

MINUTES

Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Location: Belle Isle Flynn Pavilion

Roll Call and Excused Absences
Meeting called to order: 9:01 a.m.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Michael Curis

PRESENT FOR BIPAC

Michelle Hodges
Sommer Woods
Bryan Barnhill Arrived: 9:15 a.m.
Lonnie Peek Arrived: 9:35 a.m.
Alicia Bradford Arrived: 9:20 a.m.
Bud Denker

DNR STAFF PRESENT

Ron Olson
Scott Pratt
Mike Terrell
Amanda Hertl
Ray Fahlsing

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Chair Hodges requested approval of the minutes from the January 21, 2016 Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee meeting. Bud Denker moved for approval, seconded by Lonnie Peek with unanimous approval.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Amanda Hertl – Reviewed the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application for renovation of the band shell. Requested support for the Band Shell. The board unanimously approved supporting the application.

- Guest Speaker, Ray Fahlsing, DNR, Parks and Recreation Stewardship unit, reviewed the plan to improve the Lake Okonaka area of the park that would be funded by grant funding in partnership with the Friends of the Detroit River. The plan would improve the quality of life for fish and ecology. The plan would also improve the natural habitat for fish in the lake and canals.

GENERAL UPDATES

Park Operations:

- Mike Terrell, District Manager (Metro District) indicated there were job vacancies in the district and encouraged everyone to share the opportunity and to review the qualifications.
- Karis Floyd, Belle Isle Park Manager, gave an update on several operational items. Some items that will be addressed in 2016 are listed below:
 - Position will be posted for Supervisor/Park Ranger
 - Position will be posted for new seasonal and short term workers
 - The new accessible Kayak launch is now open to the public
 - Repairing and upgrading will be completed on the Whitehouse this summer.
 - Repairing and upgrading restrooms and bus stop (7) is underway.
 - 3 Belle Isle Rangers are attending the law academy from February through April, 2016. Once completed they will become commissioned Rangers.
- Darlisa Rickman, Belle Isle Park, Outreach and Events Coordinator, reported on the 2016 upcoming events. The following upcoming events were noted:

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|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| ○ Stewardship Saturday | March 19, 2016 |
| ○ STOMA Walk/Run | March 26,2016 |
| ○ DPD Police Training | March 29 - April 8 |
| ○ Free Fishing Weekends | June 11 and 12 |
| ○ Run Detroit (Flynn) | April 16 |
| ○ Belle Isle Spring Cleanup | April 23 |
| ○ Pi Kappa Alpha Delta Nu Walk | April 23 |
| ○ Detroit Water Festival | April 28 |
| ○ Belle Isle Spring Into Nature | April 30 |
| ○ Caring hands Sarcoidosis | April 30 |

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.

- Mike Terrell, District Manager, reported that a new Park Supervisor position will be posted for Belle Isle Park to fill the vacancy. Jacob Brown has been the acting Supervisor. There will also be new Ranger positions at Belle Isle and Maybury State Park; as well as 200 seasonal workers positions.

DNR Law Enforcement:

- DNR Law Enforcement Officer Captain Malloch and Michigan State Police Lt. Shaw reported that there have not been any critical incidents on the island and zero arrests were made related to any major events.

Infrastructure Update:

- Amada Hertl reported on the plan to improve infrastructure at the White House, funding for picnic shelters, new playground equipment (Zoo), and Trail Master Plan study for the Iron Belle Trail hike. Amanda also reported that Dignity Memorial would like to donate seedlings with the new planting around the canal, and a new roof for Police Station.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (3 minutes each)

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| Representative Lake St. Clair Walleye Club | Requested that a boat launch to be created on Belle Isle. |
| Don Murray and Stan Bydlos | Lake St. Clair Walleye Club and highlighted the “Blessing of the Boats” event. They also support the creation of a boat launch on Belle Isle. |
| Stephanie D | Representative for Senior Power days shared that the Detroit Symphony Orchestra will be playing on Belle Isle on June 28, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m. Tickets will be on sale at the DSO box office as part of Senior Power Days. The prices are \$30 VIP, \$15 General, \$10 Student. |
| Mary Howard | Asked if there has been an environmental study done on the impact of the Grand Prix on the natural habitat on the island. Asked the Belle Isle Conservancy where the Biederman Strategic Plan Report is and when will it be available? |
| Steve Gould | Stated he feels that no incidents and no arrests on Belle Isle is great news and this information should be shared with the general public. |

Peter Forsythe Expressed concerns regarding the Grand Prix.

Scott Haltan Represented Absolute Golf and inquired about the golf course on Belle Isle and if it would be reopened?

Terra Weiland Statement for the Detroit Audubon (Letter Attached)

BELLE ISLE CONSERVANCY UPDATES:

- Michele Hodges, Chair, Belle Isle Advisory Committee and President of the Belle Isle Conservancy reported that the Scott-Fountain study to modernize it will be completed by Hamilton-Anderson Consultants and is 90% completed. The BIPAC Committee Members and DNR Parks and Recreation staff appreciates all the hard work and commitment provided by the Friends of the Detroit River for Belle Isle Park.
- Ron Olson, DNR Parks and Recreation, suggested posting the improvement plan presented for Lake Okanoka on the Belle Isle web site.

DNR UP ITEMS:

Ron Olson: Reported that Bryan Barnhill assisted with Department of Transportation to consider restoring bus service to the Island. DNR Parks and Recreation field staff coordinators working with DDOT and bus service will start in April 2016. Funding to enable the service to operate was donated by the Chevrolet Belle Isle Grand Prix.

Ron mentioned exploring the possibility of shuttle service and bike rental on the island. Mr. Olson also reported there will be a public notice upcoming concerning public transportation on Belle Isle.

Scott Pratt: DNR, Parks and Recreation Field Operations, reported that the bus location will be near the White House/Aquarium area.

Upcoming Events:

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|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Stewardship Saturday | March 19, 2016 |
| Stewardship Saturday | April 16, 2016 |
| Belle Isle Spring Cleanup | April 23, 2016 |
| Grand Prix | June 3 – 6, 2016 |
| Annual Report to City | March 29, 2016 (10am) |

Meeting Adjourned: 10:24 a.m.

Approved: _____
Michelle Hodges, Chair

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

Date: _____