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**CITY OF BURLINGTON****Department of Public**

Street & Park and Water Departments  
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**CITY OF BURLINGTON PARK BOARD MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016, 6:30PM  
2200 S. Pine Street, Burlington, WI 53105**

Chairman Darrel Eisenhardt, Commissioners Jennifer Amborn, Clay Brandt, Lori Hintz, Jeff Schopp, Peter Turke, Ald. Ruth Dawidziak, DPW Supervisor Dan Jensen, P.E., Student Rep: Nicole Witbrod

**Clay Brandt, Acting Chairman in Darrel Eisenhardt's absence called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.**

**Roll Call: Present:** Commissioners Jennifer Amborn, Lori Hintz, Jeff Schopp, Dan Jensen, DPW Supervisor, Nicole Witbrod, Student Representative and Chairman Clay Brandt. **Excused:** Darrel Eisenhardt and Aldermanic Representative Ruth Dawidziak. **Absent:** Peter Turke.

**Approval of February 18, 2016 Park Board Minutes:** Chairman Brandt entertained a motion to approve the February 18, 2016 Park Board Minutes. Motion to approve made by Commissioner Schopp. Seconded by Commissioner Amborn. All voted aye, motion carried.

**Citizens Comments:** Andrew Stonestreet from a local Boy Scout Troop stated he was at the meeting to earn Scout badges and part of the requirement was to attend local government meetings. He also would be interviewing Commissioner Jeff Schopp after the meeting ended. The Park Board members welcomed Andrew and wished him well.

**Aldermanic Report: Ruth Dawidziak:** None

**DPW Supervisor Report: Dan Jensen:** Mr. Jensen presented the Park Board Fund Balances. The Park Development Fund current balance is \$27,629.22. The Wehmhoff Fund has \$53,000, of which \$50,000 was previously approved for future soccer improvements at Bushnell Park.

Mr. Jensen reported that Racine County has proposed to the Wisconsin DNR to fence the old rail crossing, previously discussed safety hazard by Bushnell Park, at a cost of \$4986.00. Mr. Jensen should know more by the April Park Board meeting and will advise the Park Board members of the DNR's decision at that time.

The proposal for the boat ordinance will be discussed at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting. After the ordinance is passed, it will allow the Department of Public Works to remove watercraft that has been abandoned at not only McCanna Park, but any City of Burlington Park.

**New Business:**

**Meg Robinson: Request to tap parkway maple tree(s):** Dr. Robinson was present to ask permission of the Park Board to tap various trees in the Burlington area for research she is conducting. Ms. Robinson stated she is a Veterinarian and has a degree in Wildlife Ecology. She started doing experiments on her own for preserving avian sperm cells using sap from specific trees. It is a very narrow field and only two others in the United States have been working on this type of experiment.

Dr. Robinson has had a successful survival rate of 73% by using tree sap from specific trees, with the sap being extracted within a specific period of time. The sperm is frozen with the sap into a glass like state while not damaging the cells. Dr. Robinson just recently applied for a patent on her project with the hope of helping animals in the future.

The tapping would only be one time, per tree, and would require only one day if the sap is running. It could take one to two weeks if the sap is not running. Dr. Robinson would only need one gallon from any tree that she would use, and the tree(s) would be checked daily. The number of trees she would like to tap would be approximately 30.

While the trees Ms. Robinson had seen were parkway trees, the Park Board thought perhaps there were trees in the Parks, or possibly the School Forest at Richard Bong State Park, that she could use. Dan Jensen, DPW Supervisor stated he could give the contact person at Wachtel Tree Service who also may be able to help Ms. Robinson with the specific trees she needs.

The Park Board was concerned about liability issues and if homeowners would be open to having the parkway trees tapped when located in front of their house. After some discussion, it was determined that Ms. Robinson would construct a letter in the next few weeks for Mr. Jensen to review that explains exactly what she is doing that could be used and be provided to the homeowner.

