

## MINUTES

### Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 21, 2016

**Location: Belle Isle Flynn Pavilion**

Roll Call and Excused Absences  
Meeting called to order: 9:04 a.m.

#### **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Alicia Bradford  
Bud Denker

#### **PRESENT FOR BIPAC**

Michelle Hodges  
Ron Olson  
Scott Pratt  
Sommer Woods  
Bryan Barnhill  
Michael Curis  
Lonnie Peek                      Arrived: 9:35 a.m.

#### **APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES**

- Motioned by Bryan Barnhill. Seconded by Michael Curis

#### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Chair Hodges asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the November 19, 2015, Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee meeting. The motion for approval was put into place by Summer Woods and seconded by Bryan Barnhill.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- 2015 Public Survey Results: Michael Schmall and Marcia Johnson, Morpace, presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the results of the public survey. The results were summarized with an 80 to 90% public satisfaction with their Belle Isle experience. Details of the study are posted on the website. [www.belleislepark.org](http://www.belleislepark.org)
- Guest Speaker, George Phifer, Director - Huron Clinton Metro Parks shared a PowerPoint presentation on the Huron Clinton Metro Parks Operations. Mr. Phifer reviewed the HCMA system.



***Staffing:***

- Karis Floyd, Belle Isle Park Manager, reported that non career applications are now available for summer positions at Belle Isle Park. Karis also reported that the Belle Isle Park Supervisor position will be posted by spring 2016.
- Michele Hodges, Chair, Belle Isle Advisory Committee, reported that the Events Coordinator position for the Belle Isle Conservancy, has been posted, the deadline for applications is February 1, 2016. Michele also reported that the Director position for the Belle Isle Aquarium will also be posted soon.

***DNR Law Enforcement:***

- DNR Law Enforcement, Sgt. Damon Owens reported that there have not been any critical incidents.

***Infrastructure Update:***

- Amada Hertl, Urban Field Planner-Southern Michigan, presented a draft PowerPoint presentation on Belle Isle Park's fiscal year 2015. This covered numerous projects including the grant funded renovations to the Athletic Facility Complex. The final report will be available on the website at the following link. [www.belleislepark.org](http://www.belleislepark.org)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** (3 minutes each)

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Ed Deeb         | Reminded everyone that Metro Youth Day will be held July 13, 2016 at the Belle Isle Athletic Field. Mr. Deeb also requested improvements are done including installing a draining system, electrical outlets and fencing. |
| Pete Forsythe   | He wants to obtain a status of the potential for the Red Bull race this year. <b><i>Ron responded that there have been no requests from Red Bull, but if there is, they will not be allowed to return.</i></b>            |
| Gerry           | Requested that a boat launch to be created on Belle Isle.   |
| Skip Davis      | He requested a zero tolerance on racing on Belle Isle. He raised concern as to the timeline for the Grand Prix load in and load out time.   |
| Sandra Novachek | She asked if the survey questioned non-users of the island. She suggested further questions on the survey regarding racing on the island.   |
| Bruce Ross      | He encouraged Environmental Education be sought for federal funding to youth programs on Belle Isle.  |

- Carol Rhodes Expressed concerns regarding the non-permitted muscle car “Show” that occurred in the park and any future similar events.
- Betty Roberts Survey suggestions. No late music events on island.
- Steve Gould Requested that a boat launch be created on Belle Isle.
- Peter Forsythe Expressed concerns regarding the Grand Prix set-up and future.

**BELLE ISLE CONSERVANCY UPDATES:**

- Michele Hodges, Chair, Belle Isle Advisory Committee, reported that the Belle Isle Strategic planning process is near completion and a review will be planned. Michele also noted that the “Holiday Stroll” event was a huge success, approximately 4 – 6 thousand visitors attended.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS:**

- Lonnie Peek: Requested clarification on a boat launch on Belle Isle.  
*Olson responded that the MDNR are looking to have boat launches on the island in the future. MDNR is also considering acquiring land near Milliken State Park, where a boat launch may be installed.*
- Sommer Woods: Shared that Ron Scott passed away in November, 2015, we continue to support his vision.
- Bryan Barnhill: Presented questions regarding the water issues on Belle Isle.  
*Olson responded that the water pressure drop could be water main repairs and the chlorine levels dropped but water tests were conducted to insure safety and were positive for drinking and use.*
- Michele Hodges Requested a status update on Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) on the island.  
*Pratt responded that the DNR is in discussions with MDOT to bring back bus service to the island.*

**Upcoming Events:**

Shiver on the River	February 6, 2016	Casino
Flying Pancakes	February 6, 2016	Flynn
Grand Prix	June 3 – 6, 2016	

Meeting Adjourned: 11:24 a.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Hodges, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald A. Olson, Chief  
Parks and Recreation (DNR)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT