

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

Monday, July 22, 2019

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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, July 22, 2019 at City Hall. It was noted that the meeting had been announced
3 and a notice posted at City Hall.

4

5 Roll call was taken with the following members present: Ald. Dan Stevens, Patric McGuane,
6 Andrea Benco, Brian Udermann, Ohbe Johnson, Steven Nott. Dennis Aspenson arrived with the
7 meeting in progress.

8

9 Also Present: City Administrator Eric Rindfleisch, Parks and Recreation Director Dan Wick,
10 Parks Supervisor Mark Hanson, Buildings Manager Brian Babiash, Ald. Diane Wulf, Ald.
11 Boondi Iyer

12

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

14

15 Motion by Andrea, second by Ohbe, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as printed
16 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 – Update on Park Avenue Park Public Meeting**

28

29 Dan apologized to the park board members for them not being sent an announcement about the
30 June 27 public meeting, which involved the respective staffs of the Parks and Recreation and
31 Public Works departments, and the individuals who reside near Park Avenue Park. Discussion at
32 the meeting revolved around utilization of the park and parking with a local business located in
33 the vicinity. Dan noted comments gathered from neighborhood residents have been included in
34 board members’ packets, and he said the outcome of the meeting was that the residents “truly
35 value the park.” Further, Dan said that while it currently is an older neighborhood, it soon will
36 experience a turnover. Dan told board members a younger individual who resides in the
37 neighborhood is a City of Onalaska employee who has two small children who utilize the park.
38 Dan said this item will be going before the Board of Public Works.

39

40 Dennis recommended cutting the park in half and giving the south side of the park to the Board
41 of Public Works, and the north side to Parks and Recreation as that is where the majority of the

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42 equipment is located, with the exception of one item. Dennis said the park would be reasonably
43 usable if that item were relocated to the north, and he noted the southern portion of the park is
44 narrow.

45
46 Dan noted the playground in the park currently sits in the street right-of-way, and he told board
47 members the Board of Public Works will take under consideration widening the street and
48 performing maintenance as part of the 2020 Capital Improvements Budget. Dan said, "At that
49 time, I think if the desire is to keep the park, we need to be prepared to relocate the playground in
50 that location and work hand-in-hand with them."

51
52 Ald. Stevens said it appears the way this was presented "is almost like a false dichotomy" in that
53 the choices are either to create a parking lot or leave things the way they are. Ald. Stevens
54 referred to Dennis' comment that perhaps there are other options, asking if perhaps the northern
55 parcels could be developed as residential and the southern portion could be parkland. Ald.
56 Stevens said, "If I were presented with a choice of having a parking lot across from my house or
57 a park, of course we're going to prefer a park. I think anybody who lives in the city would want
58 that. However, if you have neighbors who live across there and they're taking care of their
59 property like I do and probably most people here do, you're generally OK with that. It's a weird
60 parcel that I think it has to be hard to really use. If one or two families are using it, that's great.
61 But we have limited human resources to keep all these parks functioning. Unless we want to hire
62 more people or allot more manhours to take care of them, I think we should look at trying to
63 better use some of these parcels and concentrate on the parks that are more apt to be used by the
64 public. If this does go back, I would maybe make a recommendation that we look at other
65 alternative uses than just a parking lot."

66
67 Andrea stated she believes the city needs to remove the playground equipment from the right-of-
68 way. Andrea also pointed out to board members that children who live in that neighborhood
69 have nowhere else to play, and she said, "This is supposed to be a neighborhood park. For my
70 opinion, I think Blue Moon is great and they are a huge community supporter. But I'm not
71 comfortable taking away parking spots for a business when it's a neighborhood park that would
72 be lost. If we can find a way to keep the park there, give the right-of-way back to Public Works
73 and let [City Engineer] Jarrod [Holter] figure out what they want to do with parking. I'm
74 strongly in favor of trying to keep the park. ... Neighborhoods do cycle through and kids are
75 coming back."

76
77 Steven referred to the comments submitted by residents in the neighborhood and said there is a
78 strong sentiment to keep the park. Steven said, "If it's being utilized, to me, is the most
79 important aspect of this. As long as it's being utilized, then there is a need."

80
81 Ald. Stevens asked how the city can judge if the park is being utilized.

