



Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 16, 2025

Location: Flynn Pavilion, 4435 Muse Rd., Detroit, MI 48207

Meeting began at 9:00 a.m.
Quorum established at 9:34 a.m.

Present for BIPAC

Dr. Meagan Elliott, Chair

Melia Howard

Virtual:

Michael Curis; Detroit

Dr. Lonnie Peek; Detroit

Sommer Woods; Detroit

Excused Absence

Angela Lugo-Thomas

Unexcused Absence

Dr. Brian Banks

DNR Staff Present

Ron Olson

Tom Bissett

Gail Fitch

Lt. Todd Szyska

Cynthia Boggerty-Craft

Darlisa Terrell

Nicole Hill

Marie Kaphengst

Barbara Graves

Others Present

Lt. Lance Couturier, MSP

Amy Emmert, Belle Isle Conservancy

Chair Elliott began the meeting at 9:01 a.m. With no quorum present, the meeting started with updates.

Chief Ron Olson advised the committee that the Recreation Passport opt-out legislation did not pass and had no further updates.

Tom Bissett, Urban District Supervisor, gave the park update, which included updates on staffing, Anna Scripps visitation numbers, fee increases phases for events at the Casino, Conservatory, and Flynn, hazardous material testing, the coyotes on the island, the heated restrooms, and advised for those ice skating on the island to make sure to follow ice skating safety protocols. He provided the MSU Extension's Ice Safety Tips chart.

Lt. Todd Szyska, DNR Law, said that while the park is slow, traffic enforcement is the priority of the department. He advised that while there are coyotes on the island, they are not prone to attack humans, nor dogs.

Amanda Treadwell, Urban Field Planner gave the infrastructure update report that included updates on the tile replacement being done at the Casino, the new signage, and all of the projects that are up for review. (Report attached).

Amy Emmert of the Belle Isle Conservancy gave their update, leading off by providing attendance numbers from the Conservatory since its reopening, its highest so far with 2,751 visitors. The volunteers have logged over 10,000 hours in 2024. The Shiver the River event will be February 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can register for the winter bird watching activity at their website at www.belleisleconservancy.org.

A quorum was established at 9:34 a.m.

Chair Elliott then asked for a motion to approve the December 29, 2024 minutes. Member Howard moved the motion, Member Curis seconded, and they were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

David Carleton – Spoke on the boathouse and meeting with the mayor and the city.

Lisa DiChiera, Deputy Director of Historic Designation Advisory Board under City Council – Wanted to clarify the work on hazardous material testing on the boathouse and if it was funded by ARPA dollars.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Next regular meeting: February 20, 2025.



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Updates

January 16, 2025





American Rescue Plan Act Projects

Project Review Construction Engineering

Project	
➤	Scott Fountain structural stabilization
➤	Belle Isle Aquarium and Conservatory Facility Development plan and ADA access improvements
➤	Belle Isle Aquarium HVAC Construction
➤	Parkwide hazardous material abatement, structural repairs at multiple sites and removals
➤	Park Strategic Development Plan
➤	Park wayfinding signage
	TOTAL \$23,000,000.00

- **Construction Projects**, Bidding in March 2005
 - Scott Fountain
 - Belle Isle Aquarium HVAC
- **Park Development Plan | Community engagement** - In planning stages for events coming in summer 2025.
- **Belle Isle Aquarium and Conservatory Facility Development Plan** – Project report under review by DNR now.
- **Wayfinding** - Phase 1 & 2 to be implemented in 2025.

Casino

Interior Repairs

- Underway – Additional Plaster Repair approved.