Ms. Robinson's research will not begin until the spring of 2017, which would provide enough time for Dan Jensen, DPW Supervisor to check with John Bjelajac, City Attorney for any legal issues that may arise if Parkway or City Park trees are selected for sap.

Chairman Brandt entertained a motion to approve allowing Meg Robinson in 2017 to tap Parkway or Park trees, provided she provides the specific number of trees and locations, and then to notify Dan Jensen, DPW Supervisor for his approval before any work begins. Motion to approve made by Chairman Brandt. Seconded by Commissioner Hintz. All voted aye, motion carried.

The Park Board members thought Ms. Robinsons' research was extremely interesting and wished her well in her research.

**Downs Syndrome Awareness Week:** Mr. Jensen just wanted to let the Park Board know that on Saturday, June 4, 2016, there will be a Down Syndrome Awareness Walk at Bushnell Park. Christie Westcott of the group from Milwaukee has been in contact with the Department of Public Works to reserve the Park. They are expecting between 200-300 people. They will not be crossing any roadways, and only plan to walk across the bridge in Bushnell Park.

**Echo Park Gazebo Remodel - Burlington Community Fund:** Mr. Peter Scherrer came before the Park Board to present ideas to remodel the Gazebo at Echo Park. The remodel would include new surface treatment on the concrete desk, a portion of the railing may be removed, and other areas replaced with railing similar to that on the Vet's Terrace building. There will also be new landscape terrace. The complete project will be paid for through the Community Fund and there would be no costs to the Park Board.

The Commissioner all thought this was a great idea and a wonderful thing the Community Fund was willing to do. The Commissioners inquired where final approval would come from, since the goal for Mr. Scherrer was to have it completed a week prior to the start of Chocolate Fes. Dan Jensen, DPW Supervisor stated that Mr. Scherrer would be working directly with Jim Bergles, Director of Public Works and Aaron DeGrave, Park Foreman. Mr. Bergles and Mr. DeGrave had previously met on site with Mr. Scherrer prior to coming up with any plans. Mr. Scherrer stated he would touch base with Aaron DeGrave before proceeding with any construction.

Chairman Brandt motioned to approve the remodel of the gazebo at Echo Park as presented by Mr. Scherrer, with the understanding that he would contact Jim Bergles, DPW Director and/or Aaron DeGrave, Park Foreman for final plan approval. Seconded by Commissioner Hintz. All voted aye, motion carried.

**Farmers Market Signage - Carol Reed:** Carol Reed of Farmers Market was not present at this evenings meeting. Dan Jensen, DPW Supervisor stated that Ms. Reed wanted to inquire about putting a Farmers Market Sign at the City limits where the population signs are located.

After a lengthy discussion, the Commissioners did not feel that adding a Farmers Market sign to these areas would be appropriate as it would encourage other groups to want to do the same and where does the line get drawn of who and who could not put up signs in these locations.

Chairman Brandt entertained a motion to deny any other signs being put up or attached at the current location of the City entryway signs. Seconded by Commissioner Hintz. All voted nay, request denied.

#### **Old Business:**

**Dog Park Committee Financial Report Revised:** A revised Dog Park Committee financial report was presented. Karlie Thate, Dog Park President had sent DPW Supervisor, Dan Jensen a revised copy from what she presented at the February 18, 2016 Park Board meeting. The difference being that Ms. Thate had inadvertently used the Dog Park Debit card instead of her own. Once it was realized, she reimbursed

the few transactions that had taken place. The actual year- end balance of the Dog Park Committee Fund is \$3356.80.

**Other Items:** Darrel Eisenhardt had sent to Deb Rintamaki, DPW Adm. Assistant a copy of the Baseball Balance Sheet, which she distributed to the Park Board Members.

**There being no further items for discussion, Chairman Brandt entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Schopp. Seconded by Commissioner Amborn. All voted aye and Chairman Brandt adjourned the meeting at 7:12 P.M.**

**Minutes Respectfully submitted by:**



**Deb Rintamaki**

**Department of Public Works**