82

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83 Andrea told Ald. Stevens she has driven by the park a couple times every day since the previous
84 Parks and Recreation Board meeting on June 24, and she said, “There is almost always
85 somebody in that park either hanging out or playing on the equipment. There are a few kids
86 playing, but there are people just hanging out in the park. [There are] even older kids sitting.
87 It’s not heavy use like you would see at the one on Well Street, but there is always somebody in
88 the park.”

89
90 Dennis said he was not indicating that the city should only make changes to accommodate
91 parking for Blue Moon’s customers, stating he assumes the Board of Public Works would reach
92 a lease agreement stating the financial responsibilities.

93
94 Ald. Stevens asked Dan to share with board members the equipment the Public Works
95 Department currently has at that location, and he asked if Public Works employees wish to
96 utilize that equipment.

97
98 Dan told board members the playground was installed in the right-of-way, and he asked Ald.
99 Stevens to restate his question as he does not understand what he is asking.

100
101 Ald. Stevens asked how the northern parcels are being utilized.

102
103 Dan referred to Dennis’ earlier comments when he had suggested that the northern parcels would
104 come under Parks and Recreation Department control.

105
106 Dennis noted the northern portion is wider.

107
108 Steven noted this is only an update and that the board is not required to take any action.
109 However, Steven also said the board may make a recommendation going forward if its members
110 choose to do so.

111
112 Dennis asked if the Board of Public Works will take action on this item at its meeting if the
113 Parks and Recreation Board does not take any action on it. Dennis added it appears after
114 examining past meeting minutes that that occurs “quite frequently, all of a sudden.”

115
116 Andrea said she believes Jarrod will examine the input given at tonight’s meeting and will not
117 ignore the fact the Parks and Recreation Board discussed the matter.

118
119 Ald. Stevens asked if the park will remain in the right-of-way if the southern portion continues to
120 be in the right-of-way.

121
122 Dan told Ald. Stevens yes and said he cannot speak for Jarrod regarding the work the Public
123 Works plans to do in that neighborhood. Dan said he believes one of the neighborhood streets

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124 would be widened and noted it would require removing a significant part of the southern portion
125 of the playground.

126

127 City Administrator Rindfleisch told board members the neighborhood residents had inquired
128 about possibly restricting parking on the spots and said that is the only question at hand. City
129 Administrator Rindfleisch said, “If there ever was work to be done there, it would possibly be to
130 put one-ways in there. Do you look at parking spots? Do you look at widening areas there
131 within the right-of-way?” City Administrator Rindfleisch told board members the Common
132 Council will make the final decision based on the input from committees, and he stressed there
133 are no immediate plans regarding the northern and southern parcels and moving equipment,
134 replacing equipment, or installing parking. City Administrator Rindfleisch said, “The question at
135 hand is, are they going to limit parking for the street homes or not? They had the foresight to
136 understand that if we remove some spots, Blue Moon will likely say, ‘What about us?’ That’s
137 where the discussion came from. Blue Moon is not requesting this, and it is not requesting
138 purchasing anything. ... It’s the forestalling of the conversation Blue Moon may have by
139 eliminating a few parking spots.”

140

141 Dennis asked where the Board of Public Works stands on this issue.

142

143 City Administrator Rindfleisch told Dennis the Board of Public Works had not yet met – its next
144 meeting is August 6 – and said he cannot speak for its members.

145

146 Dennis asked why this item is appearing on this evening’s Parks and Recreation Board meeting
147 agenda.

148

149 Andrea told Dennis it is a follow-up from the May 20 Parks and Recreation Board meeting, at
150 which time Jarrod had asked board members for their input. Andrea noted board members had
151 requested that a public meeting be held and reiterated this simply is a follow-up.

152

153 Dennis asked if the board will be making a recommendation to the Board of Public Works.

154

155 Steven told Dennis board members have expressed their concerns.

156

157 Ald. Stevens said he recommends sending this item to the Board of Public Works, but also not
158 ruling out allowing other parties to have the opportunity to explore alternative possibilities of
159 development, including residential, and keeping the southern portion as a type of green space.

160

161 Andrea reminded Ald. Stevens the southern portion is in the right-of-way, and she noted the city
162 has jurisdiction over that space and may typically utilize it for utilities or line of sight.

163

164 Steven said he believes the equipment will need to be moved out of the right-of-way sooner or

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165 later, noting “there are all kinds of issues” due to its current location.