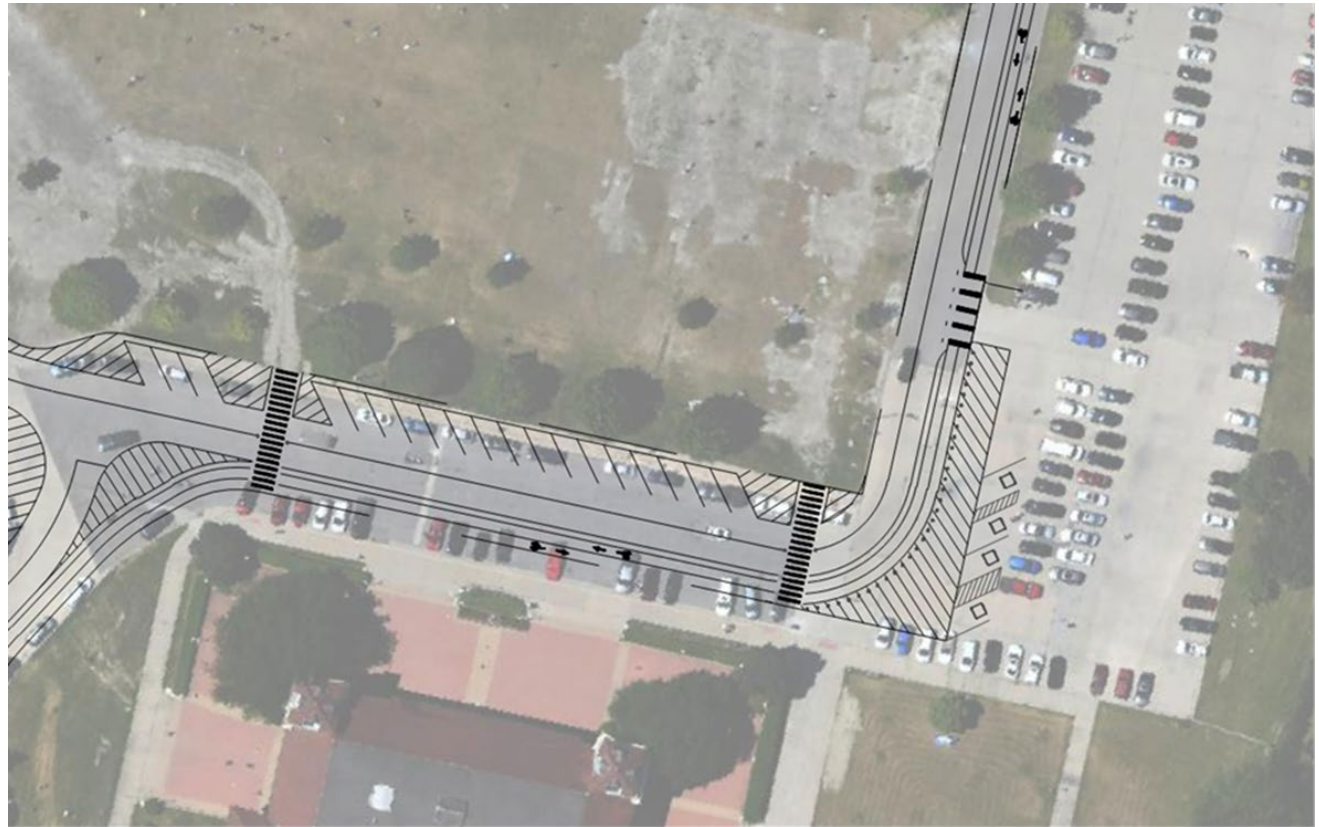
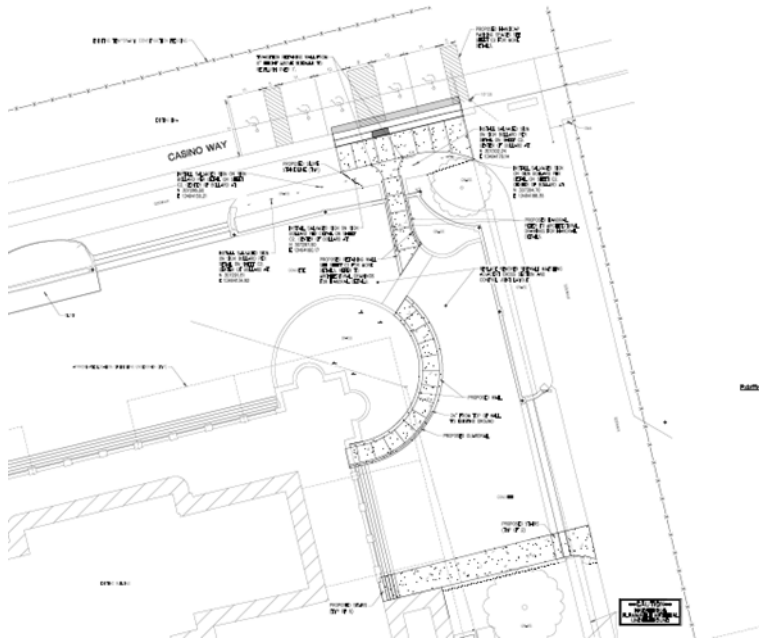


Interior plaster repairs at the Casino, new areas approved for repair.

