

MINUTES

Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 21st, 2019

Location: Belle Isle Nature Center

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Quorum established

Brad Dick

Motioned by: Bud Denker

Seconded by: Michael Curis

PRESENT FOR BIPAC

Chair Michele Hodges

Rev. Lonnie Peek

Michael Curis

Sommer Woods

Bryan Barnhill

Bud Denker

DNR STAFF PRESENT

Scott Pratt

Karis Floyd

Darlisa Rickman

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to Approve Minutes for December 20, 2018

Motioned by: Bud Denker

Seconded by: Michael Curis

Motion to Approve Minutes for January 17, 2019

Motioned by: Bud Denker

Seconded by: Michael Curis

General Updates

Scott Pratt

- Reiterated that as formerly stated the Auto Show is not coming to Belle Isle.
- There has been a halt to the MDOT mobility study that was being conducted on the island.
- Looking forward to the State Park Centennial Celebration.
- This year Milliken Harbor is opening up early.

Presentation

Ami VanAntwerp

State Park Centennial Celebrating all 103 parks in the state park system more information is available at: www.michigan.gov/stateparks100

DNR Law Enforcement Update

Lt. Joe Molnar

Lt. Johnson MSP

- Higher attendance as the weather is warming up.
- Typical issues such as speeding.
- Arrest of one drunk driver.
- Would like to acknowledge Detroit Harbormaster for their quick response to emergencies.

Lonnie Peek: How many island closures were there last year?

Joe Molnar: The island was still open to foot and biking traffic but there were 8 vehicular traffic closures. There are only 3500 parking spaces vs. there sometimes being upward of 15-20k vehicles coming on a day so that causes congestive issues.

Bryan Barnhill: How are we addressing mobility issues? Like bikeshare stations and E-scooters?

Scott Pratt: MDOT is providing a mobility study the DNR has allocated funds for this study to take place.

Bryan Barnhill: Do we allow E-scooters on the island?

Mike Terrell: E-scooters are illegal in all state parks.

Bill: In regard to the mobility study this is a partnership where DNR is more in the lead, currently we are in the process of seeing if we can use US DOT transportation funds on this. This is not our normal research funding project.

Park Operations Update

Karis Floyd

- 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 a fulltime Lead Ranger position.
- Doing spring cleaning prepping to begin opening buildings for the season.
- Starting to hire our STWs for the summer season; no driver's license required.
- We now have recycling containers placed around the island so feel free to put your recyclables into the containers.

Bryan Barnhill: What are the positions' pay ranges?

Karis Floyd: For the Summer Temporary Workers pay begins at \$9.45 an hour. The rangers starting pay rate is about \$18 dollars and the Lead ranger starts at about \$23 dollars an hour. The ranger positions we have are all entry level, so it is a teaching and mentoring kind of position. The Lead ranger position requires experience as that person will work directly under the Supervisor, so they have to be aware of things that require attention out in the park. All 3 of the Ranger positions are commissioned, requiring attending our Law Academy. We are basically peace officers.

Bryan Barnhill: Are there restrictions for people who may have a criminal background?

Karis Floyd: There is a background check that is required, and you have to have a clean background due to the officer aspect of the position.

Sommer Woods: Is there a drug test required? Are there agricultural and internship opportunities available?

Karis Floyd: Yes, there is a drug test required for all positions. Yes, we will have a program this summer that ties into the agricultural realm as well as a paid internship opportunity that will be coming up soon.

Michael Terrell: The Ranger is a unique and all-encompassing job; they do a variety of things that usually multiple people would be hired to do. They are the police, fire department, mechanic, EMS, plumber, carpenter, and electrician; a "jack of all trades."

Lonnie Peek: What is your outreach here in the city? Did you make your hiring quota last year?

Karis Floyd: We have several different outreach programs in the city from the Cadets to the ministry. Unfortunately we did not get the staffing last year due to the pay rate being a bit lower.

Scott Pratt: To offset that our pay is a bit lower, we do offer 40-hour work weeks for the entire summer.

Sommer Woods: What is the duration of the employment?

Michael Terrell: 1040 hours which is 6 months.

Lonnie Peek: Have you made direct contact with DPS? That could be a resource.

