

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

Monday, October 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, October 22, 2018 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, Dennis Aspenson, Steven Nott, Ohbe Johnson

7

8 Also Present: City Administrator Eric Rindfleisch, Parks and Recreation Director Dan Wick,  
9 City Engineer Jarrod Holter, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Mark Hanson, Buildings Manager  
10 Brian Babiash

11

12 Excused Absence: Brian Udermann

13

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

15

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

18

19 On voice vote, motion carried.

20

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

22

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

25

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

27

28 **Item 4 – Recommendation to approve Onalaska Sculpture to be placed at Great River  
29 Landing**

30

31 Dan Wick reminded board members that local artist Joyce Diveley had attended the March 26  
32 Parks and Recreation Board meeting and said Joyce is part of a committee that has been working  
33 toward having a sculpture at the Great River Landing.

34

35 Joyce noted the committee also includes Mary Cody, Sue Kolve, Mike Hayes, Jennifer Jahr, and  
36 Linda Lyche. Joyce said the process began in December 2017 when she first approached the  
37 Great River Landing Committee and then the Common Council about having public art at the  
38 Great River Landing. The Common Council gave its blessing to proceed with a sculpture. Joyce  
39 noted there once were 15 committee members from various backgrounds and said the  
40 committee’s goal was to have a unique sculpture at the Great River Landing that would become  
41 “a symbol of Onalaska.” The committee compiled criteria, and Joyce said she contacted three

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42 local sculptors – two of whom were “very interested,” and one who suggested reaching out to  
43 other artists. The committee received seven applications, and each artist was interviewed for 15  
44 to 20 minutes. The committee ultimately selected local sculptor Michael Martino, and Joyce said  
45 the rendering of the sculpture that is before the board this evening is the one the committee has  
46 chosen. Joyce said the criteria Michael had met includes the sculpture would not block the view,  
47 bur rather frame or enhance the view. In addition, the sculpture is an interpretive piece, meaning  
48 it could be an “O” for Onalaska, or for hope, infinity, or eternity, with the bird flying off into the  
49 distance. The blue at the bottom of the sculpture can represent the water, with the bird perhaps  
50 taking flight from the water. The glass will be fastened stained glass from a Winona, Minnesota-  
51 based company. Joyce said the inclusion of the stained glass will provide color. The sculpture  
52 will sit on a small white dome in the planter, and there still will be sufficient room on either side  
53 for flowers. Sunbeams will reflect on the dome when they strike the glass, and light will sparkle  
54 on the dome. Wildlife animals will be embossed on the outside of the hoop, and the inside of the  
55 hoop will be smooth. Joyce said she hopes to hold a contest in early 2019 to determine a slogan  
56 to be engraved on the inside of the hoop. The sculpture will be lighted at night. Joyce said ISG  
57 is compiling, pro bono, all the specifications for additional footings and reinforcement, and also  
58 construction of the dome. Joyce said Michael works with a group of individuals who will  
59 coordinate the engineering and ensure that the sculpture will not topple. Joyce said Michael is  
60 working on a model of the sculpture, which will be set into a three-dimensional printer. The  
61 sculpture will be welded in place, and the Winona-based glass company then will set the glass.

62  
63 Joyce said fundraising efforts for the sculpture began in September and she told board members  
64 that \$30,000 has been raised thus far. The goal is to raise \$175,000. The actual cost of the  
65 sculpture is \$150,000, and Joyce said the committee has received bids totaling approximately  
66 \$10,000 to move the sprinkler head control located in the planter as well as the electrical  
67 controls. Joyce said the committee initially established a goal to raise \$160,000; however,  
68 committee members decided to increase that amount by \$15,000 so that some funds may be  
69 given to the City of Onalaska if the sculpture needs a thorough cleaning. Joyce said she does not  
70 foresee the sculpture requiring extensive maintenance. Joyce noted the Winona-based glass  
71 company will have patterns for all the glass pieces and will be able to replace pieces should they  
72 break. Joyce said once the bronze has been cast, the Winona-based glass company will install  
73 each piece of glass by utilizing silicone. Joyce said the sculpture is constructed like a stained-  
74 glass window, with the non-glass parts being relatively vertical. Joyce said committee members  
75 would like to see a bronze plaque – perhaps a tablet – placed behind the sculpture to honor all the  
76 individuals who contributed funds for the statue.

77  
78 Steven asked if the sculpture will be backlit.

79  
80 Joyce said the sculpture will be backlit from the sun, but the style of lighting that will be utilized  
81 at night has not yet been determined.

82

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83 Steven said he finds the sculpture to be “visually stunning,” and he asked if the cost includes a  
84 surveillance camera.

85

86 Joyce said no.

87

88 Ald. Binash told board members the Room Tax Commission, of which he is the Chairperson, has  
89 authorized funds to pay for surveillance cameras that would be face the musical instruments as  
90 well as the proposed sculpture.

91

92 Dan Wick said that while the cameras have been delivered, mounting the cameras is challenging.  
93 Dan also said, “Going up to Main Street, it’s quite a distance to be able to try to identify ... We  
94 do shoot up that direction. We would have to go out there and actually walk it to see if you  
95 could identify anybody at that location. All the new cameras have been put in, so the  
96 instruments, the bike fix-it station, all of that has been completed.”

97

98 Steven addressed the additional \$15,000 the committee is attempting to raise so that the city may  
99 maintain the sculpture, saying he believes it will need to be cleaned at least once a year. Steven  
100 also inquired about the cost of the plaque.

