

# **City of Wisconsin Dells Parks, Recreation, & Waterway Committee**

Meeting Agenda

Monday June 1, 2015 5:30 PM

Wisconsin Dells Municipal Building – 300 LaCrosse St

Chairperson: Jesse DeFosse

Committee Members: Mike Warnke, Tammy Mayer, Joey Van Dinter,  
Becky Gussel, Lauren Witcha, Gordon Priegel

1. Call to order and note attendance
2. Approval of the April 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes
3. Discussion and Decision if needed on the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan  
(Adam Bremer MSA Professionals)
4. Update on New Pool/Rec Center Project
5. Items for Referral
6. Adjournment

Aldersperson Jesse DeFosse, Chairperson  
Posted and Distributed – May 29, 2015

**Open Meetings Notice: If this meeting is attended by one or more members of the Common Council who are not members of this committee, and their attendance creates a quorum of the Common Council, this meeting may technically be considered a meeting of the Common Council for the purposes of the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law. Please be advised that upon reasonable notice, the City of Wisconsin Dells will furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in meeting activities.**

**PARKS, RECREATION, AND WATERWAYS COMMITTEE**

CITY OF WISCONSIN DELLS ~ 300 LA CROSSE STREET

WISCONSIN DELLS, WI 53965

**April 6, 2015**

1. Chairperson DeFosse called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. Notice of the meeting was provided to the Dells Events, WNNO Radio, and posted in accordance with State Statutes.

Present: Alderperson DeFosse, Tammy Mayer, Gordon Priegel, Becky Gussel, Mike Warnke, Aaron Castle, Thad Meister, Kate Berg

Others: Ed Legge from the Dells Events , Andrew Bremmer MSA,

Excused: Lauren Witecha

2. Motion by Castle and seconded by Priegel to approve the February 2, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Motion by Priegel seconded by Warnke to accept the low bid submitted by Ballard King & Associates to perform an Economic Feasibility Study & Pro Forma Study for the Aquatic and Recreation Center. This scope of services and timeline for this study were set forth in the Request for Proposals. This study will help identify operating budgets, partnership analysis, market feasibility, staffing, and more. Five firms were invited to submit proposals and three firms did so. The proposals were reviewed by Thad Meister, Carter Arndt (MSA), and professionals at Water Technology (WTI). Motion carried unanimously.
4. Discussion Only on the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Survey results.
5. No items for referral. Next Meeting May 4, 2015 6:00 PM
6. Motion by Priegel and seconded Gussel to adjourn at 7:05

Thad Meister

Parks, Recreation, & Waterway Director

## CHAPTER 5

# GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

### 5.1 Mission Statement

### 5.2 Long Range Vision

### 5.3 Goals, Objectives, and Policies

This chapter describes the Mission Statement of the City's Parks and Recreation Department and the Long Range Vision for the City's park and open space system. The long range vision describes the city's park and open space system as we wish it to be in 2020, or sooner. The mission statement and long range vision are the foundation of this plan – the goals, objectives, and policies that follow are all intended to help realize the City's mission and vision. This CORP includes four overarching goals:

**Goal 1: Complete Park and Open Space System.** *To plan and provide a complete system of parks, facilities and open spaces to allow the entire resident population the opportunity to participate in a wide range of both active and passive, indoor and outdoor, recreational activities.*

**Goal 2: Natural Resource Protection.** *To preserve environmental corridors for the protection of the vegetation, drainage and wildlife resources they provide and for enhancing the social, economic, recreational, and environmental quality of the City.*

**Goal 3: Cost Effective Implementation.** *Rising development costs and budget challenges will directly affect the success of this plan. Therefore the City must consider a variety of funding options (e.g. grants, donations, endowments, taxes, fees, fundraising, etc.) in order to implement recommended improvements.*

**Goal 4: Public Involvement in Park Planning, Design, Development, & Use.** *Parks and recreational facilities are a resource for all residents and visitors of the City to enjoy.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Dells and Village of Lake Delton Parks and Recreation Department strives to provide area residents with a diverse selection of leisure service programs for all. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for everyone in the community through the development and maintenance of new and existing parkland in addition to providing a variety of quality recreational programs.

## LONG RANGE VISION

The Wisconsin Dells park and open space system serves every neighborhood within the city with either a fully developed neighborhood park or school park within a 1/2-mile walk or less. Community parks and special purpose parks provide opportunities for special events activities and unique recreational facilities, including those that support tourism and attract new businesses and residents to the community. Environmental corridors, including woodlands, creeks, ravines, and drainage ways provide opportunities for passive recreational use and the City provides opportunities for public uses along the Wisconsin River. All neighborhoods have safe pedestrian facilities via sidewalks on at least one side of the street. A combination of on-and off-road bicycle trails links the city's parks to adjacent neighborhoods, the downtown, and the Riverwalk. The city provides a variety of park facilities and recreational programs to meet the varied needs of existing and future residents. The city provides an aquatic facility and recreational/community center for use by all residents.

