286

287 Andrea said the board may discuss this item every month if its members want to do so. Andrea

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288 also said she does not see a need for a hard timetable as what is seen at the Great River Landing  
289 will change if the water levels remain high for a month.

290

291 Ald. Binash stated as a point of order he is unsure of what the motion on the floor is.

292

293 Motion by Andrea, second by Ald. Binash, to move forward with the planning process and  
294 discuss what the Parks and Recreation Board wants to do and what its vision is for the lower  
295 portion of the Great River Landing, or this item may come back before the board when the  
296 Outdoor Recreation Alliance has a concept its members believe will fit, at which point the Parks  
297 and Recreation Board may proceed.

298

299 Steven asked the ORA to take into consideration the resiliency of crushed stone on boardwalk to  
300 flooding when its members present concepts to the board.

301

302 Mark said some degree of flooding occurs yearly.

303

304 Dan Stevens said he does not believe time is of the essence in this case as it is logical to do the  
305 project correctly, and also if and when funding becomes available. Dan said that even though it  
306 would be nice to do the project immediately, he agrees with Ald. Binash that it likely is not  
307 practical to do the project in 2019.

308

309 Dennis asked Dan Stevens if he has been following the Downtown Onalaska and State Road 16  
310 Corridor redevelopment studies.

311

312 Dan Stevens said that if the board must make a decision this evening, “it’s not practical, it’s not  
313 feasible, it won’t happen.”

314

315 Dennis said if necessary, the board should hold a special session to decide what its members  
316 want to do at the Great River Landing so that the ORA may proceed.

317

318 Andrea said she believes that is the motion that is on the floor.

319

320 Motion by Dan Stevens, second by Ald. Binash, to call the question.

321

322 On voice vote, the original motion carried.

323

324 Jed thanked board members for their time and told them there is an upcoming Institute of Ethics  
325 scheduled at Viterbo University. The speaker is Charles Montgomery, who will discuss urban  
326 planning. Jed left behind press releases with details of the event.

327

328 **Item 5 – Donation of canoe by God’s Country Muskie Group**

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329  
330 Dan Wick told board members Ald. Smith is a member of God's Country Muskie Group, which  
331 is willing to donate a canoe to be utilized at the Great River Landing. Dan noted there currently  
332 are only kayaks for rental at the Great River Landing. Dan said God's Country Muskie Group is  
333 asking that the canoe bear its logo. The City of Onalaska's logo also would appear on the canoe  
334 at the board's request. Dan said God's Country Muskie Group also is asking that there be no  
335 rental fee, adding he believes there should be a deposit to ensure that no one steals the canoe.  
336 Dan noted there is a \$50 fee per kayak.

337  
338 Ald. Smith told board members she has been a member of God's Country Muskie Group for  
339 nearly 20 years and said she currently serves as its Secretary. Ald. Smith said God's Country  
340 Muskie Group does several environmental projects such as improving boat landings and  
341 fisheries. Ald. Smith noted there is no Muskie population in western Wisconsin and said the  
342 group is always looking for ways to get people to fish, and also to find ways to involve families.  
343 Ald. Smith said she has been attempting to come up with a project at the waterfront in which she  
344 could encourage club members either to participate as volunteers, or to provide financial  
345 assistance. Ald. Smith said she is excited to see the new opportunities at the Great River  
346 Landing and told board members perhaps the group could serve as a partner in fundraising  
347 efforts for the trails. Ald. Smith said she and Dan Wick had come up with the proposal that is  
348 before the board this evening, and she reiterated God's Country Muskie Group's requests  
349 (group's logo on the canoe, no rental fee).

350  
351 Motion by Andrea, second by Dan Stevens, to accept a donation of a canoe by God's Country  
352 Muskie Group, which will include the group's logo as well as any other logos the City of  
353 Onalaska feels are necessary.

354  
355 Ohbe asked if paddles and lifejackets will be included in the canoe.

356  
357 Dan Wick said lifejackets are available, but it will be necessary to obtain canoe paddles.

358  
359 Steven said that while he understands the intent of waiving a rental fee for the canoe, he also  
360 suggested levying a fee of \$1 or \$2.

361  
362 Ald. Smith said God's Country Muskie Group is agreeable to an administrative fee.