Karis Floyd: No, other than the police cadet program we have not.

Bryan Barnhill: I will do an initial follow up with you and put you in contact with some schools.

Karis Floyd: DTE is onsite doing the conversion of public lighting and they are currently in the first phase so that is the construction you may witness along Central. The second phase will be them hooking up the power.

Bud Denker: All that wiring will be underground?

Karis Floyd: Correct.

Infrastructure Updates

Amanda Treadwell

(See attached)

Outreach and Upcoming Events

Darlisa Rickman

- We have moved into our new office and we are settling in.
- Currently we have 451 events.
- Monday, April 1st the books will open for facility rentals for the year of 2020. We begin taking applications at 12 a.m. and take them in the order in which they are received.
- Park capacity is an issue.
- Sunday, March 31st is the Wedding Vendor Open House at the Belle Isle Casino. You must be registered to attend from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- April 27th the BIC/DNR clean up will take place. Registration starts at 8 a.m.
- Monday, April 22nd at 12 a.m. the Grand Prix will begin their initial load in.

Lonnie Peek: Are the shelters already rented out? From year to year is there a waiting list?

Darlisa Rickman: During peak season in most cases every shelter is already rented out. And we do not keep a waiting list because with the number of calls that would require, it would be difficult to manage.

Belle Isle Conservancy Update

Chair Michelle Hodges

- Will be honoring volunteers the week of April 7th - 13th which is National Volunteer Week.
- April 14th MSU Science Festival.
- Daffodil Luncheon Day April 17th at the Yacht Club.
- Frederick Law Olmstead's Birthday is on April 26th.
- April 27th is the Spring Clean Up.
- April 27th is also the day we host Spring into Nature which is a 5k.
- The Koi Festival is May 4th.
- Keep Belle Isle Beautiful May 18th and June 29th.
- The Grand Premier is on May 31st.
- Deeper Dive June 27th featuring the Cuban Gar.
- Metro Detroit Youth Day July 10th.
- Kite fest is July 14th.
- Polish the Jewel is October 10th.
- We were able to welcome MSU students in regard to their ideas for Belle Isle.
- We are hiring an Aquarist, a volunteer coordinator, education specialist and an events associate.
- Clean up on June 29th following the fireworks.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes each)

- Kent Gallagher** Does not agree with a boating launch being put on Belle Isle.
- Skip Davis** Opposes the Grand Prix and strongly feels it is in direct conflict with the DNR's mission statement.
- Khalilah Turner** Interested in vendor opportunities on the island.
- Donald Green** Feels that the concrete paddock used for the Grand Prix was a needless destruction of green space on the park. The Grand Prix continues to be a destructive presence on Belle Isle and finds the number of visitors purported to visit the island questionable.
- Angela Lugo Thomas** Against the Grand Prix and Auto Show being on Belle Isle. Would like to know how is the Piet Oudolf Garden going to be enjoyed if it is surrounded by the racetrack from the Grand Prix? Does the Ralph Wilson foundation ask for anything in return for their generous donations? What steps have been taken towards making Belle Isle independent of the Grand Prix funding?
- Michael Betzold** The Oudolf Garden and the Grand Prix cannot co-exist on Belle Isle.
- Lucille Nawara** Does not want the Auto Show to extend itself onto Belle Isle Park. Also feels that alternative ways should be explored as far as traffic on Belle Isle.

A. Gira

As a former health inspector was shocked to witness Grand Prix employees dumping oil and food waste into the trees and in the port-a-johns and it's a big concern. How will that be addressed?

COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS

Bud Denker: Would like to thank the Belle Isle team spearheaded by Michael Terrell and Karis Floyd and would like to personally comment that the Ralph Wilson Foundation has never asked for anything in return for their charitable donations.

Rev. Lonnie Peek: Would like to thank the DNR staff for all of their hard work.

Sommer Woods: Would like to advocate for DarLisa Rickman to get some help in the Special Events Office and also promote the Agriculture programming.

Michelle Hodges: The Ralph G. Wilson Foundation has such integrity and we are thankful to have their help. They are very inspiring and responsible stewards that have a meaningful impact and we are appreciative of their partnership but to be clear, they have never received any perks or kickbacks for donating to Belle Isle Park.

