

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

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

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

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

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

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

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16 On voice vote, motion carried.

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

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

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

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25 **Item 4 – Recommendations on future of Oak Park #5**

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27 Dan told board members he has been working with City Attorney Amanda Jackson since the
28 October 28 Parks and Recreation Board meeting, and he said Amanda has requested that this
29 item be moved to the January 27 meeting. Dan said he had informed the residents in the
30 neighborhood the board would not be discussing this item this evening, and he told board
31 members a number of legal issues still are being worked on should the city deem the park surplus
32 land, including dispersal options. Dan said, “We had put together a number of different items
33 listed with that, but Amanda found some things in state statutes that she needs to review more
34 and get it so before we try to push something forward ... We don’t want to rush anything.”

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36 Motion by Ald. Stevens, second by Steven, to refer future discussion regarding Oak Park #5 to
37 the January 27, 2020 Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

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39 On voice vote, motion carried.

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41 **Item 5 – Approve replacement of Omni Center Arena #1 main electrical panel to Wehrs**

Reviewed 12/2/19 by Dan Wick

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42 **Electric in the amount not to exceed \$23,400**

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44 Dan told board members this item needs to be removed from this evening's agenda. Dan said
45 that while staff has received prices, which were included in board members' packets, a
46 representative from Wehrs Electric, the apparent low bidder, has expressed concerns regarding
47 the submitted bid. Dan said that while a revised price was sent, the bid was higher than what
48 was initially submitted. Dan said, "We submitted quotes on this. It wasn't a sealed bid or that
49 we sent out specified bids. My recommendation is that we take no action and withdraw this item
50 from the agenda."

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52 **Item 6 – Discussion regarding December meeting**

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54 Dan said the board traditionally does not meet in December. However, a special meeting may be
55 held if there is an issue the board needs to discuss.

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

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59 Dan reported the Blufflands Coalition had met November 20, and he said the coalition has
60 identified a number of property owners along the main corridor, which is from Drugan's Castle
61 Mound Country Club to the south side of the City of La Crosse. Dan said coalition members are
62 working on writing a letter to send to the property owners asking them to contact the Blufflands
63 Coalition if they wish to work together on the trail system.

64

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

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67 Dan noted the OEF had met November 13 and reported the following:

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- 69 • The final payment for the sculpture at the Great River Landing has been made, and the
70 sculpture is now on the city's insurance and under its oversight. The sculpture is under
71 24-hour video surveillance.
- 72 • The Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held Thursday at the Onalaska Armory.
73 Dan said a sufficient number of volunteers have committed to assisting at the event, but
74 more are welcome. The Village of Holmen Rotary Clubs are assisting with the event.

75

76 Andrea asked if transportation to the event is provided.

77

78 Dan said that while he does not believe transportation to the event is available, delivery service is
79 available.

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81 **Item 9 – Director's Report**

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83 **a. Parks Update**

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85 Mark reported the following:

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87 • Staff is working on picking up leaves.

88 • Winterization is nearly complete.

89 • The plants have been cut at the Great River Landing. There were 14 truckloads of
90 catmint, lilies, and smallgrass.

91 • The ice rink frame has been installed.

92 • The dock has been pulled up, cabled off, and locked up to two trees.

93

94 **b. Recreation Update**

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96 Dan reported the following:

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98 • Several of the basketball programs have begun, and others soon will begin. Dan said he
99 is pleased with the number of individuals who have registered.

100 • The department hosted its first girls basketball tournament four weeks ago. The
101 department will host another tournament December 21, and two or three more
102 tournaments are scheduled for January and February.

103

104 **c. Aquatic Center Update**

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106 Dan said he hopes the proposed upgrades and maintenance to the pool are included in the 2020
107 Capital Improvements Budget so that work may commence. The Board of Public Works will
108 hold a public hearing on the proposed 2020 CIB on December 3, and it will go before the
109 Common Council on December 10.

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111 **d. Omni Center Update**

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113 Dan reported the following:

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115 • Ice has been installed in both arenas.

116 • Staff has enhanced the lighting for the Sunday open skating period as well as high school
117 hockey games. Purple lighting is utilized when the Onalaska High School boys and girls
118 hockey teams are introduced.

119 • Sales Manager Tony Meyers is working on The Driftless Outdoor Show, which will be
120 held May 8-9, 2020, and will be a Parks and Recreation Department event going forward.

121 • The Fall Craft Fair was the largest event to date.

122 • Justin Swartling is the new Event Coordinator. Justin has an extensive background in

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123 event management, including working in Fastenal's NASCAR program. Justin also is
124 enrolled in a two-year event management program at Madison Area Technical College.

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126 **e. Library Update**

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128 Dan reported the following:

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- 130 • The board had approved several projects at its October 28 meeting. The contractor for
131 the ceiling fan project was on site last week.
- 132 • Buildings Manager Brian Babiash had met earlier Monday with the contractor who was
133 awarded the bid for new chairs.

134

135 Mark told board members attendance at the lighting of the Christmas tree likely was larger than
136 it was a year ago.

137

138 Andrea noted there had not been any news about the event in the Coulee Courier.

139

140 Dan noted the event had been included in the Activity Guide, telling board members more than
141 100 families had attended the "Coloring with the Chiefs" event November 21, the same evening
142 the Christmas tree was lit.

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144 **Adjournment**

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146 Motion by Andrea, second by Ohbe, to adjourn.

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148 On voice vote, motion carried.

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151 Recorded by:

152

153 Kirk Bey