

# **MINUTES**

## **Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Location: Belle Isle Nature Center**

**Meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m.**

### **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

#### **Quorum established**

Bryan Barnhill  
Rev. Lonnie Peek  
Bud Denker

Motioned by: Brad Dick  
Seconded by: Michael Curis

### **PRESENT FOR BIPAC**

Chair Michele Hodges  
Michael Curis  
Sommer Woods  
Brad Dick

### **DNR STAFF PRESENT**

Ron Olson  
Scott Pratt  
Karis Floyd  
Jacob Brown  
Darlisa Rickman

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion to Approve Minutes for March 21<sup>st</sup> , 2018**

**Motioned by: Michael Curis**  
**Seconded by: Sommer Woods**

## **General Updates**

### **Ron Olson, Chief, PRD**

- Toured with visitors from other states that have urban park centers and exchanged ideas.
- Met with Summer Youth Employment groups and some non-profits.
- Looking forward to the State Park Centennial.
- Pure Michigan in May will be bringing musical artists to the OAC and play thematic music in support of the State Park Centennial Celebration.
- DTE Energy is currently on the island adding the new electric transmission system to the island. This is necessary to continue powering the island.
- The first phase of the conservatory construction will be done soon.
- There will be parking passes issued during the Grand Prix so park guests will still have access to the east end of the island even during the races. We are still working out the details of this process.

## **DNR Law Enforcement Update**

### **Lt. Jennifer Johnson, MSP**

#### **Sgt. Jason Becker, DNR**

- Higher attendance as the weather is warming up
- Operations as normal
- Regular full-time shifts on the island now

## **Park Operations Update**

### **Karis Floyd, PRD**

#### **Jacob Brown, PRD**

- Buildings are reopening for the busy season.
- Doing maintenance on equipment to prepare for park maintenance.
- In the process of hiring and hoping to get positions filled.
- Have hired an outdoor Explorer for Belle Isle Park.
- Are transitioning to a statewide contract with Waste Management and Farrow will no longer be providing trash pick-up services as of May 14th, 2019.
- Met with MDOT last Friday so you will see some signs being put up around the island and some potholes being filled.

## **Outreach and Upcoming Events**

### **Darlisa Rickman**

- Planning through 2020 at this point.
- All Saturdays have been booked currently.
- Making sure that all events are running smoothly.
- Had a meeting with the Food Concessionaire and he plans to start providing food opportunities May 1st.
- Food Court area will soon be open, and the plan is to have 4 to 5 trucks available at Shelter 7 for the park guests dining convenience. There will also still be other various food trucks located at convenient spots around the park.
- The Grand Prix Team will begin their load in April 22nd at midnight.
- Spring Clean-up is Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Spring Into Nature 5k held Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> 7 a.m. – 11 a.m.; the proceeds benefit the Aquarium.
- Koi Festival Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Riverside Kayak Demo Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Beach.
- Metal Detecting Event Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Beach.
- The Grand Prix weekend kicks off May 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Sign up for the Belle Isle Beat to get more park information on events around the island.

**Sommer Woods:** Is that food opportunity for existing vendors or new vendors?

**Darlisa Rickman:** This is for our current vendor that is currently stationed at the concession stand on kids' row. He is now expanding to the area at Shelter 7 so the folks visiting the Conservatory and the Aquarium can be accommodated.

**Michael Curis:** How many of your events are reoccurring every year?

**Darlisa Rickman:** I can't give you an exact number but between the walks, runs, drum circles and numerous other events many are repeat guests. But in addition to that we find that we have many family reunions that are coming back every year.

## **Belle Isle Conservancy Update**

### **Chair Michelle Hodges**

- Met the new DNR Director Dan Eichinger.
- Visited and walked through the new Belle Isle Administrative Office at the IA building.
- Attended the Daffodil Luncheon April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Boat House planning status - about to hire a consultant, in collaboration with the DNR and Detroit Rowing Club, for master planning.
- Balboa Park team visited.
- Hiring a volunteer coordinator, Aquarist, Education Specialist and an Events Associate.
- Qualified as a Finalist for the Impact 100 Program.
- A finalist in the Play Everywhere Competition which involves doing some build out of the grassy area next to the Aquarium.