Motion to Adjourn:

Moved by: Bud Denker

Seconded by: Michael Curis

Meeting concluded: 10:57 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: _____

BELLE ISLE PARK

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE



Internal Affairs Building
New Belle Isle Park Headquarters

DNR is now scheduled to move into the new Headquarters in March and anticipated to be in the new Office by March 18th.

The new building administration address is:

Belle Isle Park Administration
99 Pleasure Drive
Detroit, Michigan 48207

Due to office bids exceeding the estimated budget the office and site/garage work will be phased.

Phase 2, Garage Completion is scheduled to take place March and April. The construction period is 60 days.

The consultant is will provide draft site design by March 22nd. Construction is scheduled for May/June. Construction period is estimated at 60 days.



James Scott Memorial Fountain
Masonry Repairs

\$150,000 of the \$400,000 raised at the 2018 Grand Prixmiere event for Fountain repairs will fund masonry and water proofing repairs to the fountain, cascades and concrete weir floor.

The DNR, DTMB, Robert Carpenter and structural and architecture consultants met at the fountain Monday, February 11th to review the scope of repairs needed to ensure the fountain is stabilized and basins are watertight.

The WTA, the consultant concurrently working on the Fountain ADA accessible walk, will prepare contract specifications and a cost estimate for the most critical masonry repairs to stabilize the fountain.

BELLE ISLE TRAILS

IRON BELLE TRAILHEAD & IRON BELL LOOP TRAIL

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

Funding for Phase 1 Trail and Phase 2 Trailhead Construction has been reviewed. It is now anticipated that funding will be available in Spring 2019.

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

This would provide for a summer bidding and fall 2019 construction start.

DNR will bid these two projects out as one bid package.

Phase 2 for the Trailhead will include - The restroom building, plaza area and amenities.

Phase 1 for the Trail construction estimates propose the trail to start at the Iron Belle Trailhead and continue along the north side of the island past the beach area. The DNR, DTMB and consultants are reviewing cost saving options.

James Scott Memorial Fountain ADA Accessible Walk



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

BEFORE:



AFTER:



Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory Repairs

Progress update:



Photo 10: Column 1 shoring



Photo 12: Column 11 shoring



Column 1 Removed

- Revised Work Schedule: Additional scope of work approved. New completion date in contract schedule is July 9th, 2019.
- Public Access Schedule: At this time the DNR will not open the conservatory for public access on the weekends between now and the end of April. The current public access schedule has been determined by the ongoing abatement, cleaning, and testing required to open the dome to the public each weekend. Due to the condition of the trusses now being replaced additional abatement and cleaning is required that does not allow the contractor to stay on schedule.

The status of air quality testing and feasibility to open the conservatory on the weekends will be reviewed again at the end of April.

Ideal has agreed to accommodate DNR's request to open the conservatory for Easter week. Proposed dates are April 20th-21st and 27th-28th. Ideal to coordinate air and wipe sample testing to confirm the dome may be open for Easter.

This revised schedule was confirmed to the public in a press release on March 4th.

- Work Progress:
 - A. 12 of the 20 columns have now been replaced.
 - B. The current schedule has two columns being replaced every two weeks.
 - C. All truss columns are anticipated to be replaced by the end of April per the construction schedule. Following the replacement of the columns, the upper truss column work and gutter work will be completed.

Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory Repairs

Field Report Photos, March 8th, 2019



Photo 1. Bolt holes in channel



Photo 4. Steel truss column repair progress



Photo 2. Steel truss column repair progress



Photo 5. Steel truss column repair progress



Photo 3. Steel truss column repair progress



Photo 6. Typical column shoring configuration



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

- Contractor will begin work after week of 40-degree weather. Anticipated work starts week of March 18th.

2. Belle Isle Aquarium Geothermal System Feasibility Assessment

- Recommendation for Geothermal system will be provided in report in April.
- DNR will schedule meeting with DTE and engineering consultants to review power upgrade to Belle Isle and coordinate future power needs of facility as needed.

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 March.

4. Aquatic life support system evaluation

- Final report will be submitted to the DNR and BIC by the end of March.