166

167 Ald. Stevens said the board could choose to make no recommendation “and let the other parties
168 deal with it.”

169

170 Andrea said she is recommending passing on the comments made this evening to the Public
171 Works Department, “and that when it comes time to redo this area, they keep in mind we really
172 don’t want to lose the public park that’s there. We need to find a way to keep that for the
173 neighbors with whatever planning [occurs].”

174

175 Steven asked if Andrea is making that statement in the form of a motion.

176

177 Motion by Andrea, second by Steven, to pass on to the Public Works Department comments
178 made this evening by the Parks and Recreation Board regarding Park Avenue Park, and also to
179 state the Parks and Recreation Board’s desire to keep Park Avenue Park in place.

180

181 Ald. Stevens inquired about the location of the next closest park to Park Avenue Park.

182

183 Dan said next closest locations for children to play include the park located at the corner of 4th
184 Avenue and Quincy Street, and the playground at Northern Hills Elementary School, which is
185 located approximately two blocks east of Park Avenue Park.

186

187 Andrea noted there are no sidewalks in that area.

188

189 Brian Udermann said it would be difficult for him to make an educated decision, particularly if
190 there are potential future options that could be available that a committee could come up with in
191 a month or two months.

192

193 Steven noted this only is a recommendation.

194

195 Patric said it appears the only two options presented were either a parking lot or keeping the
196 park, and he told board members it appears there are other options for that area.

197

198 Andrea said she does not believe a parking lot was ever discussed.

199

200 Dan said the neighborhood residents entered the meeting with a preconceived idea the city would
201 remove the park and create parking in its place. Dan told board members the residents expressed
202 their displeasure with city staff because they believed that was going to occur, and he said city
203 staff simply was attempting to gather information. Dan said, “That’s what we did, and that’s
204 what we have in front of you.”

205

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206 Motion by Ald. Stevens to amend the previous motion and recommend that the southern portion
207 of Park Avenue Park does not become a parking lot, and also that the northern portions be
208 reviewed for alternative development.

209

210 Andrea asked Ald. Stevens what he means by alternative development.

211

212 Ald. Stevens said the northern portions could be a park, or perhaps residential properties.

213

214 Andrea noted the northern parcel is currently a park.

215

216 Ald. Stevens said he does not want the city to limit itself either to a parking lot or a park.

217

218 Dennis said he does not object to Ald. Stevens' proposal, and he asked if this item will be
219 referred back to the Parks and Recreation Board.

220

221 Steven noted there is an amendment to the motion on the floor and asked if there is a second.

222

223 Motion by Ald. Stevens, second by Dennis. to amend the previous motion and recommend that
224 the southern portion of Park Avenue Park does not become a parking lot, and also that the
225 northern portions be reviewed for alternative development.

226

227 Dennis asked if this item would return to the Parks and Recreation Board.

228

229 Ald. Stevens said he believes it would return before the Parks and Recreation Board only if it
230 were park relevant, but added it might come back regardless.

231

232 Dennis said, "What I was indicating is, it seems that if we don't state that in the motion, it
233 doesn't come back." Dennis cited the example of job descriptions for positions at the Omni
234 Center, noting it had never come back before the board "as a final package" and stating he was
235 surprised it had not come back before the board.

236

237 Ald. Stevens said, "If we're heeding the feedback from the community and the community is
238 saying they don't want a parking lot, I think that's most important. But as long as [the
239 neighborhood residents] are there, their preference is that it would stay a park. I'm just
240 questioning the usage of the park. If I were to believe that it was an actively used park and we
241 had enough resources, then sure, I would want to keep it. If it's only slightly used and we can
242 divert our human capital toward other, more frequently used parks, then my preference would be
243 that. I know that you're in a residential area there. It's still kind of a relatively nice
244 neighborhood, and there are not a lot of places where people can build houses in Onalaska. I'm
245 looking at this as potentially there are two lots. That may not be the route that they want to go. I
246 just would like to leave the door open for that. I still think that we have the potential, even

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247 though this is right-of-way, to leave some green space there.”

248

249 Amendment to the motion restated:

250

251 To recommend not having a parking lot on the southern portion, and also to potentially allow
252 other uses on the northern two parcels.