- April 27th is the Spring Clean Up.
- Keep Belle Isle Beautiful Initiative will take place on May 18th and June 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Koi Festival May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The Grand Prixmiere May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Deeper Dive is June 27th featuring the Cuban Gar.
- Metro Detroit Youth Day July 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Kite fest July 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Polish the Jewel October 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Sommer Woods:** In regard to Metro Detroit Youth Day if anyone knows someone that is a senior in high school, they issue scholarships. They have the application online for anyone that has an interest.

### **Presentation**

#### **Kamilah Scott, DTE – Update on New Electric Service for Belle Isle Park**

Explained the general reason for DTE’s continued presence on Belle Isle which is to update the dated electrical infrastructure on the island. The plan is for December of 2019 through October of 2020 to convert every location on the island to DTE power.

**Ron Olson:** Can the boxes placed around the island be painted or customized?

**Kamilah Scott:** Yes, they can. They often do that, especially the ones on college campuses.

**Michele Hodges:** With his update to the infrastructure does this mean that all locations will be metered?

**Kamilah Scott:** For the most part yes, aside from a few locations that will remain what we call subservice due to the distance and the impact the locations have on the island.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (3 minutes each)

**Michael Betzold**                      Ironic that Monday is Earth Day and that is the day that the Grand Prix begins its set-up. Park users don’t have even one seat on the committee to represent the park guests’ interests. The public has NO role in the “Public-Private Partnership” that runs Belle Isle.

**Zaher Abuelrooj**                      Had an issue gaining access to the parking lot down across from Milliken Park for the new early boat mooring for fishing. Would like to inquire about the 2020 April 1<sup>st</sup>-May 1<sup>st</sup> slip rental season for Walleye Fishermen. Would also like an update on the possibility of DNR putting a launch on the Detroit River.

**Ron Olson**                                The new Milliken State Park and Harbor plan to open the Harbor early was a pilot and some of the issues you pointed out will have to be

addressed to make things more accommodating. That's a big part of the study is to try to diversify access to the Detroit river because opening just one site is not going to solve the overall problem.

**Angela Lugo-Thomas** Please remember that you have a responsibility to not just the wealthy donors, who give money to Belle Isle but also to park users like me, that see Belle Isle as a place for rest and relaxation. A place to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city. It appears that if our concerns are against your personal beliefs or your pocketbook, they are never taken into consideration. Is there a different meeting that we should attend where the people in leadership will listen to our concerns?

**Michelle Hodges:** This is a very appropriate opportunity for the public to come and be heard and it has impacted the decisions made on the island and for the island, and hopefully how things have been adjusted and changed so that the park user is always at the top of the list of concerns.

**Lawrence Mohammed** Would like to know if there going to be more than one Kayak Launch.

**Response from Amanda Treadwell:** There will be 3 but currently we are only moving one.

**Royce from Canada:** Are there any approved events like Native ceremonies performed on the park such as sweat lodges?

**Response from Darlisa Rickman:** No there have never been any events similar to that here on the park that I'm aware of.

**Rick DeMayo:** Volunteer for the Grand Prix feels that the Grand Prix brings the community together and they definitely respect the environment. Wants to assure everyone that they will do everything to protect the landscape and the structures utilized by the Grand Prix.

**Unknown:** Will DTE provide steam on the island?

**Response from DTE:** No, we are no longer in the steam business a different entity took that over.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS**

**Michael Curis:** We want to assure the public that you are heard, whether it is pro or con for the Grand Prix. Unfortunately, we are in the unenviable position of having to make a decision knowing that we can't please everybody. The voices concerning this matter are very strong and sensible, but we must make a decision about what is best for the island over a long period. We hope that the adjustments that we are making, overseeing and continue to suggest appeasing a little bit of the opposition. At this point we want to still be respectful and respectfully disagree, but we do hear you and thank you for coming.