101

102 Joyce said it likely will have be included in the \$10,000 budgeted for construction, adding she  
103 has not yet obtained a quote for a plaque.

104

105 Steven inquired about the annual cost to clean the sculpture.

106

107 Joyce said that while she does not know what the annual cost would be, she did note the cost to  
108 power wash her building was \$350.

109

110 Steven said he is happy the glass can be repaired if it is broken, noting it can be cost-prohibitive  
111 to repair stained glass, if it can be repaired at all.

112

113 Joyce said she believes the glass will be ¾-inch thick.

114

115 Dan Stevens noted there are glass artists who reside in the City of Onalaska, and he asked Joyce  
116 if the durability of the glass is why the services of a Winona-based company are being utilized.

117

118 Joyce said the Winona-based company was chosen due to the scope of the project, as well as the  
119 fact the company has done similar work in the past. Joyce reiterated Michael Martino had  
120 reached out to the company, and she told Dan Stevens the company is internationally known for  
121 its work.

122

123 Dennis inquired about Joyce’s presentations to the Great River Landing Committee and the

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124 Common Council.

125

126 Joyce told Dennis she had gone before the Common Council this past winter, and she said she  
127 asked the Council if the committee could proceed with having public art at the Great River  
128 Landing. Joyce said the Common Council voted unanimously to allow the committee to  
129 proceed. Joyce also said the Great River Landing Committee and the Common Council had told  
130 her to speak with the Parks and Recreation Board as the sculpture would fall under the board's  
131 purview.

132

133 Dennis asked what the next step will be if the board votes to approve or deny the sculpture this  
134 evening.

135

136 Dan Wick said it will be a recommendation to the Common Council.

137

138 Joyce told board members she had obtained the contract from Michael Martino and had  
139 forwarded it to City Attorney Sean O'Flaherty. Joyce said Sean has reviewed the contract and  
140 will send it to her either Tuesday or Wednesday. Joyce said Sean also had sent her a letter  
141 stating, "We will not be able to proceed as a gift to the city without a guarantor or all the money  
142 raised." Joyce said, "I would not start this project without all the money raised. We will not go  
143 forward until we have all the money."

144

145 Andrea noted a master plan for the Great River Landing had been done twice, and she also  
146 pointed out the initial Great River Landing Committee had been disbanded and a new one was  
147 created. Andrea said it was her understanding the new Great River Landing Committee  
148 members were responsible for overseeing the implementation of the second plan that came  
149 forward. Andrea said, "I'm curious as to where the decision-making powers end and processes  
150 go. I read [about] this [the statue] in the paper [Coulee Courier] last week, and I was really kind  
151 of surprised because it seemed like it should have been something we should have known more  
152 about. The last time you were here, I think there were still a lot of questions. It wasn't a given.  
153 I don't understand the process, and I'm a little concerned. I think the sculpture is beautiful, but  
154 I'm worried that it's not part of the Great River Landing plan, and there are a lot of people who  
155 are still waiting for parts of that plan to be put into effect. It just seems like a lot of other little  
156 organizations could come out and do things at that site. Nobody seems to be in charge of it any  
157 more. How does that all go?"

158

159 City Administrator Rindfleisch noted the Great River Landing Committee is a planning  
160 committee and said it provides a long-term vision for the site. City Administrator Rindfleisch  
161 said, "In this case, it was very active in terms of not just developing the current vision of what is  
162 there, but also establishing a future vision for what else can occur there. The challenge of a  
163 planning committee is that – there is no actual oversight of the actual land. It's providing input.  
164 It's providing communication. It's providing a vision and goals, but it doesn't actually control

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165 the land. This board actually controls the land. While the Great River Landing Committee may  
166 continue to fundraise and urge the future steps of development, that vision could also change  
167 over time. There is nothing fixed in that planning document that ‘this must occur and it must  
168 occur in these steps.’ There are some things in there that simply can’t be afforded right now that  
169 I would love to see, but it’s not on the horizon. There are other things that we can do within that  
170 long-range planning committee. Because it is a park and it has been designed as a park and there  
171 is an advisory committee over the park to continue on with the plan, the actual body that controls  
172 that piece of land is this board here. [This board] will make a recommendation to the Council as  
173 to the validity of the project, and your desire of the project – would you like to see it there or  
174 not? The planning did not include this particular piece of art in that site there. But [in reference  
175 to the] overall guidelines, I think it fits within some other things they would like to see there in  
176 terms of public access. But [regarding] the specifics, this board [is being asked to] decide if you  
177 wish to accept it or not, and also to make a recommendation to the Council.”

178

179 Andrea noted this item had gone before the Common Council and had not come before the Parks  
180 and Recreation Board. Andrea also noted the Common Council had granted approval.

181

182 Joyce corrected Andrea and said, “The Council granted approval on having a piece of public art  
183 – not this piece.”

184

185 Ald. Binash said, “When the Great River Landing was put together, it was always understood  
186 that there would be some kind of sculpture or something to be added to the Great River Landing,  
187 Phase I. It was brought up at the Great River Landing Committee, and it was taken here to the  
188 Parks and Recreation Board. The Council said to go ahead, form a committee, come up with  
189 some ideas, and bring it forth. That’s how it got started. The Parks and Recreation Board,  
190 because it is a park, now has the ability to say, ‘OK, we like it. We want more. We need more  
191 answers. We have questions. This looks fine. We can move it to the Council.’ What I am  
192 going to recommend and make a motion to is that we move this forward to the Council with a  
193 recommendation for a public hearing regarding the sculpture. We also have to recognize that as  
194 alderpersons, some [constituents] have [stated] that this is not part of the city and that this does  
195 not represent the city. For us to make that decision, I think the best thing to do is to move it  
196 forward for a public hearing and let the public have some say on the sculpture. Although we  
197 may find it aesthetically pleasing, there are those who feel it does not fit the mold of the city. Be  
198 that as it may, I think we do owe it to the public to at least have some say-so.”