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Trail

Iron Belle Trail

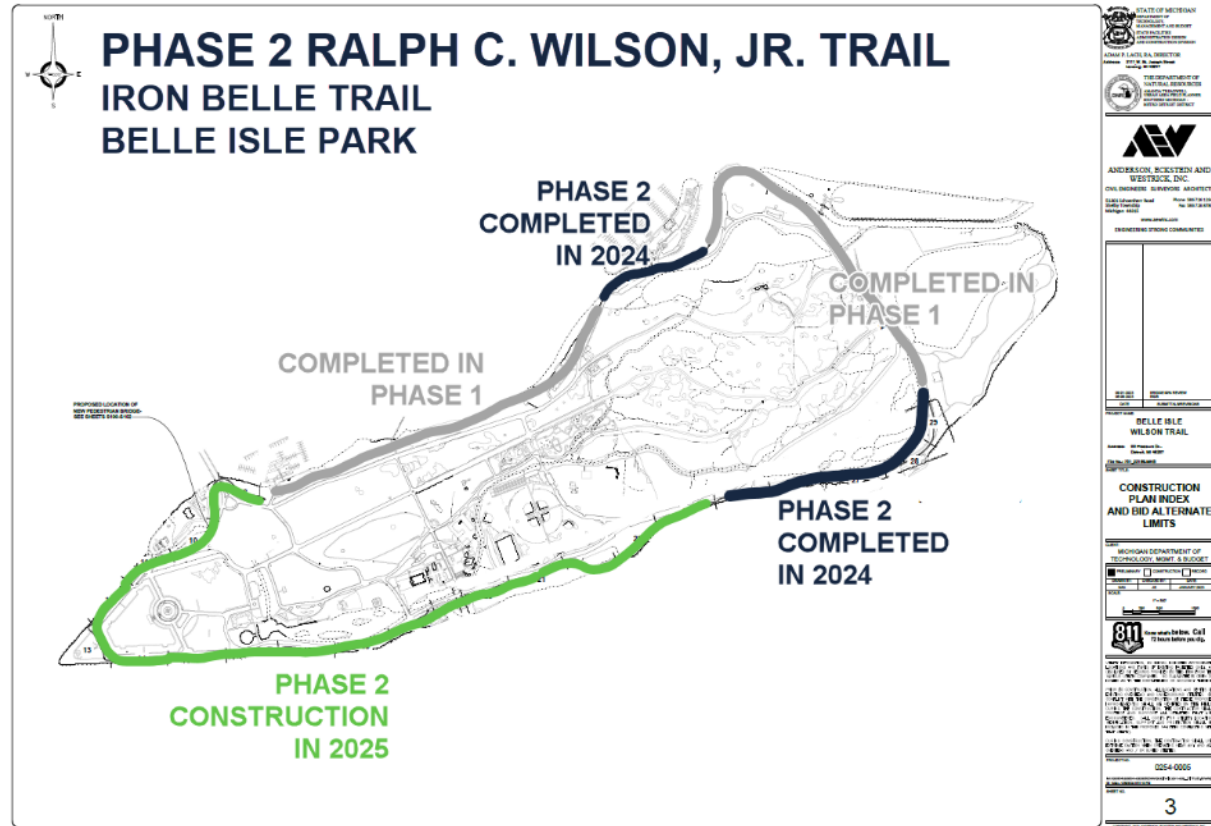
- Trail Cycle- track work is being coordinated with ADA access at the Casino.



Trail Cycle- track will be aligned along the front of the Casino.

Belle Isle Infrastructure Updates 2024 *in review* – Wilson Trail

- \$10 million (phase 1 & phase 2) multiple private, state and federal grants



30 % of phase 2 trail construction complete before winter conditions stopped work.