

MINUTES

Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Location: Belle Isle Nature Zoo

Roll Call and Excused Absences
Meeting called to order: 9:08 a.m.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

PRESENT FOR BIPAC

Michelle Hodges
Bryan Barnhill
Mike Curis
Bud Denker
Rev. Lonnie Peek Arrived at 9:20 a.m.

DNR STAFF PRESENT

Scott Pratt
Mike Terrell
Karis Floyd

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Chair Hodges requested approval of the minutes from the May 19, 2016 Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee meeting. Bud Denker moved for approval, the motion was seconded by Mike Curis with unanimous approval.

Chair Hodges reported she was contacted by Terra Weiland regarding posting the Audubon Statement along with the minutes from the April BIPAC meeting. The statement was approved and sent as an attachment with the April minutes.

PARK UPDATES:

- Scott Pratt, Chief of Southern Field Operations, DNR- Parks and Recreation stated that the Belle Isle Park staff is operating the Facebook page and helping to inform the public of events happening in and around the park. Belle Isle Park staff is working in conjunction with the Belle Isle Conservancy to keep the public informed and engaged through social media and the Belle Isle Beat newsletter.
- Scott also mentioned that a state-of-the art ADA accessible playground is being donated to Belle Isle Park by Sigma Gamma.

DNR Law Enforcement:

DNR Law Enforcement Officer Sgt. Jason Smith reported that the Chevrolet Grand Prix ran smoothly and that there was only one arrest for disorderly conduct due to intoxication and that some fishing and traffic tickets were issued.

- Sgt. Jason Smith reported that the DNR Law Enforcement will be working along with the MSP to prepare for the Ford Fireworks on Belle Isle and the traffic coming into and out of the park. The park will be open at 2:00 p.m.
- Michigan State Police will be assisting with traffic and traffic patterns for the upcoming Metro Youth Day.
- Sgt. Jason Smith reported there have been no critical incidents on the island and zero arrests have been made related to any major events.

Infrastructure Update:

- Karis Floyd, Belle Isle Park Manager, reported that there were two water line leaks, one at the golf course and the other at sunset point, which will be repaired tomorrow. There is an island wide infrastructure repair that will cover the Casino, White-house and the Flynn Pavilion.
- Two shelters will be replaced numbers 19 and 20 and repairs will be made to shelters 3,4,5,6 and 12. The cement will be replaced and a new roof installed.
- There was a kick-off meeting with regard to universal access to the Scott-Fountain on Monday and other meetings are scheduled regarding this matter.
- The Lake Okonoka project is at the state procurement and should be released soon and able to get started.
- The Blue Herron Lagoon project is being coordinated with MDOT who is securing permits to begin the project. There will be a follow-up meeting on Friday and Karis will have more information at the next meeting. The shoreline fishing improvements project is underway so progress should be made in the near future toward completion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes each)

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| Stephanie Donaldson | Stated that the Senior Power Days event this past week was a success, with over 300 people attending. She thanked the Chevrolet Grand Prix and DNR for their support. |
| Carol Rhodes | States that during the Chevrolet Grand Prix access to the park was difficult. She believes that trees were being damaged by cars parking next to them. |
| Bruce Ross | Spoke about the upcoming Metro Youth Day on July 13, 2016, stating that Ed Deeb was a mentor to him and should be honored for his outstanding achievements in the community. |

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| Jamie Farmer | Questioned why the Grand Prix course was extended and why was the DYC charging for parking? |
| Charlsie Sederland | Provided a hands-on environmental research on Belle Isle involving high school students and professors from Marygrove College and Madonna University. |
| Michael Betzold | Why isn't there public disclosure of the terms of the contract with Roger Penske including all financial information, terms of set-up and take down times, using private security to direct traffic. Why doesn't this committee include advocates for the public good? How will the decision on future Grand Prix races be held? |
| Donald Green | Concerned about devices on trees during the Grand Prix and dumpsters being on the island. Concerned with hanging electrical lines on Belle Isle Park. |
| Anthony Brogden | Spoke about a documentary that he produced entitled "The Great Detroit Documentary". |
| Roger Cheek | Concerned about shelter repairs and if they could still be used while the shelter is under renovations. |
| Kathleen Krasity | Reported on the planting of over 200,000 daffodils by the Women's Nation Farm & Garden Association – Daffodil Committee of Michigan whose goal is planting one daffodil for every citizen of metro Detroit. |
| Betty Roberts | Public speaker in support of the Chevrolet Grand Prix. She stated that traffic was backed up, but she believes that it was due to the large numbers visiting the park. She states that the Chevrolet Belle Isle Detroit Grand Prix is helping to promote good publicity and a positive image for the City of Detroit. |

BELLE ISLE CONSERVANCY UPDATES

- Michele Hodges, Chair, Belle Isle Advisory Committee, reported that the aquarium has hired a new general manager, Fred Huebener; Fred will be starting by the end of the month.
- 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 II of the Strategic Planning Process is still underway with each Interactive team working on their assigned tasks.
- The Chevrolet Belle Isle Detroit Grand Prix Gala was a success; collecting over \$400,000 in revenue.
- Brittany Sanders reported the conservancy will host Detroit Soup on Belle Isle on August 31, 2016.

OTHE ITEMS

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

Next BIPAC Meeting: July 21, 2016

Meeting Adjourned: 10:18 a.m.

Approved: _____
Michelle Hodges, Chair

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

Date: _____