

MINUTES

Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Location: Belle Isle Flynn Pavilion

No Quorum: Meeting started at 9:05 a.m.
Roll Call and Excused Absences

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Brad Dick

PRESENT FOR BIPAC

Chair Michele Hodges
Michael Curis
Bud Denker

DNR STAFF PRESENT

Ron Olson
Scott Pratt
Michael Terrell
Amanda Hertl
Jacob Brown

APPROVAL FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES

There was no motion to approve excused absences (No Quorum)

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was no motion to approve August, 2017 Minutes (No Quorum)

PRESENTATION -90TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLICE DISPATCH

Richard Rybicki, spoke briefly about the history of the building. Mr. Rybicki hoped that the building will be available to have some sort of ceremony to celebrate the 90th Anniversary on Saturday, April 7, 2018. Mr. Rybicki requested the committee to approve the celebration being hosted there.

Committee member Bud Denker asked if the facility was now stabilized.

Scott Pratt, DNR, Southern Field OPS Chief, responded that the roof has been replaced, the building is gutted and being stabilized. Pratt further suggested Mr. Rybicki contact Karis Floyd or Jacob Brown to see if hosting something at the building would be possible. It is further noted that use is not recommended as there is lead paint abatement that is required on the building's interior.

GENERAL UPDATES

DNR Law Enforcement Update

Lieutenant Joe Molnar was present to update the committee on current law enforcement items. Lieutenant Molnar shared that officers have issued citations for individuals possessing alcohol and various traffic related violations, the most notable was a drunken driving arrest.

Park Operations Update

Jacob Brown, Belle Isle Park Supervisor, shared the following operational items with the committee:

- October 26, 2017 is the start date for winterizing the restrooms. The restrooms that are not heated will be closed.
- \$5,000 grant was given to DNR Belle Isle Park for a Segway.
- MDOT is on the island doing some tar and road work.
- Scott Fountain closed for the season on Sunday, September 16, 2017. Some repair work is scheduled yet such as pump replacement, reflection pond and lagoon work.

Infrastructure Updates

Amanda Hertl, Urban Field Planner, provided a written update on the infrastructure projects; the update was included in committee member's packets. A Powerpoint with pictures of some of the projects was also presented.

- Internal Affairs/Public Service Center and Staff Offices
WTA Architects has completed the 50% review of engineering drawings for building improvements. Project team is currently coordinating with utility agencies. TMCA/DTE and DTMB for future improvements
- Police Station Headquarters
FH Martin is completing additional wood and masonry repairs on the exterior of the headquarters building.
Last week a team of volunteers in training from the Professional Trades Network worked on repointing the fieldstone on the front of the building.

- Casino
FH Martin is finishing additional repairs to the roof; they are replacing additional cracked tiles discovered during construction to weatherproof the building. The Fire suppression system replacement is complete and the system is operational. DNR/PRD is working with G.H. Forbes to find an appropriate solution for the exhaust stack for the new generator.
- Athletic Complex Renovation
WCI has been working on the ball and soccer fields. The fields are scheduled to be completed the first week of October. Additional review and engineering is required to address the handball courts and water source for the drinking fountains at the ballfields.

Current project schedule has a completion date of October 15, 2017. Depending on scope and cost of additional work required for handball courts, this may be extended.

- Shelter 9 Shoreline Fishing Improvement

The contractor has about 90% of construction work complete. The following items remain:

- Completing sidewalk concrete work for ADA access to the parking lot
- Replacing HMA for ADA parking spaces in the Dossin parking lot
- Complete railing installation
- Bench Installation
- Interpretive sign and view finder installation

- Belle Isle Aquarium and Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory

DNR-PRD staff met with consultants to review the structural and ventilation assessment for the Aquarium and Conservatory. An estimate of critical repairs recommended for FY 2018 will be provided by September 22, 2017. Final construction drawings for FY 2018 projects will be complete by the end of February, 2018.

