



Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: November 16, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Outdoor Adventure Center

Riverview Loft

1801 Atwater Street Detroit, MI 48207

Meeting began at 9:10 a.m.

No quorum established.

Roll Call

Present for BIPAC

Michele Hodges

Michael Curis

Excused

Bud Denker

Brad Dick

Unexcused

Sommer Woods

DNR Staff Present

Ron Olson

Tom Bissett

Gail Fitch

Cynthia Boggerty-Craft

Erika Compton

Marie Kaphengst

Griselda Trevino

Barbara Graves

Others Present

Maud Lyon, Belle Isle Conservancy

Nancy Vella, Belle Isle Conservancy

Ayo Thomas, Belle Isle Conservancy

Chair Hodges opened the meeting with member Curis and introductions were made.

Parks and Recreation Update, Ron Olson, Chief

Ron Olson said the public will be educated on the boathouse, via Tom Bissett.

Tom Bissett acknowledged Michele Hodges and Bud Denker for their time as leaders with the Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee. Chair Hodges acknowledged Bud Denker, who showed a champion mentality and authentic love for Belle Isle.

Chair Hodges provided a thank you and introduced the interim Executive Director for the Conservancy, Maud Lyon.

General Updates

Park Updates, Tom Bissett and Gail Fitch

Gail Fitch, Park Supervisor, introduced himself and gave a brief background on his career. He continued that they have concluded the janitor interviews and are on the next phase. The fountain has been shut down for the season and is in the process of winterization, as well as the bathrooms, besides the Bus Stop, which will remain heated and open. Portable facilities have been placed at Sunset Point, Woodside, and Oxbow for the use during the winter season.

Infrastructure Update – Tom Bissett, Urban District Supervisor

With use of a PowerPoint presentation, Tom provided updates on the sawmill casino roof, boiler room, the aquarium heating and cooling system, sewer lines, the dome, Flynn pavilion and pavement markings. (Report attached).

Law Update – Tom Bissett, Urban District Supervisor

Tom Bissett gave the law update for Lt. Szyska who said that speed is still an issue and reminded people to take it slow driving through the park.

Belle Isle Conservancy Updates - Ayo Thomas, Belle Isle Conservancy (Update attached)

Ayo shared slides and updates, including the fall/winter facility hours, stakeholder highlights, and other updates.

Chair Hodges took a moment to acknowledge Missy Kinyon, owner and operator of Detroit Outpost, a kayaking business, who is battling a sickness

and is now in hospice. Chair Hodges said Missy is a champion for the kayaking community and Belle Isle.

Public Comment

Stephen Malbouef – He and others are working to organize a 501c3 nonprofit with goals to prevent the further deterioration of the Belle Isle boathouse and restoring it to its original condition, and to allow the DNR to focus on other projects around the island and for the Friends of Detroit Rowing to focus on their programming.

Gerald Hasspacher – He has been working with Belle Isle Park Dark Sky Initiative and has recently been in touch with a staff person from the DNR who was assigned to the project. He would like this on a future agenda. He also addressed the lighting that needs to be 300K or less.

Michael Curis said on behalf of all the members, he thanked Michele for her leadership for the past 10 years. Within a two-year period, attendance at the park has gone from 2 million people to 5 million, which supersedes all events in Detroit combined in a year. He said this is a testament to Michele's dedication to the island.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Next regular meeting:
December 14, 2023
9:00 a.m.



