

MINUTES

Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday January 17th, 2019

Location: Belle Isle Nature Center

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

No Quorum established

Could not approve the Roll Call and Excused Absences

PRESENT FOR BIPAC

Chair Michele Hodges

Rev. Lonnie Peek

Michael Curis

DNR STAFF PRESENT

Ron Olson

Scott Pratt

Jacob Brown

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No Motion due to lack of Quorum

General Updates

Ron Olson

- Hosted the new Governor in a short but impactful meeting
- Daniel Eichinger has been appointed as the new head director of the DNR
- The new administration will be reviewing the budget and setting priorities

Michelle Hodges: Would like to welcome Daniel Eichinger to a future meeting and also invite Keith Creagh show appreciation for his efforts and leadership and say goodbye.

DNR Law Enforcement Update

With colder weather there are less visitors and less events there is nothing major to report.

Park Operations Update

**Mike Terrell
Jacinda Bingoff**

- The positions to be posted for the State of Michigan consist of: 1 General Office Assistant for the events office. 3 ranger positions, 2 will be seasonal and the other will be an 11-month position.
- Winter projects continue. New faucets are installed, toilets repaired, fixing picnic tables around the island, brush removal and basic maintenance continues.
- Working with a contractor to cut the hazardous willow trees.

Michelle Hodges: Has there been an update as far as the gas main?

Michael Terrell: No. We have gas on the island, but they originally said 30 days for repair, so we are hoping it will be completed by Spring.

Ron Olson: There was also a water main break.

Michelle Hodges: Is it affecting any of the facilities?

Michael Terrell: No, we isolate the breaks so that it does not affect the facilities.

Infrastructure Updates

**Amanda Treadwell
(See attached)**

Michelle Hodges: Have you heard anything about the mobility strategy?

Ron Olson: No not just yet. Funding is always an issue and we are looking into figuring that out.

Michelle Hodges: Has there been any communication with the Auto Show?

Ron Olson: No. As stated in the last BIPAC meeting no one has reached out in reference to the Auto Show.

Rev. Lonnie Peek: What is the total cost for all of the infrastructure updates?

Amanda Treadwell: About 30 million.

Rev. Lonnie Peek: I think it's very important to point out that there have been a lot of investments made into Belle Isle since the state began to manage the park

Ron Olson: The city has funds available to help with the water system here on the park so that is a great help.

Michelle Hodges: And we are in dialog with them regarding the greenhouses which were not part of the original lease but are still in need of significant repair and other various issues.

Outreach and Upcoming Events

Darlisa Rickman

- We are very busy this time of year dealing with many special events and we are looking forward to getting new staff.
- Currently revising and updating policies and procedures.
- There will no longer be greenspaces available for rental on the island. For clarification greenspace was the area surrounding shelters. There will be Event Spaces available in preapproved spaces on the island to help with the traffic issues.

Belle Isle Conservancy Update

Chair Michelle Hodges

- Feb. 2nd will be Shiver on the River hosted by the Friends of Detroit River from 10-3pm at the Casino
- April 27th is the Spring Clean up
- Expect a June groundbreaking for the Piet Oudolf garden and planting implemented in the Fall and Spring with an opening slated for Fall 2020
- Clean up on June 29th following the fireworks
- Sept. 21st International Coastal Clean-up day
- 100th Anniversary of Belle Isle Park to be celebrated in May 2019
- The Grosse Pointe Public Library is hosting a document on Piet Oudolf on Jan. 23rd
- Buffalo Olmstead Parks Conservancy came to visit
- There is a large archive of Cass Gilbert documents at the New York Historical Society. Cass Gilbert was the original architect of the Belle Isle Fountain.

Ron Olson: Please visit the Belle Isle website and submit stories and photos to celebrate the history of Belle Isle.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes each)

- Michael Betzold** Unequivocally against the Auto Show activities being held on Belle Isle, as part of the Grand Prix especially.
- Andy Pellarino** Would like to know if the 75-100 trees on the island are going to be replaced.
- Ron Olson** Some but not all of the trees will be replaced some.
- Carole Rhoades** Would like to add that Minnesota also has a Cass Gilbert archive. Does not want the Detroit Auto Show to be allowed to come to Belle Isle and feels that the Piet Oudolf Garden is more in line with the mission statement of the DNR and will be a bigger attraction for the park. The Food Truck Rally was an impetus to traffic on and off the island.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS

Michelle Hodges: In regard to the Auto Show it would be premature to speak out on any issue facing the park before having all the facts. We would like to approach this in a very community minded way.