363  
364 Steven said eventually the city will have to replace paddles and lifejackets at the end of their  
365 lifespan.

366  
367 Andrea said the board could approach God's Country Muskie Group when that occurs.

368  
369 Ald. Smith suggested doing this either every year or every other year if this venture is successful.

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370  
371 Steven said he does not know what the fee would be, noting the board would need to determine  
372 the long-term cost for the life cycle of a canoe and paddles.

373  
374 Dan Wick suggested levying an administrative fee that would not exceed a certain amount.

375  
376 Steven reminded board members the motion is for no rental fee as opposed to an administrative  
377 fee, which board members do find acceptable.

378  
379 Brian said he does not believe charging an administrative fee is necessary as he is not concerned  
380 if the canoe needs to be replaced in three to five years.

381  
382 Andrea said she favors charging a deposit so that the canoe is returned.

383  
384 Steven said he is uneasy about taking on costs to the city that have the hidden costs of  
385 maintenance and replacement in the future.

386  
387 Dan Stevens said he does not believe the city is liable for future replacements, noting there will  
388 be no canoe available for rental when it reaches the end of its use.

389  
390 Steven asked if the city should simply apologize to individuals who come to expect to utilize the  
391 canoe when that occurs.

392  
393 Dan Stevens said yes, adding, "or you're welcome to donate another canoe."

394  
395 On voice vote, motion carried, 6-0 (Steven noted Dennis had excused himself from the meeting).

396  
397 **Item 6 – Donation of stage enhancements at Dash-Park by Skogenheim, LLC**

398  
399 Dan Wick referred to the photographs of the proposed enhancements included in board  
400 members' packets and said Skogenheim, LLC is seeking to make an enhancement of the park by  
401 adding improvements to the stage. A structure would be placed over the top of the stage, and  
402 there also would be a back to the stage. The enhancements also could include a rain shield. Dan  
403 said he believes the enhancements would benefit Dash-Park and noted they would come at no  
404 cost to the city. Dan also said a member of Skogenheim, LLC wishes to see the enhancements  
405 completed by June 1, noting a request for a Conditional Use Permit would go before the Plan  
406 Commission if the board approves this item.

407  
408 Andrea asked if Skogenheim, LLC would be open to moving the vines due to the maintenance  
409 they present.

410

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411 Dan Wick told Andrea it is a living wall Skogenheim, LLC wants as a screen.

412

413 Andrea asked if the city would be responsible for replacing the screen when the vines break it  
414 down.

415

416 Dan Wick said yes.

417

418 Motion by Brian, second by Dennis, to approve the donation of stage enhancements at Dash-Park  
419 by Skogenheim, LLC.

420

421 Ald. Binash noted there are two different types of tops shown in board members' packets: one he  
422 believed would be completely covered, and one that has a rail system.

423

424 Dan Wick said it would match the pergola.

425

426 Ald. Binash noted the photographs showed what the shadows would be like at different times of  
427 the day and said people would not be completely covered when the sun is directly above them  
428 with the rail option. Ald. Binash said he believes it is better to have the stage completely  
429 covered, and he asked if the board may make that suggestion to Skogenheim, LLC.

430

431 Dan Wick noted he had participated in a teleconference with Skogenheim, LLC representatives  
432 and said the three features were planting shade trees, utilizing a custom-made tent, and the option  
433 before the board. Dan said he is concerned about utilizing a tent in high-wind situations, adding,  
434 "I think this ties into the park with the pergola. Everybody likes that. In the conversation, it was  
435 brought up that it doesn't stop the rain. There was a suggestion made if they could put up some  
436 type of a rain screen underneath it that could be put up in the chance of storms. I think it's a nice  
437 enhancement to tie into the park with this type of a feature that would look like the pergola."

438

439 Steven noted there currently is no protection from the sun at Dash-Park.

440

441 Dan Stevens noted concerts held as part of the summer concert series occur at night and  
442 estimated between 100 and 300 patrons would be facing west to see the band. Dan asked how  
443 what is being proposed would affect the acoustics, and also if there was more of a backdrop  
444 blocking out the sun.

445

446 Dan Wick said it could if there was more of a backdrop, or if the backdrop was raised higher.  
447 Dan also said the acoustics would not be affected.