253

254 On roll call vote: Ald. Dan Stevens – aye, Patric McGuane – aye, Andrea Benco – nay, Brian
255 Udermann – abstain, Dennis Aspenson – nay, Steven Nott – aye, Ohbe Johnson – aye. Vote on
256 the amendment carries, 4-2, with one abstention.

257

258 Andrea asked how the original motion is affected and said, “That means we’re going forward
259 with a motion saying that we’re now in support of any options other than a parking lot for that
260 parcel. Is that correct?”

261

262 Steven said, “As a recommendation,” and told board members if they wish to recommend that
263 area remain a park, they would vote ‘no’ on the original motion, as amended.

264

265 Andrea restated her original motion as being the Parks and Recreation Board wishes to tell the
266 Public Works Department the board wishes to work with it on keeping Park Avenue Park as a
267 park. Andrea said the motion, as amended, is for the Parks and Recreation Board to state its
268 members wish to work with the Public Works Department, but keep open the possibility of using
269 the parcels however the city wishes in the future.

270

271 Ald. Stevens told Andrea his initial understanding of her original motion was “everything kind of
272 stays the same, including this area down there. So keep it as a park, to me, kind of meant that all
273 this was the same.”

274

275 Andrea said her motion was to work with the Public Works Department “when this comes up for
276 redevelopment down the road.”

277

278 Steven said, “But with our recommendation that they maintain it as a park, with the exception of
279 the right-of-way portion. That’s what I understood.”

280

281 Ald. Stevens admitted his amendment likely had not been well-placed.

282

283 Steven said he understood Ald. Stevens’ amendment to mean that all options would be
284 examined.

285

286 Ald. Stevens said his caveat was not to allow a parking lot, and also to possibly allow a park or
287 something else, which he admitted changes Andrea’s original motion. Ald. Stevens said a ‘yes’

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288 vote on the amended motion means a parking lot would not be allowed, and a park or another use
289 would be allowed. A ‘no’ vote means board members do not support the recommendation.

290

291 Steven stated the original motion, as amended:

292

293 For the Public Works Department to address the right-of-way issues on the southern portion of
294 Park Avenue Park, and to keep all options open – meaning a park or something else – on the
295 northern parcels.

296

297 Ald. Stevens reiterated voting ‘no’ means rejecting the entire proposal.

298

299 On voice vote, motion carried, 5-1, with one abstention (Andrea voted ‘nay.’ Brian Udermann
300 abstained).

301

302 Dennis asked if this item will now go before the Board of Public Works so that its members will
303 understand the Parks and Recreation Board members’ position.

304

305 Dan told Dennis the Board of Public Works’ members will have access to the minutes from this
306 evening’s meeting, and he also told Dennis, “I don’t have clear direction. I brought forward the
307 comments that the neighbors made. Jarrod was at the same meeting. The board is going out and
308 making a different recommendation. We will present that with the minutes at the Board of
309 Public Works [meeting]. This board is the [body] that makes those motions and makes it go
310 forward.”

311

312 **Item 5 – Discussion on Oak Park subdivisions Parks**

313

314 a. Complaint

315

316 Dan referred to a map of the Oak Park subdivision, including the five different parcels identified
317 as parks, being shown on the screen to board members. Board members also received copies of
318 maps of the five parks, including property boundaries. The pickleball courts are located at Oak
319 Park No. 1. The complaint, a copy of which is attached in board members’ packets, is related to
320 Oak Park No. 2. An active playground area that receives “a considerable amount of use” is at
321 Oak Park No. 4.

322

323 Dan referred to the complaint included in board members’ packets and said the individual who
324 had written it “was very frustrated” when he initially visited the Parks and Recreation
325 Department and asked that Oak Park No. 2 be maintained as a park because it is identified as a
326 park. Dan told board members he asked the individual to state his complaint in writing and he
327 would bring forward his concerns at this evening’s meeting. Dan told board members the area in
328 question “is really not a park” and is in reality a retention pond that is part of the City of

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329 Onalaska's water system. Dan said, "Rather than moving this individual around, this is really a
330 Public Works piece of property. We've been working with our new legal counsel who represents
331 the city [Amanda Jackson], and we are going to be bringing forward a resolution to identify both
332 Oak Park No. 2 and Oak Park No. 3 as part of our water retention system with the city. They are
333 not identified as a park. They have never been utilized as a park. That's the first part of this
334 plan: This is a Public Works issue. If they're going to clean up the area, that will be an item that
335 will have to be included in the Capital Improvements Budget to try to deal with it at a later time."
336 Dan noted Parks Department staff mows a couple swaths in front of the area and said, "That's
337 the extent of what we have in this area."