Motion to Adjourn: **No Quorum**

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Meeting Concluded: 10:23 a.m.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

**May 16, 2019**

Nature Center

Belle Isle Park

Detroit, MI 48207

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 am.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michele Hodges

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald A. Olson, Chief

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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DRAFT

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Michele Hodges

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rgnald A. Olson, Chief

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

5-16-19

# BELLE ISLE PARK

## INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE



Internal Affairs Building  
New Belle Isle Park Headquarters

DNR is now moved into the new Headquarters. Ranger staff will be working out of the White House until the maintenance operations are moved to the site behind new headquarters building.

Phase 2, DNR and DTMB are reviewing pricing to complete garage work. The construction period is 60 days.

The consultant is will provide draft site design for DNR/DTMB review. Construction is scheduled for May/June. Construction period is estimated at 60 days.

DNR is working with Arboriculture Society of Michigan Foundation to mill oak timbers from the Wet-Mesic Flatwoods for seat walls at the new office.



James Scott Memorial Fountain  
Masonry Repairs

### ADA Accessible walk:

Masonry work is expected to begin the week of April 22<sup>nd</sup>. WCI will complete marble installation in two weeks.

### Masonry and Structural Repairs:

A portion 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 WTA, the consultant concurrently working on the Fountain ADA accessible walk, has submitted proposal for masonry and structural engineer services. Scope of work will address repointing masonry joints and displaced stone at the lower cascade and addressing floor of the weir in the fountain basin.

## 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 (Trailhead to Bridge) and The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation has awarded \$2.6 million to construction phase 2 of the trailhead and phase 1 of the trail. To align all funding grants for phase one of the trail, anticipated start date is Spring 2020.

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

DNR staff met with Erik Nordin, local Detroit sculptor who has been asked to submit a proposal to create a sculpture at the IBT trailhead. The design will include a coordinating design at the Ironwood trailhead on the north terminus of the trail.

The sculpture will be funded through the generous support of the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.

## *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



Photo 2: Column 5 being installed



Containment removed from Dome.



Splice Plate added in Gutter

## Progress update:

- All 20 Steel trusses have been replaced.
- Upper truss work began April 8<sup>th</sup>. Welding work associated with phase 2 is anticipated to take approximately 2 weeks.
- Schedule: The status of air quality testing has confirmed that the Conservatory will be open for Easter lily displays.

The Conservatory will be open for the following dates April 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 5 pm.

The Conservatory will close through the end of the construction work and is anticipated to re-open in July.

- Additional Work Items underway:
  1. Two weeks for upper truss work
  2. One week for painting
  3. One week for electrical work
  4. Two weeks for scaffolding removal – anticipated the first week of June.
  5. Two weeks for final cleaning
  6. Contractor anticipates completion of project by mid to end of June currently.
  7. Temporary heat is to be removed from the site this week.
  8. Electrical to be reinstalled this week to provide power to adjacent wings.
  9. Compressor to be removed from the site this week.
  10. Dumpster will be removed from the site in 3 weeks.



## **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 has begun investigative work and report will be issued upon completion of jetting and cleaning lines.

### **2. Belle Isle Aquarium Geothermal System Feasibility Assessment**

- Engineers are reviewing requirements for boring tests.
- 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 has been submitted to DNR and BIC for review.

### **4. Aquatic life support system evaluation**

- Final report has been submitted to the DNR and BIC by the end of March.

# The Detroit River

## Boating Access Study



- OHM has provided final draft for DNR review. Review scheduled to be complete April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Draft Report will be shared with City of Detroit GSD for review when completed.

### Athletic Complex Handball Courts-

- Architect has submitted the mesh ceiling to replace the existing ceiling. Installation of mesh will provide for play on 4<sup>th</sup> plane.
- DNR is reviewing the revised plans.
- Plans will be submitted to contractor for pricing and scheduling.

### Lake Okonoka Shelter and Playground Improvements -

- Contractor has excavated for shelter and playground footings.
- Project is anticipated to be completed ahead of schedule. Shelter construction schedule to be complete in June.