199

200 Dennis told Ald. Binash that while he understands his point of view, he will vote no on the  
201 motion.

202

203 Ald. Binash reminded Dennis there must be a second before any discussion may occur.

204

205 Motion by Ald. Binash, second by Andrea, to forward to the Common Council a

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206 recommendation for a public hearing regarding a proposal to place an Onalaska Sculpture at the  
207 Great River Landing.

208

209 Dennis said he will vote no on the motion because “it’s as clear as mud. Eric didn’t clear  
210 anything up for me. Which committee actually gave a recommendation? It’s like a ball getting  
211 kicked around here. Now, if you have a public hearing, here we go. ... It has been a long,  
212 drawn-out, half-ugly process to get there.”

213

214 Dan Stevens said, “If I understand this correctly, if we proceed with the motion or if that  
215 succeeds, does that not make this board’s opinion or the authority that Eric just talked about kind  
216 of dilatory? Part of why we’re here as the Parks and Recreation Board is to be able to make  
217 these kinds of decisions.”

218

219 Steven said, “It would be providing public input before we decide whether or not to make a  
220 recommendation. I think we’d still ultimately have to have another vote on whether or not we’re  
221 going to recommend it for consideration. We’re just opening it up for public input before we  
222 make that decision on what we’re going to recommend.”

223

224 Dan Stevens asked if the public would be given the opportunity to speak at the November 13  
225 Common Council meeting if the board voted to approve the sculpture.

226

227 Steven said yes, but added, “I think what Jim is talking about here is an actual additional meeting  
228 where we discuss just this topic.”

229

230 Ald. Binash said individuals could address the sculpture during public input and their comments  
231 would be included in the meeting minutes. However, Ald. Binash said, “If you specifically  
232 address the public hearing, that’s much different than having public input where people will  
233 come in and state their case. Even if it’s not approved here, I’m still going to recommend a  
234 public hearing at [the] Common Council [meeting]. I think it’s only fair, and I and the other  
235 Councilmembers have gotten an email about the direction that this is going. We have to pay  
236 attention to what others are saying.”

237

238 Andrea said she supports Ald. Binash’s idea “because everything that we’ve done so far with the  
239 Great River Landing has been ... There have been a lot of opportunities for the public to be  
240 involved, and they haven’t always taken advantage of those. [A public hearing] is one of those  
241 things that has allowed us to defend some of the decisions. We have had [public hearings], and  
242 people have come and they have spoken. We have documents that support that. I think the  
243 public hearing is a good compromise.”

244

245 Steven asked if the sculpture would be on the Parks and Recreation Board’s next meeting agenda  
246 as an action item.

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247

248 Andrea said it would be based upon what is learned from the public hearing.

249

250 Dennis reiterated he would not support forwarding this item to the Common Council for a public  
251 hearing and said he would forward this item to the Common Council without a recommendation.

252 Dennis said, "If you want to maneuver a public hearing, go ahead. Then you [Councilmembers]  
253 can decide where it goes from you."

254

255 Ald. Binash told Dennis, "This is where it's going to start. The Parks and Recreation Board will  
256 say, 'We recommend' after a public hearing. We've heard the constituents. We like this idea, or  
257 we don't like this idea.' If we like this idea, it's recommended to the Council to accept the  
258 proposal. Then the Council has all the information already in front of them. They've listened to  
259 their constituents, they've made their decision and we can move forward. In the meantime, it  
260 will give them more opportunities to raise funds."

261

262 Dennis told Ald. Binash, "You're more concerned than I am about the constituents. And I get  
263 the whole political [aspect]."

264

265 Steven noted the taxpayers will be paying for the maintenance and the care of the sculpture.

266

267 Joyce reminded Steven the committee will be providing the city with funding to maintain the  
268 sculpture.

269

270 Steven noted those funds will only last a certain period of time and said, "In the end, it's going to  
271 fall on taxpayers to maintain [the sculpture] or to repair it. Even if you get the full \$15,000 ... it  
272 will be measured in years. It won't be measured in decades or centuries. Probably at that point  
273 the taxpayers will be paying for it because they've assumed responsibility for it."

274

275 Ald. Binash asked that the motion be called.

276

277 Steven said he would like to comment further before calling the motion.

278

279 Dan Wick told Steven a vote must be taken if the question is called.

280

281 City Administrator Rindfleisch told board members they may vote 'no' on calling the question if  
282 they would like to hold further discussion.

283

284 Motion by Ald. Binash to call the question.

285

286 Steven asked if there is a second to Ald. Binash's motion to call the question.

287

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288 Ald. Binash said discussion may continue if there is no second as the motion dies for lack of a  
289 second.

290

291 Steven pointed out there will be color and light associated with all art, and he asked if perhaps  
292 Michael Martino should provide input regarding the lighting. Steven said, "Otherwise what he  
293 has is a daylight-only art piece."