448

449 Andrea asked Dan Wick to pass on her comments regarding the vines.

450

451 On voice vote, motion carried, 7-0.

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**Item 7 – 2018 Parks and Recreation Annual Report**

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462

Dan Wick said staff attempted to put more information, photographs, and projects in the 2018 annual report, which Louann had put together. Dan noted the Tourism section highlights the number of daily and annual bike passes sold at the Great River Landing and at the Onalaska Parks and Recreation Office. Dan also referred to a letter written by an individual from the Kansas City area who was one of eight individuals who had ridden through the area, adding that Louann had greeted the group when it arrived in the city. The report also includes statistics for the Omni Center as well as the department's budget report.

463

464

465

Andrea referred to a letter from The Food Basket that was included in the report and said she assumes it refers to a partnership.

466

467

468

Dan Wick said the individuals who participate at both the spring and fall craft fairs are asked to donate to The Food Basket.

469

470

471

Andrea said the letter made it seem as though an outright donation had been made and she expressed concern about setting a precedent.

472

473

474

475

476

477

478

Louann said there had been a food donation from the gift and craft shows, and she noted the Parks and Recreation Department rents plots for \$30 per plot from the Community Garden. Louann said these funds were donated to The Food Basket, and she noted the letter included in the annual report thanks the Parks and Recreation Department. Louann also said The Food Basket also had sent a letter with the craft show, and all those donations had gone to the Onalaska Emergency Food Basket.

479

480

481

Dan Wick said the Parks and Recreation Department's partnership with the Community Gardens requires that the department donate back any funds that were raised.

482

483

484

Motion by Andrea, second by Dan Stevens, to accept the 2018 Parks and Recreation Annual Report.

485

486

487

On voice vote, motion carried, 6-0 (Andrea noted Dennis had excused himself from the meeting).

488

489

**Item 8 – 2018/2019 Urban Deer Management Plan Report**

490

491

The report includes the following statistics:

492

- 20 hunters hunted an average of 9.35 days.

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- 493           • 27.35 hours per hunter.  
494           • There was an average of 24.65 deer seen per hunter, with a total of 493 deer.  
495           • 23 deer were harvested.

496

497 Dan Wick noted the program began in 2011 due to the large number of deer herds in the coulees  
498 as well as several automobile collisions with deer. Dan reported that 253 deer have been  
499 harvested since the program's inception, and he said he believes one reason there has been a  
500 decline in numbers is that changes that have occurred at the state level. To be specific, the State  
501 of Wisconsin does not mandate participation in the Urban Deer Program. Rather, individuals  
502 may utilize the normal backtag when they hunt. Dan said hunters who utilize their state license  
503 backtag are encouraged to participate in the program as the Parks and Recreation Department is  
504 attempting to obtain harvest numbers from the area.

505

506 Motion by Andrea, second by Ohbe, to approve the 2018/2019 Urban Deer Management Plan  
507 Report.

508

509 On voice vote, motion carried, 6-0.

510

511 **Item 9 – Approve City of Onalaska ADA Plan to ACTServices, Inc. at a cost not to exceed**  
512 **\$33,265**

513

514 Dan Wick said CVMIC (Cities and Villages Mutual Insurance Companies) asked the city in  
515 2018 about its status with an ADA plan, and CVMIC informed the city it needed to proceed with  
516 this project. Dan said this is ADA, Title 2, which means the city must provide access for anyone  
517 in public buildings and barriers must be removed. Dan said Angela had researched other projects  
518 and other communities that had done ADA plans. Requests for Proposals were sent out, with a  
519 due date of March 12. Dan said one envelope answers questions and gives staff requested  
520 criteria, and the second envelope contains a bid. Dan noted seven individuals had participated in  
521 the evaluation process, which includes Parks and Recreation staff and department heads outside  
522 the department. There were three vendors (MSA, ACTServices, DLZ). DLZ earned the highest  
523 score (92.57), followed by ACTServices (91.14) and MSA (90.00). Dan said all three proposals  
524 were opened based on cost, and the proposed costs are as follows:

525

- 526           • **MSA:** \$37,100  
527           • **ACTServices:** \$27,685  
528           • **DLZ:** \$88,100

529

530 Dan noted ACTServices had identified services it provides to communities, including a two-hour  
531 presentation to staff and/or administration (\$1,000), an ADA Access Audit training (\$3,000), and  
532 also to describe the area for ongoing consultation (\$10,750). Dan said that after speaking with  
533 staff and department heads, he believes it is in the city's best interest to add the one-time training