An executive summary of the ventilation and structural reports will be provided by September 26, 2017. DNR-PRD staff is working with BIC to compile a list of needed assessments and engineering needs for buildings to be completed next year. These projects will address critical repairs.

Proposed FY 2018 projects include:

- Replacement of all 20 structure supports in the Conservatory Dome
- Additional temporary heating unit pipe repairs to Aquarium system
- Physical assessment for aquatic life support system
- Glazing repairs
- Hazardous materials assessment and critical abatement
- Engineering plan to address facility storm and sewage drain system

- Picnic Shelter Restoration of Shelter 2, 5 and 6
 - Shelter #2 has a new roof and painting is complete
 - Gutters need to be installed
 - Sidewalk replacement will be completed in the fall

Shelter #5 and #6 ADA parking, ADA access, new grill, new shingles and new paint completed

Upcoming New Projects

- Iron Belle Trailhead Development
Consultant selection will be complete by mid-October, with construction to begin in 2018.
- Boating Access Site (BAS) Feasibility Study
Consultant has been selected and studies to begin in 2 months.
- Wet-Mesic Flatwoods Habitat Restoration Plan
Consultant was selected on August 7, 2017. Project completion for grant is September, 2018.

Committee member Curis asked about the contract under the City

Amanda Hertl responded that the City is in the process of determining what credits are available to offset their stormwater fees based on the areas that stormwater directly drains into the river.

Ron Olson responded that the formula that is used to calculate the storm water usage, also dictates the cost of the water usage. Currently working to find a way to use storm water runoff for example at the golf courses (irrigation)

Outreach and Upcoming Events

Jacob Brown, Park Supervisor, shared the upcoming events with the committee members:

- September 23, 2017
 - NAMI Michigan Walkathon
 - Care of SE Michigan Cycle Ride
- September 24, 2017
 - Michigan Human Society Walkathon
- September 30, 2017
 - St. Vincent de Paul Walk/Run

Strategic Plan Update

Ron Olson, Chief, PRD, spoke about the Strategic Planning process. The goal is to have the first draft of the plan around the first week of October. We hope to hold public review sessions held the last week of October; with the idea to have plan resolved by the January, 2018.

Belle Isle Conservancy Update

Chair Hodges introduced Brittney Sanders, Belle Isle Conservancy Community Engagement Specialist. Brittaney shared an update regarding the following events:

- 67 Seconds of Peace Event to be held on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. This event is featuring Marsha Music, Pastor Barry Randolph and Historian Jamon Jordan (Nancy Brown Peace Carillion Tower)
- Belle Isle Splash Pad updates on workshops and design process to be held Sunday, September 24, 2017 from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. or Wednesday, September 27, 2017 from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Belle Isle Nature Center
- Belle Isle Soup was held on August 31, 2017. The winner of this event was “Healthy Island Retreat”

Chair Hodges shared some additional updates below:

October 12, 2017 the “Polish the Jewel” luncheon will be held at the Detroit Yacht Club

The Conservancy has added two strong board members; Stephanie Washington, of the Mayor’s Office, and Gabe Valle, of ITC Holdings.

The annual garden party was held on September 12, 2017, at the Conservatory, with well over 600 people in attendance.

The Belle Isle Aquarium continues to grow and expand, with some record breaking attendance days this summer. (4,600+ visitors)

Grand Prix Listening Session Update

Ron Olson gave a brief update of regarding the Gran Prix Listening session that was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2017. Olson shared that approximately 90 people attended and 65 people had comments. Olson also mentioned that there is an opportunity to send emails with comments as well. At this time no formal proposal has been received from Grand Prix.

Committee member Denker further commented that it was a good session with great feedback. The conduct and input was constructive.

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 am.

Approved: _____
Michele Hodges

Ronald A. Olson, Chief

Date: _____

*September minutes approved at the November 16, 2017 meeting.