294

295 Joyce said the committee will be doing that and has not yet reached that point.

296

297 Steven said, "If they city likes it they're going to light it. ... But they're not artists. They're  
298 going to look at lighting it like it's a parking lot as opposed to ... We have this very large  
299 expense we've just incurred potentially in the future. We want to be able to highlight it and  
300 present it as a showcase. It's stained glass. We want the light at night to also highlight that, so I  
301 would think the artist probably needs to invite some input on that."

302

303 Andrea noted the lighting would be an ongoing cost for the city.

304

305 Dennis asked City Administrator Rindfleisch and Ald. Binash, "If we agree to take it to a public  
306 hearing, how fast can you get us there so these folks have time to raise money and plow  
307 forward?"

308

309 City Administrator Rindfleisch said, "Having a public hearing at the committee level is not as  
310 official as the required hearings the state would have for other meetings. You could post it as  
311 your next meeting agenda item as a public hearing."

312

313 Dennis asked if the public hearing would occur at a Parks and Recreation Board meeting or a  
314 Common Council meeting.

315

316 City Administrator Rindfleisch told Dennis it depends on the motion.

317

318 Steven asked Ald. Binash if his intent is to hold the public hearing at the Parks and Recreation  
319 Board level or the Common Council level.

320

321 Ald. Binash said he believes his motion was for the board to recommend that this item be moved  
322 to a public hearing, adding he can amend his motion to state that the public hearing occur at the  
323 Parks and Recreation Board level.

324

325 Dennis said he is not necessarily looking for a public hearing, adding he does not object to  
326 attending the Common Council meeting if a public hearing is held there. Dennis told Ald.  
327 Binash the Common Council is the body that makes the final decision.

328

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329 Steven said, "I don't like shirking our own responsibilities, so if there is going to be a public  
330 hearing I think we should be the ones to do it."

331

332 Ald. Binash said he does not want anyone to feel like a decision has been rushed through without  
333 giving the public an opportunity to provide input. Ald. Binash said, "If we have an opportunity  
334 at the Parks and Recreation Board [level] and we say we've had the public hearing and we've  
335 made a recommendation and it's now going to the Council ... We had a committee. They came  
336 up with this design. They're raising the funds. The Common Council can look at it and say,  
337 'We've done everything where you've had an opportunity to say your peace and we are moving  
338 forward.' This was discussed all along that there was going to be some kind of sculpture or  
339 something at the Great River Landing that was part of Phase I. This should not be a surprise to  
340 anyone who has been following along. My opinion is I think this is the right way to go, and  
341 we're giving people an opportunity."

342

343 Dennis asked if perhaps the board could hold a special meeting and not wait 30 days for a public  
344 hearing.

345

346 Dan Wick noted the Parks and Recreation Board's next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday,  
347 November 26. Dan also noted the item then would go before the Common Council at its  
348 December 11 meeting.

349

350 Joyce asked how the city will inform the public about the public hearing.

351

352 City Administrator Rindfleisch told Joyce it will be posted appropriately online as well as three  
353 posting sites. There also will be a Class One notice in the Coulee Courier.

354

355 Andrea asked if that would be in addition to the regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting  
356 agenda.

357

358 City Administrator Rindfleisch said it would be an agenda item for the November 26 Parks and  
359 Recreation Board meeting.

360

361 Andrea expressed concern that an insufficient number of citizens would see the Parks and  
362 Recreation Board meeting agenda and said she believes the city must find a way to give  
363 sufficient notice the board is seeking public input.

364

365 Steven noted the alderpersons who have been contacted by citizens expressing concern about the  
366 sculpture know how to reach them. Steven asked Ald. Binash if he wishes to amend his motion  
367 to state an exact date for the public hearing.

368

369 Motion by Ald. Binash, second by Steven, to amend the previous motion and state a public

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370 hearing regarding the Onalaska Sculpture at the Great River Landing be held at the Monday,  
371 November 26 Parks and Recreation Board meeting starting at 5:15 p.m.

372

373 Vote on the amendment:

374

375 On voice vote, motion carried, 4-2 (Dennis Aspenson, Dan Stevens).

376

377 Original motion restated:

378

379 To hold a public hearing regarding the Onalaska Sculpture at the Great River Landing at the  
380 November 26 Parks and Recreation Board meeting starting at 5:15 p.m.

381

382 Dan Stevens said it is his understanding the public has had ample opportunities to comment and  
383 guide board members. In addition, the Common Council has directed Joyce and her fellow  
384 committee members to create a plan. Dan said, "There have been plenty of opportunities for  
385 people to voice their opinions beforehand. I believe they still have the opportunity to object to it  
386 in public input before the Council. It seems to me we're creating an extra step here and delaying  
387 the process. This is something we should consider moving along more quickly. I will vote no."

388

389 On roll call vote: Ald. Jim Binash – aye, Ohbe Johnson – aye, Andrea Benco – aye, Dan Stevens  
390 – nay, Dennis Aspenson – nay, Steven Nott – aye. Motion carried, 4-2.