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Updates

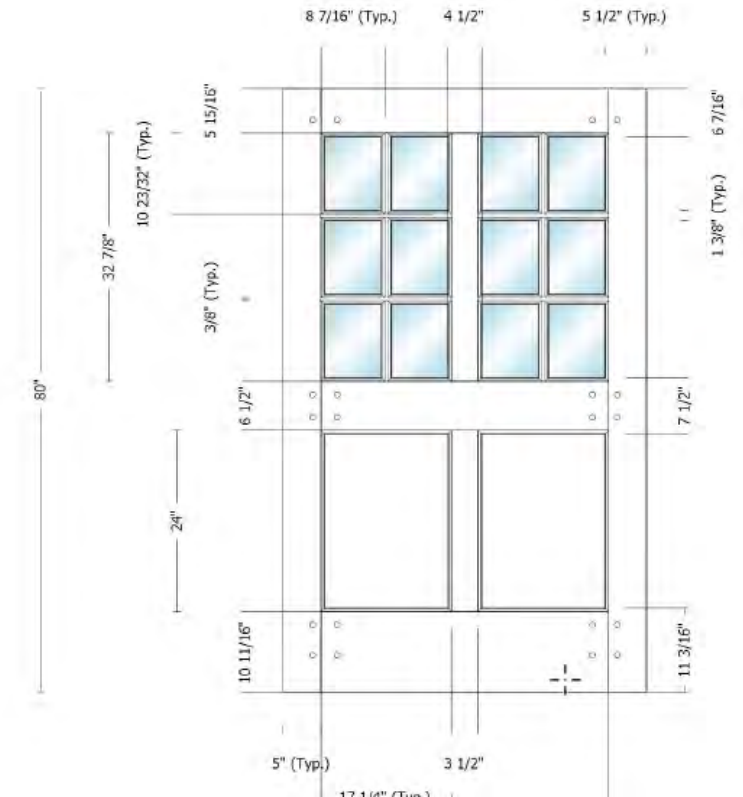
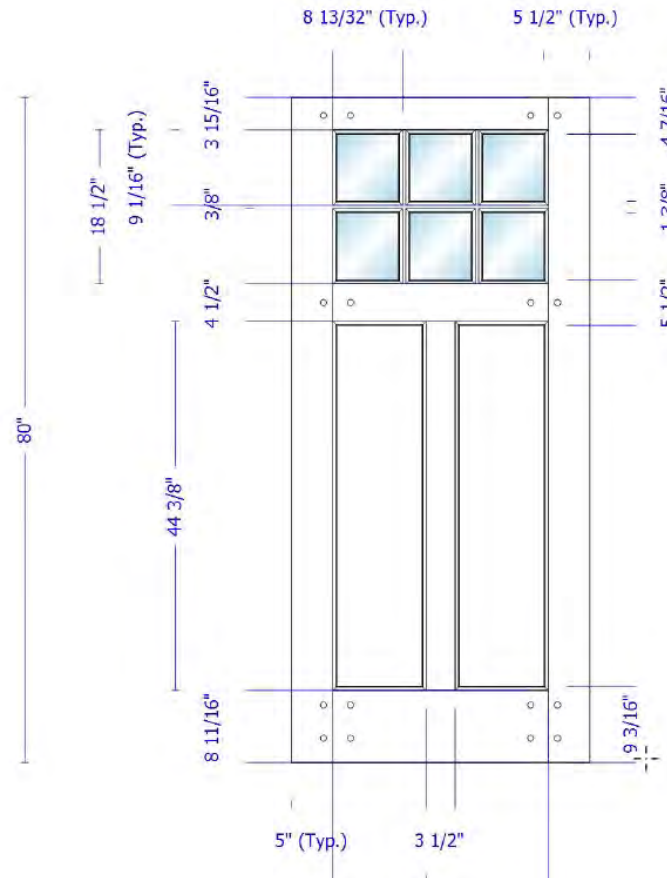
November 16, 2023

Belle Isle Sawmill

Progress Status – Phase 2:

- Barn Door submittals approved

John Swanson
Lumbermen's Door Division

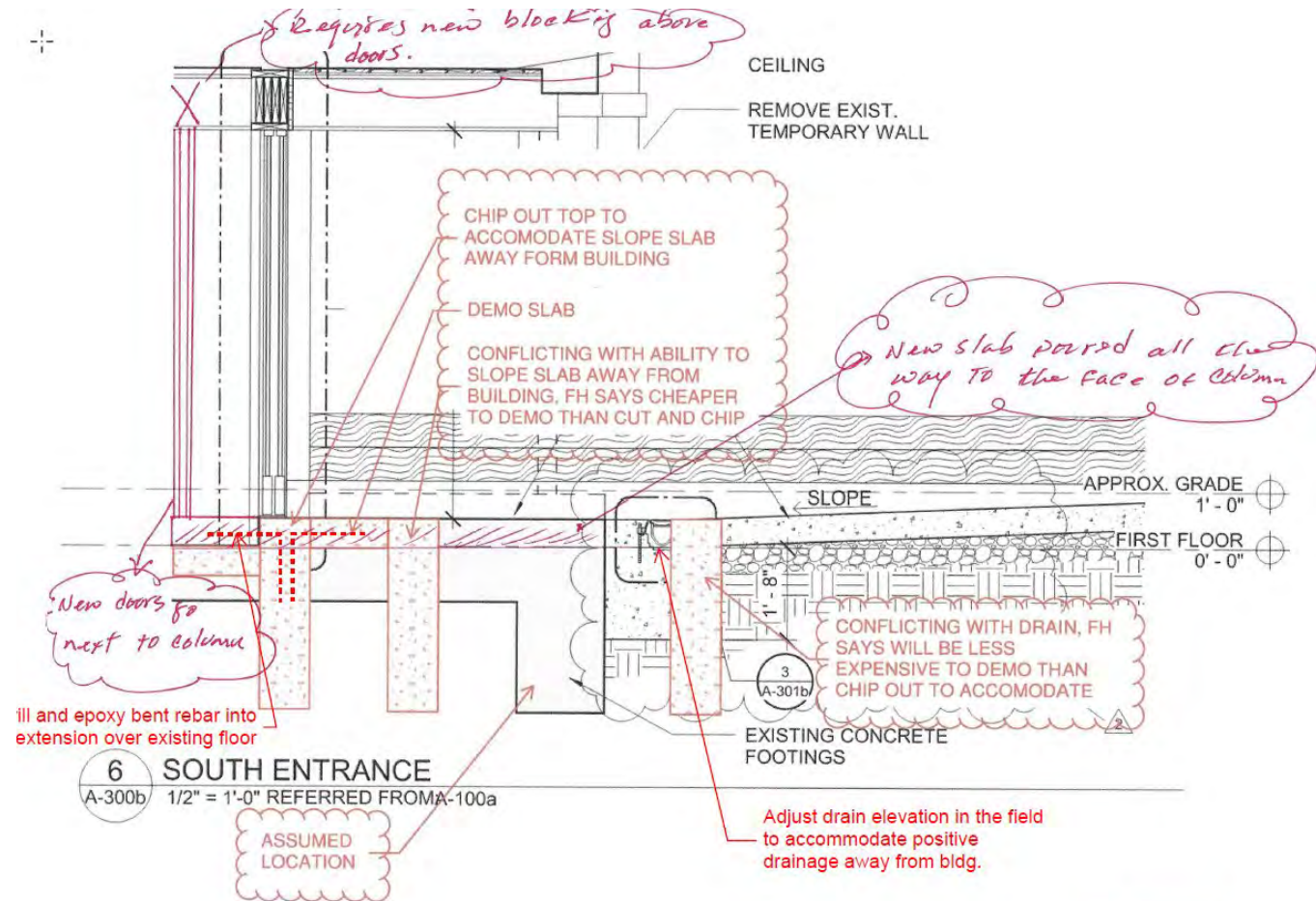


Door submittals approved

Belle Isle Sawmill

Progress Status – Phase 2:

- Revisions to Concrete platform have been made and with contractor for pricing.



QE Response
11/02/2023

Concrete slab detail revised due to existing site conditions

Belle Isle Casino Roof Replacement

Work Underway:

- Footings for masonry mechanical screen wall being poured.
- Boiler room drain lines for equipment under review for replacement options.
- New copper valley's in roof digitally scanned 11/11/2023 to detail clay tile end caps along valleys.



Belle Isle Casino – Contractor preparing for new HVAC equipment

Belle Isle Aquarium Update

- Sewer line repair is complete.
- Leaking pipes and radiators of existing boiler system addressed.



Sewer work progress in October



Sewer replacement complete



Belle Isle Aquarium Update

Boiler room roof structural repairs

- Roof was opened up and structural engineer inspection completed.
- Additional structural support required beyond reinforcement initially observed.
- Plywood temporarily placed until beams are repaired. Tongue and groove wood to be replaced.



Roof is under- supported and needs replacement and reinforcement to stabilize roof.

Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory

Boiler room roof structural repairs

- Glass and bar cap installation is 90% complete.
- Dome glass installation to be complete before Thanksgiving.
- DNR has approved for new glass and bar caps for the lower houses (tropical and desert).
- Scaffolding will begin to be removed this year.



