

MINUTES

Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Location: Belle Isle Nature Zoo

Roll Call and Excused Absences
Meeting called to order: 9:30 a.m.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Lonnie Peek

PRESENT FOR BIPAC

Michelle Hodges
Bryan Barnhill Arrived: 9:33 a.m.
Mike Curis
Alicia Bradford Arrived: 9:25 a.m.
Bud Denker

DNR STAFF PRESENT

Ron Olson
Scott Pratt
Mike Terrell
Karis Floyd

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Chair Hodges requested approval of the minutes from the April 21, 2016 Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee meeting. Bud Denker moved for approval, the motion was seconded by Bryan Barnhill with unanimous approval.

PARK UPDATES:

Special Events - Pending

- Daryl Estes representing the Detroit Music Festival shared their proposed concert event. They are looking forward to the participation of the Belle Isle Conservancy, the DNR and the public. The schedule for this event is still not determined.

- Todd Ennis representing the Charivari Music Festival; presented his planned event. He described the Charivari event or “loud celebration” the event is used to bring people of all cultures together. The music festival event will be held August 6, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. through 10:00 p.m. at the lighthouse.

GENERAL UPDATES

Park Operations:

- Karis Floyd, Belle Isle Park Manager, gave a monthly update regarding several park operations items as follows:
 - Water main break and flood at the Aquarium, repairs have been completed.
 - Currently replacing garage window glass in the public safety storage area.
 - Cleaning of the restrooms and mowing grass are top priorities right now.
 - Expect to have repairs and upgrades completed on the Whitehouse this summer.
 - Repairs and upgrades to several shelters expected to begin this spring/summer.
 - Bidding is underway for the structural work needed on Scott-Fountain and the Whitehouse.
 - Detroit Department of Transportation is now providing public bus service to Belle Isle Park, effective April 2016.
- Bud Denker, BIPAC committee member, reported that Scott-Fountain is in the process of having electrical lines and pumps repaired; due to the winter months and lines not being in use. These repairs were sponsored by the Grand Prix. Scott-Fountain will begin flowing on June 1, 2016; through Labor Day. It is expected that the Grand Prix will be off the island by June 25-26, 2016. Thus there should not be interference with the fireworks scheduled for June 27, 2016.
- Amy Greene, Belle Isle Nature Zoo, Director, reported that stewardship, sustainability and accessibility of the nature zoo for youth and adults are the main priorities of the program. Ms. Greene also spoke about the various free educational programs available this year, these programs are available for tots to teens. Some of the programs include nature hikes, summer camps and explorer guide programs along with fishing and kayak programs.
- Darlisa Rickman, DNR - Belle Isle Park, Outreach and Events Coordinator, reported on the 2016 upcoming events. The following upcoming June events were noted:

○ Detroit Community Yoga	June 2 - 30 (Thurs)
○ Detroit Grand Prix	June 3 - 5
○ 3 Discipline Triathlon	June 12
○ Rec 101: Kayak (Beach)	June 13
○ Free Fishing Weekend	June 11/12, 2016
○ Senior Power Days	June 15
○ Stewardship Saturday	June 18

- Renaissance: Charity Ride June 18
- Hospice of MI-5K June 25
- The Sharon Foundation-5K June 26
- The Detroit Ford Fireworks June 27
- Senior Power Days June 28
- Rec 202: Kayak (Flynn) June 30

Staffing:

- Karis Floyd, Belle Isle Park Manager, reported that Belle Isle has hired a new Park Ranger who will be present and introduced at the next BIPAC meeting. The Belle Isle Park Supervisor position is now posted; hiring is also underway for a Park Ranger at Milliken State Park. Applications are still being accepted for seasonal workers as well.

DNR Law Enforcement:

DNR Law Enforcement Officer Sgt. Todd Siska, reported that beginning May 22, 2016 Belle Isle will resume around the clock police patrol; Michigan State Police (MSP) will be assisting.

- Lt. Julie Bush will be replacing MSP Officer Michael Shaw while he is at training.
- Sgt. Siska reported that a few windows had been broken out at the Conservatory and there had been some defacing of one of the shelters. There were also some speeding tickets issued on the strand, due to speeding issues.
- Michigan State Police will be assisting with traffic and traffic patterns for the upcoming Grand Prix and Metro Youth Day.
- Sgt. Siska reported there have been no critical incidents on the island and zero arrests have been made related to any major events.

Infrastructure Update:

- No update provided as a full update was provided at the April meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes each)

Stephanie Donaldson	Stated that she gave out over 500 recreation passports to senior citizens and thanked the Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix for sponsoring this program. Barbara McQuade and Governor Snyder are invited to attend the Detroit Symphony Orchestra concert on Belle Isle and additional tickets will be available.
Peter Forsythe	Expressed his dissatisfaction regarding having the Grand Prix or any other car meets on Belle Isle.
Carol Rhodes	Stated that she would like to see wildlife preserved near the lighthouse and not have concerts in their area.

- Francine Pegues Stated that a Senior Golf League will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She stated that on July 12th the Golf Range PGA will have a Drive-Chip-Putt competition for those 55 and older.
- Alicia Johnson Stated that the Detroit Historical Society – Dossin Museum will be extending their hours, new hours will be Wednesday – Sunday from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Alicia also suggested each park area promote other areas of the park to visitors.
- Bruce Ross Spoke about the upcoming Metro Youth Day on July 13, 2016.
- Larry and Betty Roberts Concerned about concerts on the park being disruptive. Asked where the Biederman report could be found.

BELLE ISLE CONSERVANCY UPDATES

- Michele Hodges, Chair, Belle Isle Advisory Committee and President of the Belle Isle Conservancy reported that Alease Bradford will be retiring and that this meeting will be her last meeting. Michele presented Alease flowers on behalf of the committee members.
- The Koi transfer was a success with 800 – 1,000 children in attendance.
- The aquarium will be hiring a general manager in the near future.
- The physical assessment on the Scott-Fountain is due back on June 19, 2016; this will have assessed the needed repairs to the aging facility.
- The Belle Isle Beat newsletter continues to be published monthly and is gaining a lot of attention from the public. Anyone who would like to be added to the distribution should contact Brittany Sanders.
- The Phase I of the Strategic Planning process is complete and Phase II is underway; groups have been assigned to work on specific projects per the meeting on May 5th.

OTHE ITEMS

Ron Olson, DNR Parks and Recreation, that staff will be contacting the Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT) to request usage numbers of those utilizing the buses to Belle Isle Park.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:45 a.m.

Approved: _____
Michelle Hodges, Chair

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

Date: _____