391

392 **Item 5 – Discuss potential reservoir in Greens Coulee**

393

394 Jarrod told board members the regular City of Onalaska is served at a certain elevation, which is  
395 called the "Normal Service Zone." The "Higher Service Zone" is located in the coulees. Jarrod  
396 noted the La Crosse Country Club has a high service zone, as does Green Coulee. Jarrod said the  
397 city is considering a third high service zone in the Crestwood area. Jarrod noted the city started  
398 its first development in Green Coulee in 1999; specifically, in Aspen Valley, which was above  
399 the elevation the city serves by the normal zone. Jarrod referred to the map on display and noted  
400 all the pipes that are colored blue are served on the regular zone. Meanwhile, the pipes that are  
401 colored red, including those in Coachlite, Elmwood Hills, and by the La Crosse Country Club,  
402 are served at the secondary elevation. Jarrod noted the booster station located along East Main  
403 Street serves into the reservoir on top of Country Club Lane. A booster station located in  
404 Coachlite serves 19 homes. A booster station located along Bearpaw Place in Aspen Valley  
405 serves the entire Green Coulee area. Jarrod said the city did not know how much development  
406 would occur in this area when the booster station was constructed. However, in that time  
407 Clearwater Farm, Savannah Oaks, Savannah Village, among other developments, have been  
408 created. Jarrod said the booster station currently serves approximately 172 homes in the Green  
409 Coulee area.

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411 Jarrod said that in either 2014 or 2015 the city began having difficulties serving homes when  
412 Savannah Oaks began to fill out due to pressure fluctuations and the demand. Jarrod noted the  
413 booster station has a jockey pump that functions 24 hours a day so that the pressure may remain  
414 at an acceptable level, adding that there is no continuous storage in that area. Jarrod said that in  
415 2015 the city commissioned the Green Coulee Pressure Zone Study, which included examining  
416 the possibility of putting a reservoir in the Green Coulee area. This was called out in the original  
417 1995 master plan. Jarrod noted all of the areas eventually will be linked together. Jarrod said the  
418 City of Onalaska attempted to work with the Town of Medary on establishing a connection  
419 through Meadow Wood and to Quarry Lane. However, the two municipalities have not been  
420 able to reach an agreement over the last decade. Jarrod said he has advocated for the connection  
421 at Town of Medary Board meetings, but “it just won’t happen.” Jarrod also said operational  
422 issues have begun occurring, “so we’re going to the next level.” Jarrod said a number of  
423 locations for a possible reservoir in Green Coulee were examined as part of the 2015 study. The  
424 study narrowed the number of locations to four. Jarrod pointed out a yellow line on the map that  
425 represents Elevation 1,000, and he said the reservoir must be at this elevation, and somewhere  
426 along the yellow line. Jarrod said that limits some of the city’s options of where to locate the  
427 reservoir in Green Coulee. Jarrod said staff examined two sites in Aspen Valley, one on Clifford  
428 Drive, and one on the end of Quarry Lane. Jarrod said a design memo was commissioned earlier  
429 in 2018, and the number of sites was narrowed to two. One is located on Alpine Place in Aspen  
430 Valley, and is located on property owned by the Mayo Corporation. There also is an empty lot  
431 present. City staff narrowed down its choice to a site located in Green Coulee Park, in the  
432 vicinity of the end of Quarry Lane.

433

434 Andrea asked why Clifford Drive was not selected.

435

436 Jarrod noted it is the easiest site to access. However, there is no water main present, and the road  
437 is not located in the City of Onalaska, but rather in the Town of Medary. Jarrod said the water  
438 main would need to be extended up Clifford Drive. Jarrod also said, “It’s owned by the MDAC,  
439 and the land is already in a conservation easement.” Jarrod pointed out a home being shown on  
440 the map and said the city will not be able to service it should it ever be annexed because it sits  
441 too high.

442

443 Jarrod reiterated the number of sites was narrowed to two. One option was to place a buried tank  
444 into the hill, and the other option was to construct a 120-foot aerial tower. Jarrod pointed out  
445 another site and said staff considered having a buried tank and/or a 70-foot aerial tower. Jarrod  
446 referred to the prices and noted they are within \$200,000 of one another. Jarrod also noted that  
447 with an elevated tower it is necessary to paint it every 20 years at a cost of approximately  
448 \$250,000. Jarrod told board members the city has buried concrete tanks from the early 1960s  
449 that require minimal maintenance (drained every five years, cleaned and inspected).

450

451 Ald. Binash inquired about the size of the tank.

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452  
453 Jarrod said the tank itself will be about 150,000 gallons and told Ald. Binash staff expects 250  
454 homes will eventually be in that zone. Jarrod noted the tank that serves the La Crosse Country  
455 Club area has approximately 220,000 gallons as it serves a larger area. Jarrod said the tank  
456 would be approximately 40 feet in diameter if it were a buried concrete tank, noting the tank  
457 would have a water depth of approximately 18 feet.

458  
459 Ald. Binash inquired about the tank located across from Menards.

460  
461 Jarrod pointed out the regular zone and said there is a 600,000-gallon tank next to a 750,000-  
462 gallon tank. There is a 600,000-gallon tank in Hauser Reservoir, and there is a 1.1-million gallon  
463 reservoir at the end of Wild Rose Lane in Elmwood Hills.

464  
465 Ald. Binash asked if having larger tanks makes circulation more difficult.

466  
467 Jarrod said it is more difficult to circulate water. Jarrod noted there currently is a 1,500-gallon-  
468 per-minute fire pump at the fire station, and he said he would prefer to have that water sit in a  
469 tank waiting for a fire so that the Fire Department has a firm supply as well as stable pressure.  
470 Jarrod pointed out homes located at the end of Aspen Valley Drive and said these homes are  
471 close to the elevation at which the city may serve. Jarrod said their pressure will fluctuate 5 to  
472 15 psi depending on time of day, use, and other factors. Jarrod said, "The tank will equalize the  
473 pressure and offer us firm fire protection. Now, if the fire pump goes out or something happens  
474 mechanically, the fire hydrants won't work. We won't have enough to fight a fire. [The Fire  
475 Department] would have to tanker it in."