Scaffolding will be removed once glass replacement complete.

Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory



90% Inspection of the upper cupola



Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory



New glass installation in upper dome



Flynn Pavilion Window and Carpentry Repair

Work Underway:

- Window framing mock-up reviewed 11/13/2023.
- Window Repair scheduled through December 2023.
- Painting will be complete in Spring 2023, weather permitting.



Window and carpentry repairs underway in 2023.

Belle Isle Multimodal Mobility Study

- Project team revising recommendations based upon public input.
- Revised strategy to be presented to stakeholders in late January 2024.
- Project team continuing working with signage consultant to develop signage and wayfinding design package. Initial wayfinding to be implemented in 2024.
- Final report will be submitted April 2024.

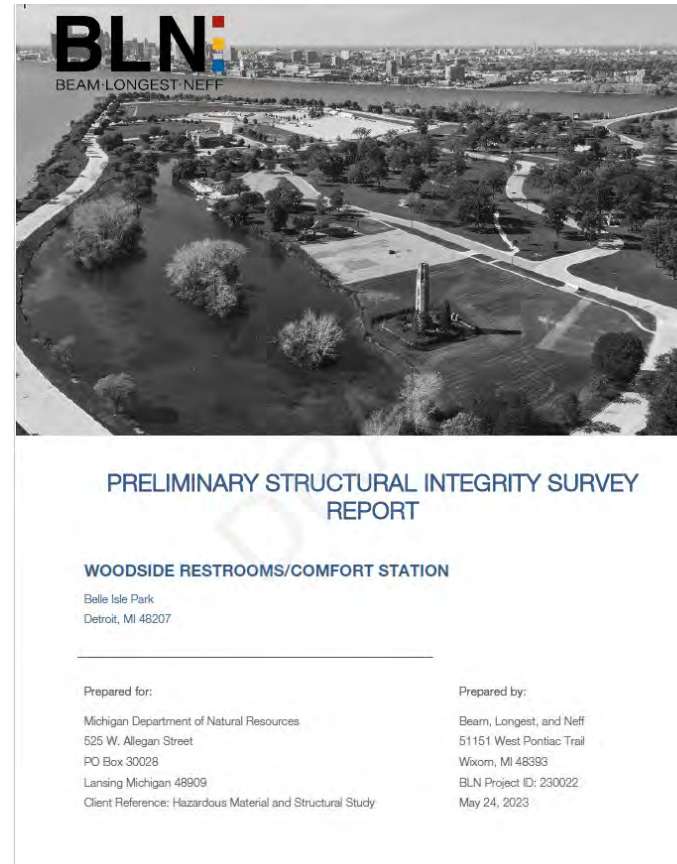


Public Open House at Dossin, July 8, 2023

Belle Isle Hazardous Material and Structural Study Master Document

Draft reviewed:

- Final report to be submitted by end of 2023.
- Report will guide prioritization for addressing hazardous removal throughout park.
- Abatement and structural repairs will be executed with PFC ARPA funds.



Draft Report submitted for Structural Integrity Assessment and Haz. Mtls. Testing records.

Wet Mesic Flatwoods Restoration

Contractor wrapping up:

- Construction work to be complete December 2023.
- Pavement markings to be complete this week.
- Vehicular gates to be installed next week on Central Ave. and Oakway.
- Interpretive signage being finalized.



Pavement markings underway on Central Ave. in the Flatwoods.



November Update



Island Stakeholders & Belle Isle Conservancy Community Engagement

November 16, 2023

BELLE ISLE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BIC STAKEHOLDER & ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Visit

BELLE ISLE

MAP KEY / ISLAND SITES

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory |  Kayak Launch |
|  Athletic Complex |  Lake Muskoday |
|  Belle Isle Aquarium |  Livingstone Memorial Lighthouse |
|  Belle Isle Beach |  Old Zoo |
|  Belle Isle Boat House |  Oudolf Garden and Nancy-Brown Peace Carillon |
|  Belle Isle Casino |  Parking Area |
|  Belle Isle Nature Center |  Restrooms |
|  Dossin Great Lakes Museum |  Sunset Point |
|  Flynn Pavilion |  Scott Fountain |
| |  Wet-Mesic Flatwoods |