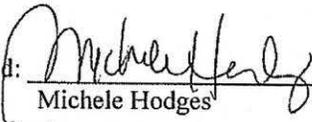
Rev. Lonnie Peek: With the Auto Show moving to the summer this is a transition for the City of Detroit, its best to be open minded and we look at each situation individually.

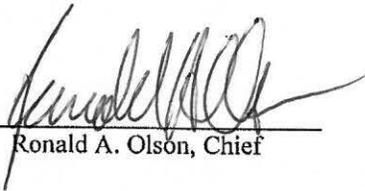
Motion to Adjourn: **No Quorum**
Moved by: Scott Pratt
Seconded by: Michael Curis

Meeting Concluded: 10:13 a.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:
February 21st, 2019
Nature Center

Belle Isle Park
Detroit, MI 48207
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 am.

Approved: 
Michele Hodges


Ronald A. Olson, Chief

Date: 3/21/19

BELLE ISLE PARK

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE



Internal Affairs Building
New Belle Isle Park Headquarters

The contractor is working to complete substantial completion punch list. Key item holding up certificate of occupancy is the window installation.

DNR is now scheduled to move into the new Headquarters in March.

Phase 2 work will begin in early 2019.

Phase 2 work will consist of two separate projects, completion of garage and site work.

The garage work was cut from the initial contract due to construction bids coming in above the construction budget. Phase 2 will complete work with FY 2019 Funds.

Site work will include parking area, utility and sidewalk work.



James Scott Memorial Fountain
ADA Assessible Walk

The contractor has completed a significant portion of work on the fountain. The concrete curbs are poured, grading of the sloped landscape has been regraded to reduce slope of lawn surface.

The marble cutting is underway. WCI will be complete marble installation in spring, when temperatures provide suitable conditions for masonry work. Masonry work anticipated to take approximately 3 weeks.

Mechanical and Structural Improvements
\$150,000 of the \$400,000 raised for Fountain repairs will fund masonry and water proofing repairs to the fountain, cascades and concrete weir floor.

BELLE ISLE TRAILS

IRON BELLE TRAILHEAD

The DNR and BIC are reviewing map and interpretive panels for Trailhead kiosks and trail wayfinding signs.

The scope of work has been scheduled into 2 phases. Parking lot and site work is complete.

Phase 2 - The restroom building, plaza area and amenities installation will begin in Spring 2019.

IRON BELL LOOP TRAIL

90% CD's have been submitted to MDNR for Review

November 20th: Final comments were due from MDNR

Bid Documents for phase 1 of trail work anticipated to be advertised in 2019.

Phase 1 Trail Construction scheduled for Spring 2019.

Belle Isle Iron Belle Trailhead - Phase 1



Relocation of temporary access road for Lake Okonoka work is complete



Completed parking lot

Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory Repairs



Progress update:

- Revised Work Schedule: Additional scope of work approved. New completion date in contract schedule is July 16th, 2019.
- Public Access Schedule: Conservatory will be open this weekend, Saturday though Monday 10 a.m. to 5.p.m. for the Holiday Weekend. Pending construction activities requiring additional closures, the Conservatory will be open Saturday and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5.p.m. The weekend hours will be reviewed weekly by DNR staff.
- Revised Scope of Work: Added scope of work includes replacement of additional steel members at Columns 5-11, replacement of additional tension ring members and additional abatement required to remove four columns. These changes are due to field conditions where after the steel was cleaned of debris and rust the steel members were assessed and found to require replacement. The additional abatement is needed to remove columns that were welded on the backside of the member as well as the accessible side.
- Revised Work Order Total: \$2,537,000
- Ongoing Work: Next set up steel was at galvanizer last week and will be delivered to site end of this week. Ideal will put up next two trusses over next two weeks. Ideal will remove the next two columns by the end of next week.

Abatement will begin for the next columns to be removed the last week in January.