476  
477 Dennis asked Jarrod if the reservoir will service an area that possibly will be annexed.

478  
479 Jarrod said the location to which Dennis had referred is the French Valley area and said it would  
480 be a different reservoir in the future. Jarrod said Davy Engineering's original 1995 report  
481 showed a Green Coulee reservoir, an Elmwood Hills reservoir, a French Valley reservoir, and a  
482 reservoir further out on Nathan Hill.

483  
484 Dennis noted the booster station is included in the budget, and he asked if the city will have a  
485 new water tower in the French Road/Crestwood area.

486  
487 Jarrod said, "They will at some point, when development occurs."

488  
489 Andrea asked why Mayo would not provide some land to the city.

490  
491 Jarrod said, "They may. Part of the problem with getting up to Mayo. ... First of all, I ruled out  
492 the elevated tanks [because] number one, the looks; [and] number two, the maintenance costs."

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493  
494 Andrea said it seems as though inground tanks would have fewer issues in the winter in regard to  
495 freezing.

496  
497 Jarrod told Andrea she is correct. Jarrod referred to a road on a map that he said was designed at  
498 10 percent and said it was the road that was proposed for the tank. Jarrod said such a road never  
499 would be constructed, noting the grade of the reservoir road is approximately 20 percent. Jarrod  
500 referred to a drawing of one of the proposals and said if the proposal for a tank in Green Coulee  
501 Park were to go forward, the road would not have the retaining walls. Jarrod pointed out the  
502 logging trail on a map and said the tank would be sited in the hillside. Jarrod said, "If this  
503 proposal would go forward for an inground tank in the park, the tank itself is 40 feet in diameter.  
504 But you're going to need a 100-foot-by-100-foot tree clearing spot because you're going to have  
505 slopes. You're going to have to get the tank in the ground safely, and it's going to have to be  
506 constructed. It would be a bigger disturbed area." Jarrod told board members this is considered  
507 the preliminary phase, and he said, "If we came forward again, we would come forward for final  
508 approval and we would have an engineered plan that we would show you with slopes on  
509 roadways, areas of disturbance, and reasons that certain things would have gotten done the way  
510 they do."

511  
512 Dennis asked Jarrod which of the locations would better serve the city and be most cost  
513 effective.

514  
515 Jarrod said, "Any of the options. The options range from just under \$1 million to \$1.2 million on  
516 the other side of the road. The steel tank and the concrete tank are about the same cost for  
517 construction. But the overall maintenance cost is what [disqualified] the metal tank."

518  
519 Dennis asked Jarrod which location he would place the tank.

520  
521 Jarrod said utilizing the existing road and placing it in the park would be the most cost-effective  
522 solution. Jarrod said the road would need to be strengthened by placing more base under it. The  
523 rock would be left in place, but Jarrod also said, "We would need to get something that would be  
524 more aesthetically pleasing. It wouldn't be sod, but it would be some sort of screenings." Jarrod  
525 referred to a project that was completed in 2003 in which the road was redone and screenings  
526 were placed on it, and he said, "I would envision it would kind of look like that when we're  
527 finished." Jarrod said the width would be the same, and also that, "We would probably need 10  
528 feet wide. There are probably spots where it's only 8 [feet wide]. I think the width is enough. It  
529 might look a little wider on the ground when we're done, but we won't have to grade into the  
530 hill. ... I think we'll be fine if we steepen up the slope of the drive going up to it." Jarrod said it  
531 will be necessary to cut down some of the overhanging limbs, noting the canopy currently sits  
532 too low. Jarrod warned board members there will be six months of construction, and he also  
533 cautioned that the trail likely will be closed for six weeks while this is occurring. Jarrod said,

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534 “No matter which one of these sites it is, you’re dealing with steep slopes.” Jarrod said he  
535 prefers the park site because the road is already present.

536

537 Motion by Dennis, second by Dan Stevens, to approve City Engineer Jarrod Holter’s  
538 recommendation for the location to install a reservoir in Green Coulee.

539

540 Ald. Binash asked if there will be sufficient water pressure to cover the houses located to the  
541 north in Green Coulee if they are annexed into the city.

542

543 Jarrod referred to the original study that was conducted in 2015 and said city staff figured there  
544 would be approximately 250 eventual units in the coulee. Jarrod said, “This would serve all of  
545 them. We wouldn’t have to come back and make it bigger in the future. It would serve  
546 everyone. Eventually someday – maybe it’s 40 years from now – I’m hopeful this connection  
547 will get put in. Then we have redundancy between areas. That way if we have to take this tank  
548 out of service for maintenance, we can feed from [another tank]. The pressure will go down 3 or  
549 4 psi because you have friction loss with that much pipe. But we’d still be able to serve it to get  
550 by for a few days.”

551

552 Andrea asked if the city would perform the construction, or if the work would be contracted out.

553

554 Jarrod said the project would be contracted.

555

556 Andrea said she opposes placing the tank in the park because she believes city parks are for  
557 different uses. Andrea asked Jarrod if he would include aspects in the contract such as vehicle  
558 washing so invasive species are not brought into the park. Andrea also asked that tree removal  
559 occur at appropriate times.