338

339 Dennis said he assumes the Public Works Department, the Erosion Control Department, or
340 another entity will clean up and trim back the area so that it is presentable to the neighbors.

341

342 Dan told Dennis there is one resident in that area who is "extremely vocal" and noted no one else
343 in the neighborhood has complained about the condition of that area.

344

345 Dennis said he believes the city should meet the standards it requires of all other citizens.

346

347 Steven told Dennis the lot in question is not a residential lot.

348

349 Ald. Stevens asked what the city potentially could do with the lot.

350

351 Dan said the individual wishes to see the area clear-cut, seed planted, and completely cleaned up.

352

353 Ald. Stevens said, "For the purposes it's being used for – water retention – that's not practical."

354

355 Dan said, "It's everybody's interpretation of what you would want."

356

357 Andrea described the area as "a little piece of wooded lot."

358

359 Dan said that while the area is classified as a park, it is needed by the city's Water Department as
360 part of the Public Works Department for the water retention area in this location. Dan said the
361 goal is to document that this is not a park location.

362

363 Andrea said she does not think it would be an issue if the area were not labeled as a park.

364

365 Steven predicted other citizens will become upset if trees are clear-cut.

366

367 Ald. Stevens asked if there is a reason why all the parks are named Oak Park, and he also asked
368 if it would help if they were named something different.

369

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370 City Administrator Rindfleisch described the lots as being “undesirable” when they were
371 annexed into the city, and he pointed out an area on the map where there is no parking and no
372 access to the equipment in the area. Addressing the green space in Oak Park, City Administrator
373 Rindfleisch said it reminds him a bit of Meier Farm, where there is mowing space and park
374 equipment, and also a wooded area. City Administrator Rindfleisch noted there is standing water
375 in Oak Park No. 2, which no one walks through, and said it is not the same as Meier Farm.

376

377 Steven asked what the areas would be called if the board recommends removing the name of
378 park from both Oak Park No. 2 and Oak Park No. 3.

379

380 Dan said they would be labeled water retention areas.

381

382 Ald. Stevens asked, “So if we take no action, the resolution will go to transfer to the Public
383 Works Department water retention areas?”

384

385 Dan said, “It would be that they would remove the name of Oak Park as a playground area as
386 they are identified now.”

387

388 Motion by Ald. Stevens, second by Andrea, for the Parks and Recreation Board not to take any
389 action at this time regarding the Oak Park subdivisions Parks.

390

391 Dennis asked what the motion means.

392

393 Ald. Stevens said it means this item will be forwarded to Jarrod and Amanda will take the
394 necessary action so that the area is not part of the Parks Department. Ald. Stevens also said it
395 appears the plan to rectify the situation has been designed “and we should just let it happen.”

396

397 Andrea said the only confusion that will occur is when the park numbers no longer are
398 sequential.

399

400 Ald. Stevens suggested perhaps addressing that at the August 26 Parks and Recreation Board
401 meeting.

402

403 Dan said that would not occur at the August 26 Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

404

405 On voice vote, motion carried.

406

407 b. Discussion related to Public Meeting

408

409 Dan noted board members had toured a majority of the city’s parks in July 2018, and he noted
410 board members had discussed Oak Park No. 5 as part of that tour. Dan said Oak Park No. 5 is

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411 difficult to access and pointed out there is no clear trail system. Dan complimented Mark and the
412 Parks Department staff of installing signs to identify how to access Oak Park No. 5, and he
413 suggested holding a neighborhood meeting so that residents could provide feedback regarding
414 this area. Dan noted the area is not utilized often and said that after discussing the matter with
415 city legal counsel, the board has the authority to state if it wishes to identify this area as surplus
416 and then go to the market to determine what its members wish to do with this parcel of land.
417 Dan said the board can determine which topic with which it will engage the public. If the board
418 wishes to make the decision without holding a public meeting, this item may be placed on the
419 August 26 meeting agenda.

