

MINUTES

Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Location: Outdoor Adventure Center

Roll Call and Excused Absences
Meeting called to order: 9:03 a.m.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Alicia Bradford

PRESENT FOR BIPAC

Michelle Hodges
Ron Olson
Scott Pratt
Sommer Woods
Bryan Barnhill
Michael Curis
Lonnie Peek
Bud Denker

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes were reviewed and approved from the July 16, 2015 and the September 17, 2015 meeting.

2016 BIPAC MEETING DATES

- The 2016 meeting dates and locations were discussed and agreed upon. Meetings dates and locations will be posted to the website. Any updates to the schedule should be distributed immediately to all committee members.

GENERAL UPDATES

Park Operations:

- Karis Floyd reported that all buildings are now winterized. The casino and shelter 7 (Bus Stop) will be open for winter use.
- Floyd also answered the question regarding the muscle car event, which was in the park on Sunday. It appears no event permit was issued for this event. Staff will investigate with Law Enforcement.

- Bud Denker asked if water lines were under control I stated that we had heating issues last year, the staff has better control over winterizing all buildings and that I can't predict when a line will break based on the age of all the water being very old.
- Reported on the meeting with Verizon to bring Wi-Fi to the Island.
- Discussed that the South Fishing pier is now in its review stage and the design work is completed ready to go out for bid to compete the work.

Staffing:

- Karis introduced Jacob Brown as Acting Park Supervisor (position previously held by Joseph Hall), and Theresa Bryan, Lead Ranger.

Law Enforcement:

- Captain David Malloch reported there were no major incidents on the island. Law enforcement continues to interact with citizens.

Infrastructure Update:

Amanda Hertl reported the following on the ongoing projects:

Under Construction

1. Lake Muscoday/Dt. Yacht Club ADA Boat Launch (finishing up)
2. Climate Control work at the Aquarium/Conservatory is continuing; will be installing a generator this winter while new system is installed.

Planning Phase

1. Building Assessment (Casino, PS, WH, IA, Flynn, Athletic Shelter)
2. Casino Fire suppression
3. Lake Okonoka, Stewardship/FO Detroit River
4. South Fishing Pier
5. Athletic Shelter –Community Meeting Summary
 - Open house held last Thursday for public input on improvements and opportunity to share what the priorities for improvements on the island are; for DNR at this time provide brief summary of project
 - \$325,000 DNR Match for LWCF grant
 - Improvements to existing infrastructure
 - Reach out to public to learn what their priorities and concerns for this facility are – opportunity to hear from individuals
 - *currently used regularly by adult leagues; would like to expand opportunities to youth sports leagues and individual users.
 - DNR also met with Detroit Parks and Recreation Department, Detroit Police Athletic League and Deputy Executive Director for Detroit Public Schools (tennis courts and cross country), Detroit Metro Youth Day, Ed Deeb

- This was an opportunity to hear from individual users and athletic groups on Rugby, handball association, lacrosse coach, bicycle clubs and daily users.
- Large Scale Improvements
 - Groups familiar with the sports complex requested grading and drainage safer to use/ improvements to field along Strand.
 - Athletic Shelter : Concessions, public programming (extend season of use into winter), restrooms, bicycle station
 - Bicycle Rain shelter
- Small Scale Improvements
 - More benches
 - More drinking fountains
 - Fix restrooms in Athletic Shelter
 - Goals for fields soccer/lacrosse

Summary

- 100% thought meeting was productive
- 100% thought they were more informed about improvements on Belle Isle after meeting
- 100% had opportunity to share their ideas

ACTION ITEM:

Ron Olson brought forth a resolution to the committee to support the land use rule to prohibit snowmobiling on Belle Isle consistent with the City of Detroit ordinance.

Resolution: 11-2015-03 was unanimously approved by the committee to support the land use order brought forth by Ron Olson; confirming the island use rule to prohibit snowmobiling on Belle Isle. This is consistent with the City of Detroit ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (3 minutes each)

Media in attendance: Radio WWJ .950

Pete Forsythe	Mission of Belle Isle and concern over the Detroit Grand Prix
Skip Davis	Drag race on November 15 th and a muscle car show without a permit
Donald Green	Prohibiting snowmobiles and to illuminate the Grand Prix
Betty Roberts	Questions about money raised from Conservancy events and how the funds are used
Bruce Ross	Inquiring about Huron Clinton Authority and its contributions to the City of Detroit
Carol Rhodes	Muscle car informal event concerns
Allison Turner	REI Partnership to benefit Belle Isle Park