Reviewed 3/28/19 by Dan Wick

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14

534 held in the city at a cost of \$3,000. Dan said he is asking to include ACTServices' hourly rate of  
535 \$215 for 12 hours so it is not necessary to come back for change orders, noting that even though  
536 staff had been very thorough in attempting to include every location within the city, the Onalaska  
537 Cemetery had been missed, as had the Gundersen Health System Parking Ramp, and the trail  
538 systems along State Trunk Highway 35, by Menards, and by Sam's Club.

539

540 Dan told board members a local community had recently done this plan and said the cost to  
541 repair barriers was more than \$30 million. Dan said ACTServices will create a plan, "[and] we  
542 can take it step-by-step." Dan said Mark would be able to provide staff with photographs of  
543 every barrier that needs to be fixed as well as what repairs need to occur, and the anticipated  
544 cost. Dan said all 26 of the city's parks will be examined, as will all of its facilities. Dan said  
545 staff is still working with the Public Works Department, noting that at least one wellhouse must  
546 be ADA-accessible if there ever is a public open house. Dan described the process as being  
547 "time-consuming" and "very long," and he said ACTServices had provided the tightest  
548 timeframe. Dan told board members ACTServices' representative might spend three weeks in  
549 the city examining everything and identifying barriers and deficiencies.

550

551 Andrea asked how much time the city has to meet its objectives.

552

553 Dan Wick told Andrea the process has begun, and he said CVMIC representatives told him plans  
554 have been completed anywhere from six to 18 months. Dan said, "There is no timeframe. We're  
555 in a better place now because we're at this and looking to move forward," adding there is  
556 \$40,000 budgeted for this item.

557

558 Dennis asked if the city is mandated to do this, or if it must show some effort of moving forward.

559

560 Dan Wick said the city is mandated to do this, telling Dennis the city is exposing itself to it if  
561 there is no plan in place. Dan said, "Once we have the plan, if we do one project a year, it's  
562 showing we're making an effort that we're completing the projects."

563

564 Motion by Brian, second by Andrea, to approve City of Onalaska ADA Plan to ACTServices,  
565 Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$33,265.

566

567 On voice vote, motion carried, 6-1 (Dennis).

568

569 **Item 10 – Report from Blufflands Coalition**

570

571 Dan Wick reported the coalition had met March 20 and said it is proceeding with a couple of  
572 grant applications for properties outside the City of Onalaska.

573

574 **Item 11 – Report from Onalaska Enhancement Foundation**

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575  
576 Dan Wick said the OEF will meet again April 17. Also, the Fleis Nightfall Frolic will be held  
577 April 26.

578  
579 Dennis asked if the OEF possibly could work with the ORA.

580  
581 Dan Wick said yes.

582  
583 Dennis asked Dan Wick if he could speak to the OEF about it at its meeting.

584  
585 Dan Wick said yes.

586  
587 **Item 12 – Report from Great River Landing Committee**

588  
589 Dennis referred to the Downtown Onalaska Redevelopment Plan recently completed by  
590 Hoisington Koegler Group, inc., and he said the report states the city must figure out its park  
591 system.

592  
593 Dan Stevens asked Dennis if he is referring to a public meeting held earlier at Irving Pertzsch  
594 Elementary School.

595  
596 Dennis said the meeting was part of the process.

597  
598 Andrea asked if it had produced the report to which Dennis was referring.

599  
600 Dennis said yes, noting the process had included several other meetings with individuals from  
601 the private sector.

602  
603 Andrea told Dennis, “Many of us didn’t know about it.”

604  
605 Dennis told Andrea the information is online, and he told board members the Community  
606 Development Authority had put the plan into motion.

607  
608 Dan Wick said the Parks and Recreation Department had not had much discussion regarding the  
609 plan.

610  
611 Ald. Binash told Dennis the report cannot be discussed as it is not on this evening’s agenda.

612  
613 **Item 13 – Director’s Report**

614  
615 **a. Parks Update**

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Mark reported the following:

- Staff had cleared snow from a couple of the softball diamonds.
- Staff is cleaning and picking up trash and tree branches at all the city parks.
- All the lawnmowers are ready for use.
- Staff will begin preparing shelters in April.