420

421 Andrea asked if there is a way to improve access to the land if the residents inform city staff they
422 wish to see a park with equipment in that area.

423

424 Dan told Andrea it would be necessary to purchase access.

425

426 Ohbe inquired about the width of the trail.

427

428 Mark said it is 20 feet wide.

429

430 Ald. Stevens asked if there is any difficulty with transporting equipment to the site.

431

432 Mark said one of the neighbors used to express frustration if Parks Department staff mows
433 outside of the 20 feet.

434

435 Ald. Stevens asked Dan if he means selling the parcel when he talks about bringing it to market.

436

437 Dan noted there is a small baseball/softball backstop on the parcel.

438

439 Brian Udermann asked Dan what questions would be asked if a neighborhood meeting were
440 held.

441

442 Dan said city staff would determine if people are utilizing the parcel as well as their thoughts
443 regarding the development that parcel, and also interest in that property if the city were to decide
444 to sell it.

445

446 Brian Udermann said that while he is in favor of obtaining feedback from the residents, he
447 predicted they will tell city staff they enjoy the green space. Brian asked if developing another
448 lot is an option.

449

450 Dan said he believes it would be very difficult to get a lot in that area due to the access.

451

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452 Ald. Stevens suggested perhaps selling parcels to residents so they could extend their respective
453 lots.

454

455 Motion by Brian Udermann, second by Andrea, to proceed with a public meeting and obtain
456 feedback from residents regarding Oak Park No. 5.

457

458 Ald. Stevens said a community garden also could be a possible use.

459

460 Andrea said it must be made clear that an option such as garden space is open to the public.

461

462 Ald. Stevens suggested asking residents if they want this parcel to be their private reserve and be
463 sold as surplus, or if they want to see it utilized communally.

464

465 On voice vote, motion carried.

466

467 **Item 6 – Approve City Hall basement and stairwell painting to Rucker Painting in the**
468 **amount not to exceed \$6,519.00**

469

470 Dan said Rucker Painting would paint the basement at City Hall, the main entrance to the
471 building, and the rear entrance that goes to the Police Department area.

472

473 Motion by Ald. Stevens, second by Brian Udermann, to approve City Hall basement and
474 stairwell painting to Rucker Painting in the amount not to exceed \$6,519.00.

475

476 On voice vote, motion carried.

477

478 **Item 7 – Blufflands Coalition 2019 Payment**

479

480 Dan told board members this is the annual contribution to the Blufflands Coalition both the Parks
481 and Recreation Board and the Common Council have continued to support for the future
482 development of the corridor/trail system that hopefully will establish a connection from Drugan's
483 Castle Mound Country Club in the Village of Holmen to the Town of Shelby. Dan noted Mayor
484 Joe Chilsen serves as Chair of the Blufflands Coalition, and also that he serves as an alternate.
485 Meetings are held every other month, and the coalition works on different opportunities in this
486 area.

487

488 Motion by Andrea, second by Ald. Stevens, to approve the Blufflands Coalition 2019 Payment
489 of \$7,200.

490

491 Dennis asked Dan what the Blufflands Coalition had accomplished in the last year.

492

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493 Dan told Dennis the Blufflands Coalition had formed, two grant applications have been made as
494 part of the coalition, and work has begun on access easements.

495

496 Dennis inquired about the city's financial commitment.

497

498 Dan said the city's annual portion is \$7,200.

499

500 On voice vote, motion carried.

501

502 **Item 8 – Report from Blufflands Coalition**

503

504 Dan told board members he was unable to attend the July 17 Blufflands Coalition meeting and
505 said there had been “a very full agenda.” Dan said the primary focus is on projects for 2020 and
506 looking at access easements. Dan reported there are a few properties that have expressed interest
507 in working with the coalition on development of easements so that there may be more public
508 access onto their properties.

509

510 **Item 9 – Report from Onalaska Enhancement Foundation**

511

512 Dan said the OEF had met July 17 and reported the group had discussed the sculpture project for
513 the Great River Landing. The sculpture tentatively will arrive on site in late August, and Dan
514 said he believes the sculpture will arrive in four pieces. The sculpture will be welded on site, it
515 will be set, and the stained glass for the base will be installed approximately two to three weeks
516 after the sculpture is set. Dan said the goal is to complete the entire project in early October.
517 The base of the sculpture has been installed.