The Detroit River

Boating Access Study



- DNR and DTMB have reviewed the latest draft assessment submitted by OHM Advisors. OHM will provide final draft for DNR review April 8th.
- 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**
 - Construction has begun on the Lakeside Drive Bridge.
 - Construction Permits for the Strand culvert will require additional revisions to submitted plans. MDOT currently providing review comments on the Strand Culvert submittal.



- At the MDOT facilitated pre-construction meeting last week for pouring concrete, OHM gave Contractor approval to commence with miscellaneous work at the box culvert including permanent sheeting across the front of the concrete aprons and storm sewer structures and pipes that connect to the box culvert.
- The south sheeting (River side) was installed and backfilled until the full excavation of the culvert can commence.

PARTNER COORDINATED PROJECTS, Cont'd.

Lake Okonoka Habitat Restoration

- Friends of The Detroit River



Channel Side of Abutment B following Form Removal. Tremie Concrete and Permanent Sheeting Shown at Bottom of Image.



East wingwall of Abutment B Following Form Removal. Granular Backfill Underway. Note Bump-Outs in Footing to Achieve Cover Over Steel Piles. Orange Lines on Concrete Represent Fill Lines prior to Compaction.



Crew Welding and Driving 6 Remaining Piles for Abutment A. Depths are Slightly Shallower than Abutment B.



Permanent Sheeting Across Front of Lake Side Box Culvert Apron Being Surveyed and Installed. Note 2x4 and Steel Pile on Right Side of Image is Capped and Bulk Headed.

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. Three firms have been invited for interviews.
- The successful consultant is expected to have a contract in place by late spring 2019.

BIC - Belle Isle Beach Revitalization

- Quinn Evans, BIC and DNR staff met to review the 90% draft March 12th.
- Assessment addresses utility improvements, waterproofing and increasing fixture count for men's and woman's restrooms.
- Quinn Evans will finalize draft and incorporate results of water mainline pressure test in April.

McArthur Bridge Maintenance

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

- NO UPDATE/ Construction team has not remobilized
- Schedule is dependent upon DTE gas repairs and removal of temporary Gas line

DTE Boring - Electric Upgrade

1. Current schedule is to complete major activities by 2nd week of February.
2. Restoration of work area is scheduled for April.

DTE - Electric

1. DTE will install underground conduit, transformers and stations around island in 2019. DTE and DNR have coordinated utility layout and work schedule. Work has already begun on Central Ave and is anticipated to continue through October 2019.
2. DTE will provide new service connections to facilities next in 2020.

DTE - Gas

DTE Energy's Scope of Work will include reestablishment of a permanent natural gas connection between Belle Isle and the Main land Gas system, due to the previous line being deemed unfit to continue operation. The new main will replace the temporary main currently running on the MacArthur Bridge. The temporary main is currently blocking parts of E. Grand Blvd. from E. Jefferson Ave. across MacArthur Bridge to Belle Isle. The temporary main being above grade is not long-term solution and replacing it is a top priority. Work will begin March 25th and is expected to take approximately 5 weeks to complete boring, tie-ins and site clean-up.

Oudolf Garden Detroit - Piet Oudolf Garden -

Insite Design is coordinating with Piet Oudolf to complete the site design and facilitate permits and reviews required for garden construction.

Insite Design has submitted site plans to DNR for review.

The site construction bid package advertised for bidding in February and bids were scheduled to be due in March. Site Construction is expected to begin in mid-June 2019. Irrigation and planting are scheduled for fall, 2019. The second phase of planting is anticipated for spring 2020.

The DNR will review planting plans when plant selection is finalized.

North Shoreline fishing:

- Project team met to review 50% plans.
- Construction anticipated for Fall 2019.

(SAW) Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater- DNR reviewing feasibility to coordinate the stormwater assessment with the water mainline assessment to be funded by GSD. Both DNR and GSD are working with DWSD on the scope of water and stormwater/sewer assessments.

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.
- Project team will review replacing roof with a metal mesh sheet material.
- Architect has submitted the mesh

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. Engineering, Athletic Shelter Roof Replacement
2. Construction, Flynn Pavilion Roof Repairs
3. Engineering, Maintenance and Operations barn and site improvements