Belle Isle Aquarium and Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory

THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE WILLIAM DAVISON FOUNDATION ARE UNDERWAY

- 1. Belle Isle Aquarium and Conservatory Drainage Study**
 - G.H. Forbes currently working with contractor to schedule scoping.
- 2. Belle Isle Aquarium Geothermal System Feasibility Assessment**
 - Sample Boring tests will be complete by early March
 - Areas for boring tests/future fields were identified as A.) the ASWC formal garden lawns, B.) Lawn in NE corner of BIA lawn and C.) lawn west of the Conservatory near parking lot.
 - Approximately 31,200 sf will be needed for future vertical well field
 - A draft report of the geothermal option will be submitted late March
 - When geothermal system has been selected, PBA will begin engineering bid documents
- 3. Cost Comparison Evaluation of the original 1904 Conservatory Design vs. the current 1950 design to guide future improvements of the Conservatory glazing design and vestibule renovation**
 - Final report to be submitted to DNR and BIC by the end of February.
- 4. Aquatic life support system evaluation**
 - 75% Draft report has been submitted to the DNR and BIC review.

The Detroit River

Boating Access



- DNR and DTMB staff will review the latest draft assessment submitted by OHM Advisors.
- 90% Draft Report will be shared with City of Detroit GSD for review when completed.

PARTNER COORDINATED PROJECTS

Lake Okonoka Habitat Restoration

Friends of The Detroit River

- MDOT has approved the construction permit for the Lakeside Dr. Bridge. Construction Permits for the Strand culvert will require additional revisions to submitted plans.
- DNR - PRD will assume cost of bridge maintenance upon completion and inspections as required by MDOT.
- MDOT will contract construction oversight for bridge work to be funded by the Friends of the Detroit River
- Z-Contractors will mobilize this week. Mobilization work will include implementing traffic detour around the Strand through Woodside.

McArthur Bridge Maintenance

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

- Construction team has not remobilized

DTE Boring

1. The 34" casing was installed December 2018.
2. Next week, DTE's contractor will be pulling the inner conduit. Following this the contractor will finish the civil scope and pull the conductor thru.
3. Current schedule is to complete major activities by 2nd week of February with restoration scheduled for April.
4. DTE will energize the conductor cable at a later date.

PARTNER COORDINATED PROJECTS, CONT'D.

DTE Boring, Cont'd.



DTE Contractors pulling casing through opening.

Oudolf Garden Detroit - Piet Oudolf Garden -

The Piet Oudolf Garden design is underway for the Nancy Brown Peace Carillon Tower. Insite Design is coordinating with Piet Oudolf to complete the site design and facilitate permits and reviews required for garden construction.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the BIC, the Friends of Oudolf Detroit and the DNR was executed December 20, 2018. The agreement permits the Piet Oudolf Garden to be located on Belle Isle Park at the Nancy Brown Peace Memorial.

The anticipated construction time is Spring 2019 for site work and first phase planting to follow in the fall 2019. The second phase of planting is anticipated for spring 2020.

DEQ - UST Removal

DEQ's work to remove the hydraulic lifts in the Park Headquarters garage is complete.

Gas sampling in the garage will take place Wednesday, January 23rd.

PARTNER COORDINATED PROJECTS, Cont'd.

Belle Isle Boat House - Friends of Detroit Rowing (FODR) Physical Assessment and Facility Master Plan

- The DNR will provide \$175,000 to match funds raised by the FODR to assess the current condition of the building and site.
- The Belle Isle Boathouse Master Plan Committee (FODR, BIC and DNR staff) selected 4 consultants from the 13 RFQ's submitted.
- Thursday, January 16th the FODR invited the 4 professional firms to submit proposals for the Facility Assessment and Master Plan work.
- The successful consultant is expected to have a contract in place by late spring 2019.

BIC - Belle Isle Beach Revitalization

- Quinn Evans has submitted a draft of the beach house physical assessment to the DNR and BIC for review.
- Quinn Evans, BIC and DNR staff will meet to review the draft and project in the first week in February.

North Shoreline fishing: No update currently. A project team meeting is currently being scheduled.

(SAW) Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater- No update currently

Athletic Complex Handball Courts-

- Architect's and structural engineer review recommend that the roofs of the handball courts be removed. The system has a faulty design in the gutter and drainage design and the extensive structural roof repairs needed are predicted to be required again in the future.

Lake Okonoka Shelter and Playground Improvements -

- Contractor has been providing submittal for review prior to construction
- Construction will begin in Spring 2018 and be complete by the end of June.

FY 2019 NEW PROJECTS

1. James Scott Memorial Fountain Masonry Maintenance and Weir Concrete Floor Repair
2. Athletic Shelter Roof Replacement
3. Flynn Pavilion Roof Repairs
4. Maintenance and Operations barn and site improvements