**Objective 1: Develop new parks and recreational facilities where City growth creates a need for additional facilities and where existing residents are underserved by existing City or School parks.**

*Policy 1: Most residents should be within a 15-minute walk or 1/4 to 1/2-mile from a public park or open space area and the City strives to maintain a minimum of 12 acres of public park and recreational land per 1,000 residents.*

*Policy 2: The City requires that residential developments dedicate parkland or provide recreational facilities as part of the approval of new developments in accordance with local subdivision ordinances (e.g. dedicating 5% of the total plat area for usable recreation purposes). In such special cases that this is not possible, the City may require that residential developments provide fees-in-lieu of parkland dedication and fees-in-lieu of park development equal to 5% of the market value of the total plat prior to subdivision for the purpose of the purchase or development of land to be used for public recreational uses serving the neighborhood.*

*Policy 3: The City encourages "special purpose" parks, plazas, and open spaces within commercial and industrial areas, particularly in the Downtown, that provide outdoor gathering places and aesthetic enhancements in otherwise developed environments.*

*Policy 4: The City may use its Official Mapping powers to dedicate future park areas or recreational trails in advance of development in order to prevent the loss of lands to other uses.*

*Policy 5: The City may explore alternative means of acquiring lands required for parks and open space to ensure that lands are obtained at the lowest cost to the public (e.g. state and federal grants, non-profit organizations, conservation easements, purchase of developments rights).*

*Policy 6: The City may promote the development of parks or the allocation of resources to those projects where the benefited parties donates time or funding to assist with the implementation of the project.*

**Objective 2: Improve interconnectivity, awareness, and use of City parks and open spaces throughout the community.**

*Policy 7: New park and recreational facilities should be centrally located within the neighborhoods that they are intended to serve and shall be of adequate size to accommodate the demand put on the park.*

*Policy 8: The provision of safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle connections between parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities should be emphasized in on-going City planning and acquisition efforts.*

*Policy 9: Sidewalks should be provided on at least one side of all residential streets and a complete system of on- and off-road bicycle trails should connect existing and new neighborhoods to existing and future City parks, commercial districts, and regional recreational amenities.*

**Objective 3: Provide a diversity of multi-seasonal and multi-use recreation facilities and programs.**

*Policy 10: The City's park and recreation system provides a variety of recreational facilities and programs to serve the year round diverse needs of residents of all ages. Recreational facilities shall be made available to each household in the City.*

*Policy 11: The City coordinates municipal recreational programming with the Village of Lake Delton, private recreation providers, the school district, and volunteer sports organizations to provide programming to meet youth and adult recreation needs and to avoid duplication of services or facilities.*

*Policy 12: The City coordinates park and open space planning and improvements with neighboring communities and counties to enhance regional recreational opportunities and to prevent duplication of facilities where such duplication is not necessary.*

*Policy 13: As new parks are created, expanded, or altered the City will consider the development of new recreational facilities not already found within the same neighborhood or within the community in order*

to diversify the types of recreational facilities found throughout the entire City.

**Objective 4: Coordinate public park and open space lands with school facilities.**

*Policy 14: Where feasible and otherwise consistent with City park needs, locate neighborhood playground and community playfields adjacent to or in coordination with school properties to prevent duplication of facilities where such duplication is not necessary to meet the recreational needs of the surrounding neighborhood and school.*

**Objective 5: Provide safe park and recreational facilities with access for all persons regardless of race, creed, age, sex, or economic status.**

*Policy 15: Facility development and installation must be reviewed with safety in mind, adhering to accepted standards prior to installation including applicable Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) standards, American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) standards, or American's With Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.*

*Policy 16: To the extent possible improvements/maintenance to existing facilities will be designed to meet the requirements of the American's With Disabilities Act (ADA). Any new park facilities should be designed to meet ADA standards unless environmental limitations are present or similar ADA compliant facilities are present within an existing park (i.e. duplicate facilities).*

*Policy 17: The City discourages land uses adjacent to existing or planned park and recreational areas that will pose a public safety or access hazard for residents using the park or recreational facility unless mitigation efforts can be installed to address potential safety and access hazards.*

**Objective 6: Preserve environmental corridors as permanent open space areas.**

*Policy 18: The City should preserve areas for park and open space uses where development is difficult due to unstable soils, steep slopes, surface waters, poor drainage conditions, flooding, or other similar conditions.*

## COMPLYING WITH THE AMERICANS W/ DISABILITIES ACT

The ADA, enacted in 1990, clearly states the right of equal access for persons to local government services, including parks. On September 15, 2010 the Department of Justice published revised final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act. The 2010 Standards included new provisions for accessible design for recreational facilities such as playgrounds, swimming pools, fishing and golf facilities. Similar to when the original 1991 ADA Standards were adopted for public buildings, a community is required to complete a self-evaluation of their recreational facilities for ADA compliance by March 15, 2012. Those communities with 50 or more full or part-time employees are also required to develop a Transition Plan, which identifies what corrective work will be completed, when it will be completed, and the individual responsible for the corrective work. Any new recreational facilities designed, constructed, or shaped after March 15, 2012 are subject to the 2010 Standards. Any alteration (not simple maintenance, but something that changes the way the site is used) must make the element altered accessible and must create an accessible path of travel through the site or facility to that element.