518

519 Andrea inquired about the video cameras that are to be installed by the sculpture.

520

521 Dan told Andrea the cameras are part of the project and said the Common Council had gone on
522 record stating a video camera must be in place before the sculpture is installed. Dan said city
523 staff is working with the individual who has all the cameras in the Great River Landing to get
524 them installed.

525

526 Andrea inquired about the cameras and vandalism that had occurred on the pay station.

527

528 Dan told Andrea the individual was captured on camera.

529

530 Andrea asked if the pay station will come before the board.

531

532 Dan told Andrea a new pay station has been ordered.

533

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534 Ald. Stevens asked if there will be an unveiling of the sculpture.

535

536 Dan told Ald. Stevens there is a plan in place and details are forthcoming.

537

538 Dan told board members the OEF also had discussed “Celebrate Onalaska,” which had included
539 fireworks and a band and was successful. Dan also noted a dozen volleyball teams had
540 participated in a tournament that weekend, and there also was a national softball tournament.

541

542 **Item 10 – Director’s Report**

543

544 **a. Parks Update**

545

546 Mark reported the following:

547

- 548 • The final softball tournament of the summer was held the weekend of July 19-21.
- 549 • “Ballapalooza” is scheduled for Wednesday.
- 550 • Staff is mowing, and employees cleared trees, tree limbs and branches from the wind
551 damage that occurred during a severe storm last week.
- 552 • Staff is identifying the trees it wishes to cut down this winter.
- 553 • Mark thanked both Ald. Wulf and Ald. Iyer for accompanying him on a tour of the city
554 parks.

555

556 **b. Recreation Update**

557

558 Dan reported the following:

559

- 560 • Staff will serve approximately 600 meals as part of “Ballapalooza” at Van Riper Park.
- 561 • Emails and registration information pertaining to the fall programs has gone out.

562

563 **c. Aquatic Center Update**

564

565 Dan reported the following:

566

- 567 • Water was seen bubbling from underneath the floor in the party room on July 3 and said
568 the source was the orange slide, which was shut down. Everything else still was
569 operational. The leak was identified, and repairs were made.
- 570 • An application was submitted to the state for the “Diggity Dog Dip,” which is scheduled
571 for Saturday, August 31.

572

573 Ald. Stevens asked how the budget is affected by the damaged orange slide.

574

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

Monday, July 22, 2019

15

575 Dan said cuts from other areas are made, if necessary.

576

577 Ald. Stevens inquired about the cost to repair the slide.

578

579 Dan said the cost is not yet known and told Ald. Stevens that Parks Department staff had
580 performed the majority of the concrete removal.

581

582 **d. Omni Center Update**

583

584 Brian Babiash reported the following:

585

- 586 • Both Ald. Wulf and Ald. Iyer had toured the facility.
- 587 • A girls high school hockey tournament was held the weekend of July 19-21, as was a
588 national skating camp. A figure skating camp is scheduled to be held at the facility.
- 589 • There is a new girls hockey coach at Onalaska High School, and the team's practice times
590 may now be scheduled.
- 591 • The front concession stand is being remade. Most of the cabinets have been ordered, and
592 delivery is anticipated to be late August. The floor will be redone, and staff also will
593 repaint.
- 594 • There was a meeting with fishing tournament representatives regarding substandard
595 internet speeds, and Dan has been working with local internet service providers regarding
596 uploading and downloading speeds. The event would occur in mid-August both on the
597 Omni Center grounds and inside the facility. Brian Babiash said a significant amount of
598 uploading speed is required because there would be 30 boats on the river, each boat has
599 its own camera and official, and everything is done live. There would be a stage with
600 commentators, and fishermen would be shown with their catches and weighing them.
601 Brian said event organizers are anticipating 8,000 people a day, and he told board
602 members they still are seeking information from him.
- 603 • A significant WIAA volleyball tournament is scheduled for August. This will be the
604 third year the tournament will be held at the Omni Center. The varsity tournament will
605 include 18 teams from around the state, and there also will be a junior varsity tournament.

606

607 **Adjournment**

608

609 Motion by Ald. Stevens, second by Andrea, to adjourn.

610

611 On voice vote, motion carried.

612

613

614 Recorded by:

615

616 Kirk Bey

Reviewed 7/29/19 by Dan Wick