### North Shoreline fishing:

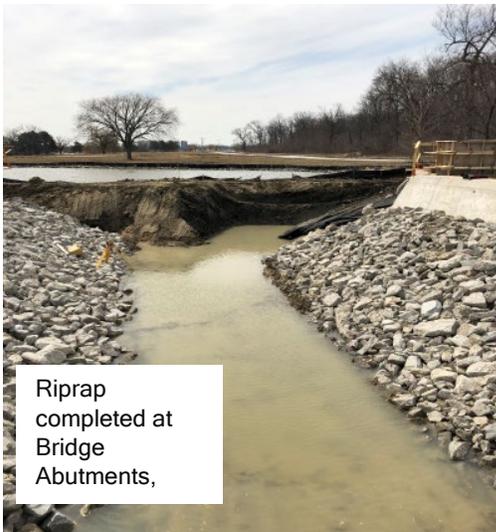
- The low Construction bid received was within the construction budget.
- Scope of work will expand to include the relocation of the kayak launch from the west side of the canal behind the DYC to the parking area for the North Shoreline fishing area.

## PARTNER COORDINATED PROJECTS

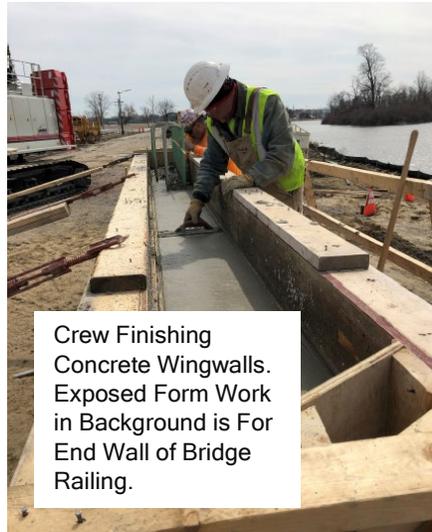
### Lake Okonoka Habitat Restoration

#### - Friends of The Detroit River

- The water level in the lake was high last week due to a combination of high river levels in the Detroit River and strong Easterly winds. The river elevation has risen to the OHW elevation and is now close to elevation 97.0 CDD. The rise is expected for this time of year and Lake Okonoka is now bank-full and slightly over, as anticipated.
- Bridge abutments are complete, and Z Contractors is installing Rip Rap.
- The water connection between the lakes is now complete, and both water bodies are on-line with the Detroit River.
- The stop log structure at the lake and canal interface and observed that the logs were holding lake water but leaking in several locations requiring repairs.
- Z Contractors anticipate the bridge approaches to be complete in June. Woodside Traffic Controls will be in place until project is complete.
- The Fish Passage Box Culvert is still pending with MDOT.
- The box culvert fabrication will take over 2 weeks and anticipated completion date for culvert work is now August.



Riprap completed at Bridge Abutments,



Crew Finishing Concrete Wingwalls. Exposed Form Work in Background is For End Wall of Bridge Railing.



Bridge beams are in place and the lake is open to the lagoon.

## **PARTNER COORDINATED PROJECTS, Cont'd.**

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

- Consultant has been selected for the Boathouse master plan and physical assessment and FODR is working to complete project contract.
- The contract is expected to begin in May and be completed in 10 months.

### **BIC - Belle Isle Beach Revitalization**

- Quinn Evans will finalize draft and incorporate results of water mainline pressure test in April.

### **McArthur Bridge Maintenance Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)**

- Construction team will remobilize to complete sidewalk work on the bridge when DTE permanent gas line repairs are complete.

### **DTE Boring - Electric Upgrade**

1. Work is completed and the DTE is working to restore the work site.

### **DTE - Electric - NO UPDATE**

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 25<sup>th</sup> and is expected to take approximately 5 weeks to complete boring, tie-ins and site clean-up. Work expected to be complete mid-May.

## **Oudolf Garden Detroit - Piet Oudolf Garden -**

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 is currently reviewing the perennials planting plan for the fall 2019 planting. OGD will submit spring 2020 planting list for the wetland and stormwater planting areas when finalized.

## **(SAW) Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater-**

- DNR reviewing scope of work provided by DWSD for stormwater and municipal water assessments.
- DNR and GSD will coordinate with DWSD to have work completed under existing DWSD contract.

## **FY 2019 NEW PROJECTS**

1. Engineering, Athletic Shelter Roof Replacement
2. Engineering, Maintenance and Operations barn and site improvements