FALL/WINTER FACILITY HOURS

(holiday hours may apply)

BELLE ISLE AQUARIUM

FRI-SUN | 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

BELLE ISLE NATURE CENTER

DAILY | 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM

FRI-SAT | 10 :00 AM - 5:00 PM | SUN | 1:00- 5:00 PM

\$5/PERSON OR \$20 FOR SIX ADULTS AND CHILDREN WITH THE SAME ADDRESS. UNDER 6, FREE

LOUDOLF GARDEN

DAILY | 5:00 AM to 10:00 PM

**ANNA SCRIPS WHITCOMB CONSERVATORY

CLOSED FOR CONSTRUCTION THROUGH 2024

FOR BELLE ISLE UPDATES

TEXT GEM TO 80888

BELLE ISLE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MONTHLY ON THE FOURTH THURSDAY



ISLAND OPEN 5:00 AM to 10:00 PM DAILY

TAKE THE #12 CONANT OR #9 JEFFERSON BUSES TO BELLE ISLE!
MICHIGAN RECREATION PASSPORT IS ONLY REQUIRED FOR VEHICLE ACCESS.

Island Stakeholder Updates

Detroit Boat Club Crew



CLOSING SOON:

JUNIOR RACING TEAM (REGISTRATION CLOSES 11/30) \$450

For more information, visit www.detroitboatclubcrew.com.

Island Stakeholder Updates

Detroit Boat Club Crew



MOTOWN MADNESS RACE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN:

For more information, visit www.detroitboatclubcrew.com.



Island Stakeholder Highlight

Belle Isle Nature Center (Detroit Zoo)

Nov 16 | 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. (Free, No Registration Required)

Ever wonder what the animals on Belle Isle are up to after dark? Join the Belle Isle Nature Center for Nature at Night!

What can you expect at Nature at Night?

- Guided hikes on beautiful Belle Isle
- Educational and hands-on activities
- Access to the Belle Isle Nature Center
- And much more!

visit belleislenaturecenter.detroitzoo.org for more info.



Island Stakeholder Updates

Dossin Great Lakes Museum (Detroit Historical Society)

Open Fri & Sat 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Sun 1:00- 5:00 PM

Admission: Free Under 6, \$5 for adults and Children

\$20 for a single household (up to 6 parents and children)

For more information, visit detroithistorical.org.

Holiday Hours

OPEN with regular hours on Friday, November 24.

OPEN WITH FREE ADMISSION on Sundays in December! (12/3, 12/10, and 12/17).

OPEN with Holiday Week Hours 12/27-12/30, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily.
Admission prices in effect.

CLOSED December 24 & 31.

Check out the Microplastics Here, There, Everywhere exhibit (through April 2024)



Island Stakeholder Updates

Oudolf Garden (Friends of The Oudolf Garden)

Oudolf Garden Detroit is a four-season garden! Visit any time the park is open (year-round from 5 a.m.- 10 p.m., with the exception of special events).

Guided Tours are available by appointment, Monday through Thursday, for groups of 25 or more individuals. (Suggested \$5 donation.)

Directions: Oudolf Garden Detroit is easy to find on Google and Apple Maps. Parking is free, and picnic areas are available nearby. City bus service is also available to Belle Isle. Please check local schedules.

Check out the NOW BLOOMING Segment online!
(Pictured: Iris germanica 'Clarence', 'Clarence' Bearded Iris, A Bed)

Visit oudolfgardendetroit.org for more info.

EST. 1904

BELLE ISLE
AQUARIUM



DETROIT MI.

AQUA-TALKS



Learn more about the aquatic animals and tips for being a good environmental steward on Saturday mornings at the Aquarium.

11:30 am

Free to the public.

FISH TALES



Story & Activity Time at Belle Isle Aquarium
Weekends
Free to the public.

Save The Dates



Open Nov 24
10 am - 4 pm



OPPORTUNITIES



Visit belleisleconservancy.org/opportunities to learn more about joining the Belle Isle Conservancy team!



JOIN OUR DIGITAL COMMUNITY. FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!
@BELLEISLEAQUARIUM





BELLE ISLE

CONSERVANCY