There are some fundamental differences in how accessibility in the outdoors is accommodated compared to indoors or the built environment. While restrooms, shelters, interpretive centers, and parking lots, for example, need to follow detailed ADA guidelines, other improvements such as trails or swimming beach areas, for example, do not necessarily need to follow indoor or built environment ramp grades or surfacing requirements. A good rule of thumb for the City to follow is that anything constructed must not make the outdoor experience anymore difficult than what occurs naturally. Mother Nature does not have to comply with ADA, but the City does.

*Policy 19: The City should make every effort to purchase property, or portions thereof, that becomes available along the Wisconsin River in the City, which is deemed a high value site for recreation or natural resource protection in order to promote greater public access and use of the Wisconsin River.*

*Policy 20: The City may consider the development of utilities, roads, stormwater management and telecommunications facilities within parks, or through environmental corridors, provided practicable steps to minimize disturbances and safety hazards to these areas are taken.*

*Policy 21: The City encourages using environmental corridors and open space areas to link community parks, including allowing the development of compatible recreational uses and facilities (e.g. trails, shelters, etc.) within environmental corridors. The City discourages active recreational uses from locating in environmental corridors if they are determined not to be conducive to preservation of the environmental corridor.*

*Policy 22: The City practices the use of native landscaping within City park and open space areas and encourages the removal of invasive species from parklands and habitat restoration along the Wisconsin River.*

*Policy 23: The City will design parks and facilities to minimize the environmental impact and control access to the resources so that the very thing being preserved does not deteriorate due to over use or misuse.*

**Objective 7: Use park and recreational lands as a means to promote environmental education and community history.**

*Policy 24 The City encourages public awareness of environmental and cultural resources by installing interpretative signage or historical markers within City parks. The City encourages the use of park facilities for outdoor environmental education.*

*Policy 25: The City encourages the restoration and maintenance of historic places or structures as unique enhancements to the community's recreational resources.*

**Objective 8: Maintain existing park and recreational facilities.**

*Policy 26: The City will maintain a capital improvements plan to replace worn or damaged recreational equipment and facilities.*

*Policy 27: The City will keep all foliage well-groomed in City parks, including trimming of trees and shrubs, disposal of unwanted plants, and mowing grass. Maintenance of vegetation, removal of trash, and cleaning of facilities will occur on a regular and timely basis as determined by City staff.*

*Policy 28: The City will make every effort to repair all equipment or items after they have been vandalized within a reasonable time period given budget or staffing constraints.*

*Policy 29: The City will make every effort to repair or replace all playground equipment that becomes broken or otherwise becomes a safety hazard within a reasonable time period given budget or staffing constraints. Upon learning of any defective playground equipment the City may post notice of the a park closure or playground equipment closure until such time as corrective measures can be taken.*

**Objective 9: Coordinate future improvements to park and recreational facilities with residents, property owners, civic groups, City departments, and other agencies.**

*Policy 30: The City encourages volunteerism and public/private partnerships in maintaining and developing future park and recreational facilities. Citizen involvement in all levels of planning and design of park and open space areas is encouraged.*

*Policy 31: The City may create an endowment fund to provide residents an opportunity to make a tax-deductible charitable gift to assist with the maintenance and development of the City's park and recreational facilities.*

*Policy 32: The City will review and update this Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan every five years as a matter of best practice and to maintain eligibility for state and federal park and recreational grant programs.*

## New Pool and Rec Center Update –

Currently we have two studies taking place:

- A. Economic Feasibility and Pro Forma Study – Ballard and King has done most of their preliminary demographic research and has met with our planning team and stakeholders at a kick-off meeting to understand the full scope and potential of this project. I also provided them with a detailed tour of the area along with participation numbers to aid in their research. They are working to complete the study and present information in late June.
- B. Programming Study – MSA is performing the programming study and has had a series of meetings with stakeholders and planning team to develop space needs of the facility.

Both of these studies should be coming together in late June. The basis of these studies is to provide solid information regarding facility space, operating expenses and revenues, staffing, partnerships, and cost. These studies will help serve as business plan and provide stakeholders and potential partners accurate information to aid in the planning of this facility. The Parks and Rec Dept is excited and eager to keep this project moving forward at the same time we making the best possible effort to properly plan for the SUCCESS of this facility. We are beyond thankful for the generosity of the Gussel family to initiate the building of this facility which our community deserves!