560

561 Jarrod noted he hikes in the park and said, “I want to say we’re going to do the best we can, but I  
562 also don’t want to promise the world. You’re trying to construct a concrete tank that is 40 feet in  
563 diameter.”

564

565 Steven asked if this is an item the board is voting on this evening even though there is a motion  
566 and a second on the floor.

567

568 Dan Wick said, “It’s just to move forward.”

569

570 On voice vote, motion carried, 4-1, with one abstention. (Andrea Benco voted nay, Steven Nott  
571 abstained).

572

573 **Item 6 – Discussion regarding Holiday Heights Park**

574

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575 Dan Wick noted he had read into a record a letter from Pat Lamke at the September 24 Parks and  
576 Recreation Board meeting regarding issues at Holiday Heights Park, and he showed board  
577 members photographs of the site. Dan said Pat Lamke expressed concerns about the controlled  
578 flooding in the park, and he told board members Jarrod has become part of a consortium that  
579 includes the dam operators in La Crosse, West Salem, Angelo, as well as a number of agencies.  
580 Dan admitted there likely had been some breakdowns in communication in the past, but he also  
581 said, “We are up to speed a little bit more. When Jarrod gets the call or the email, it’s usually  
582 forwarded to us to [tell us] to get anything out of the park that we need to. ... I believe the  
583 control, what Pat was relating to, was the dam operations. That is out of our control, but there  
584 are avenues in place to improve that communication to continue that moving forward.”

585

586 Dan Wick told board members a small berm had been constructed to assist the area. Dan said  
587 Pat Lamke had inquired about installing a second berm in an attempt to halt the water flow  
588 through the park.

589

590 Jarrod noted the roadway that is being paved is at the 100-year flood elevation and said, “We  
591 didn’t get up to the 100-year flood elevation this last flood. It got close last summer and this  
592 [past] summer. It was within half a foot of getting up to the 100-year flood elevation.” Jarrod  
593 said the berm would need to be substantial to keep the water out of the park. However, Jarrod  
594 also noted flooding still would occur in the park even though velocities would be reduced.  
595 Jarrod said the berm would require permits from the Wisconsin Department of Natural  
596 Resources because the area is located in the floodplain.

597

598 Dennis asked how tall the berm would need to be.

599

600 Jarrod said it would need to be 5 to 6 feet higher than the lower trail.

601

602 Dennis asked if all the materials could be obtained onsite if a berm were to be constructed.

603

604 Jarrod said fill would need to be brought in via truck. Jarrod also said a berm will look out of  
605 place until a flood occurs.

606

607 Ald. Binash asked if floodwaters reach any of the houses located in Holiday Heights and said, “If  
608 it’s not reaching the houses and this is a park and you have problems with mosquitos and it’s  
609 continually flooding, you’re going to have to be putting a lot of money in just to redirect the  
610 water, which in essence is not necessarily going to keep the water from the park. It’s a Catch-22,  
611 in my opinion. You’re putting money into a lost cause. I don’t mean to put it that bluntly, but  
612 that’s what it seems like is happening.”

613

614 Dan Wick addressed Pat Lamke’s concerns about creating drainage, noting there were fewer  
615 issues with water when the city assumed control of the park in the early 2000s. Dan noted

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616 mowing occurred more frequently than it does now. Dan also noted the amount of water in  
617 the park has increased since the State Trunk Highway 16 project was completed.

618

619 Jarrod told board members the dynamics of the drainage in the area changed when the ramp was  
620 constructed.

621

622 Dan Wick addressed Pat Lamke's concerns about the playground surfacing, noting the Consumer  
623 Products Safety Institute is the body responsible for all the regulations regarding what surfacing  
624 the city must install. Dan said sand is not accessible, but may be utilized in the playgrounds.

625 Dan noted sand is lost when water levels increase and said staff must bring in more sand to  
626 replace what was lost.

627

628 Dan Stevens asked if the flood waters have damaged the playground equipment and made it  
629 necessary to replace it more frequently.

630

631 Mark said that while he does not believe the equipment suffers, he would not consider the area  
632 around it to be safe seven or eight months of this year.

633

634 Dan Stevens asked if the park area possibly had another use such as a dog park.

635

636 Dan Wick said the fencing would need to be replaced once or twice a year when water levels  
637 rise.

638

639 Dan Wick addressed moving the playground equipment, telling board members doing so would  
640 void all the warranties. Dan noted the playground equipment cost between \$80,000 and \$90,000,  
641 and he said it would be necessary to remove and replace it. Dan said, "In our conversations,  
642 you'd have to raise that up 10 feet, 15 feet to create something that is a usable space."

643

644 Motion by Dennis not to construct a berm in Holiday Heights Park.

645

646 Dan Stevens asked Jarrod if he has a recommendation as to what action should be taken.

647

648 Ald. Binash noted as a point of order that a second must be made before further discussion may  
649 occur.

650

651 Motion by Dennis, second by Ald. Binash, not to construct a berm in Holiday Heights Park.

652

653 Jarrod said the park is in the FEMA floodplain designated flood fringe, noting it almost could be  
654 in the floodway, where there is moving water. Jarrod said FEMA will not allow any fill or  
655 structures to be placed in a floodway. However, Jarrod said an engineering study may occur in a  
656 flood fringe to raise it out of the flood fringe and make changes. Jarrod noted the number of rain

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657 events has increased, thus causing the river to rise. Jarrod said, “Once it leaves its banks, which  
658 isn’t much storage, it comes into the park. We talk 100-year flood. It probably comes up and  
659 gets into the park every year, at least once a year.”