**b. Recreation Update**

Dan Wick reported the following:

- Copies of the Activity Guide are before board members.
- Spring programs (volleyball, soccer) have begun.

**c. Aquatic Center Update**

Dan Wick reported the following:

- Applications for all positions at the pool are being accepted.

**d. Omni Center Update**

Dan Wick reported the following:

- The La Crosse Area Builders Association (LABA) show was held March 9-11. The 2020 LABA show will be held the third weekend of March as LABA will rent the entire facility.
- The Model Railroad Show was held March 16-17.
- The Automotive Parts Tradeshow was held March 21.
- The Cornhole Tournament was held March 23.
- The Family Fun Expo was held March 24.
- The Gun Show will be held March 29-31.
- The Kicking Bear Banquet will be held April 6.
- The Toe Pick Competition will be held April 7. Ice will be removed from Arena No. 2 the same day.
- Volleyball practice begins April 11. Up to six teams will practice per evening. Tournaments will be held both May 4 and May 11.

Dennis noted a significant amount of capital funds had been expended on the Omni Center over

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656 the last three years, and he asked if “we’re at the end of the road on that so we can designate  
657 money for something else.”

658

659 Dan Wick told Dennis, “We’re getting very close to being done with the projects up there.” Dan  
660 said he does not believe the projects will completely end due to the number of individuals who  
661 utilize the Omni Center every year. However, Dan also said he believes some of the major  
662 projects are nearing completion. Dan pointed out no work has been done on Arena No. 2’s roof,  
663 and he also noted the chilling system in Arena No. 2 still has R-22 refrigerant, which is being  
664 phased out. Dan said, “It just has to be prioritized what we want. We’ve done a lot of things to  
665 help with the infrastructure at that facility.”

666

667 Andrea noted there had been past discussions about expanding the parking lot.

668

669 Dan Wick said he believes parking lot expansion must be examined.

670

671 Dennis said he has noticed the number of participants decreasing in various areas and asked if  
672 this needs to be addressed.

673

674 Dan Wick told Dennis he believes if one studies trends, “it’s all by different classes and different  
675 groups.”

676

677 Dennis said he had examined a four-year trend.

678

679 Dan Wick said the local hockey association was supposed to host the Pee Wee “C” Tournament.  
680 However, there were not enough teams statewide. Dan said that while perhaps there might be a  
681 downturn, participation numbers fluctuate yearly.

682

683 Dennis mentioned the Jimmy Olson Tournament.

684

685 Dan Wick said the primary issue with the Jimmy Olson Tournament is all the local teams, noting  
686 that teams travel more now. Dan said he is aware of three local baseball teams that will travel to  
687 Florida and California this summer. Dan said another complication is that teams all play in the  
688 same league, adding that teams are attempting to go other places.

689

690 Dennis said it is his understanding that there is no way to reverse the decrease in participation.

691

692 Dan Wick said, “We continue to promote it, and we continue to try to offer other programs that  
693 we have available.”

694

695 Dan Stevens asked if perhaps part of the decrease in participation could be offset by a wider  
696 variety of events.

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697  
698 Dan Wick said yes.  
699  
700 Ohbe asked if the statistics for the number of individuals going to the Omni Center can be  
701 obtained, adding he believes those statistics have value, as do room night statistics.  
702  
703 Dan Wick said the city is getting 300 to 400 room nights per hockey tournament.  
704  
705 Ohbe also noted individuals are coming to Onalaska for volleyball tournaments and other events.  
706  
707 Dennis said the number of individuals participating in hockey has decreased, and he asked what  
708 can be done to address it.  
709  
710 Dan Wick said work is being done on attempting to bring a state tournament to the Omni Center  
711 in 2021. However, Dan also noted there are several other contracts in place because “people are  
712 seeing us as a valued site and a place people want to work with. We’re having more and more  
713 business come to us, and we’re bringing different events in.”  
714  
715 Andrea asked Dan Wick to share a report about the Omni Center with the board at a future  
716 meeting.  
717  
718 **Adjournment**  
719  
720 Motion by Andrea, second by Brian, to adjourn.  
721  
722 On voice vote, motion carried.  
723  
724  
725 Recorded by:  
726  
727 Kirk Bey