660

661 Mark noted the pavement has started to deteriorate due to the flooding.

662

663 For clarification, Dan Stevens asked Jarrod what he is recommending.

664

665 Jarrod stated he is not in favor of constructing a berm, and he said the drainage in this area is “all  
666 low,” thus making it difficult to control the drainage coming through the park. Jarrod also said  
667 he is working on flooding control with the other agencies that own dams, and he stated, “From a  
668 maintenance standpoint, do you want to put up with, is it worth being able to use the park for ‘x’  
669 amount of days a year to put up with the days you can’t?”

670

671 Dan Wick noted Holiday Heights Park likely has cost the city less than many of its parks because  
672 the grass typically is too wet to mow.

673

674 Andrea suggested this might be the ideal time to determine how to better utilize the park.

675

676 Dan Wick noted there is no funding either in the 2018 budget or the 2019 budget to address  
677 flooding in Holiday Heights Park, and he said the 2020 budget is the earliest it could be  
678 addressed. Dan said Parks Department staff can attempt to come up with other ideas to address  
679 the situation.

680

681 On voice vote, motion carried, 5-1 (Andrea Benco voted nay).

682

683 Andrea said she believes the entire picture must be examined before options are removed.

684

685 Steven stated he believes the park is sited in a poor location and said he believes the park either  
686 must be re-sited or be removed altogether. Steven noted the city is expending funds yearly on a  
687 park that has limited usage.

688

689 Andrea asked if perhaps a survey regarding park usage could be taken, and she also asked Mark  
690 if he sees people utilizing Holiday Heights Park on a consistent basis.

691

692 Mark said he has seen several individuals walking their dogs, adding he sees people utilizing the  
693 playground “on occasion.”

694

695 **Item 7 – Report from Blufflands Coalition**

696

697 Dan Wick noted the Blufflands Coalition’s next meeting is scheduled for mid-November.

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698

699 **Item 8 – Report from Onalaska Enhancement Foundation**

700

701 No report.

702

703 **Item 9 – Report from Great River Landing Committee**

704

705 Dennis said he had asked Dan Wick to make copies of the last plan that was adopted for the  
706 Great River Landing. Dennis also asked, “Do we want to proceed in this direction?”

707

708 Andrea asked Dennis to clarify what he just said.

709

710 Dennis said, “Whatever [the Great River Landing Committee has] recommended so all of a  
711 sudden we’re not piecemealing something and we have a plan for the other side of the [railroad]  
712 tracks to go by. If we don’t, [we can] say we’re going to go our own direction and not take any  
713 of this information and use it.”

714

715 Dan Wick noted the city had received a plaque for its work at the Great River Landing and said,  
716 “This was part of the application process.”

717

718 **Item 10 – Director’s Report**

719

720 **a. Parks Update**

721

722 Mark reported the following:

723

- 724 • Staff is in the process of winterizing, collecting leaves, mowing, and cleaning the pool.
- 725 • Tree work will begin soon.

726

727 Dennis inquired about the status of the structure located at the Great River Landing.

728

729 Dan Wick said no action is being taken at this time and noted it will be part of the 2020 budget  
730 discussion.

731

732 **b. Recreation Update**

733

734 Dan Wick reported the following:

735

- 736 • Fall programs (football and volleyball) are coming to an end.

737

738 **c. Aquatic Center Update**

Reviewed 10/24/18 by Dan Wick

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779

Dan Wick reported the following:

- Staff is winterizing the facility.

**d. Omni Center Update**

Brian reported the following:

- The Fall Craft Show was held the second weekend of October. Every vendor spot was sold. A record number of items were collected for the food pantry.
- Ice is being reinstalled in Arena No. 1, and the ice is expected to be ready for skating by Wednesday evening when the adult hockey league begins play for the season.
- There is an effort to add events into the boardroom.
- Altra Federal Credit Union and the United Way have sent volunteer groups to assist at the facility. Orthodontic Specialists of the Coulee Region is expected to provide volunteers in November.

Dan Wick noted the first group painted the main hallways, and he also noted 40 Altra volunteers had painted five or six of the locker rooms.

Ald. Binash noted many of the Omni Center projects the board had discussed during the budget process have been moved to the Special Projects Fund, and he said most of them should be funded.

Dennis inquired about the status of the other budget items.

Dan Wick said the Finance and Personnel II Committee meeting for the 2019 Administrative Budget will occur October 30. The Board of Public Works will continue discussing the 2019 Capital Improvements Budget at its November 6 meeting. Dan said that at this time the Rowe Park parking lot, the playground project, and the two open-air shelters (Meier Farm and Well Street) still are in the 2019 CIB. Dan said he might back away from doing the “big project” next year and consider working with a consultant on examining the master plan for Rowe Park. Dan said the big project that will be addressed in 2019 is the ADA Transition Project. The city will hire a consultant for the 12- to 18-month project. The consultant will examine every city park and city-owned facility and inform staff what is and is not ADA-accessible, and then create a plan and a budget to address them.

Dennis noted the Board of Public Works has been directed to hold the Capital Improvements Budget to around \$3.5 million for approximately 10 years.

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780 As a point of order, Ald. Binash told Dennis that topic is not on the agenda and therefore cannot  
781 be discussed.

782

783 **Adjournment**

784

785 Motion by Andrea, second by Dan Stevens, to adjourn.

786

787 On voice vote, motion carried.

788

789

790 Recorded by:

791

792 Kirk Bey