

**Parks and Recreation Board
of the City of Onalaska**

Monday, July 27, 2015

1

1 The Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board of the City of Onalaska was called to order at 5:15
2 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 2015. It was noted that the meeting had been announced and a notice
3 posted at City Hall.

4

5 Roll call was taken with the following members present: Ald. Jim Binash, Gretchen Newhouse,
6 Andrea Benco, Brian Udermann, Andrea Vogler, Victor Hill

7

8 Also Present: Parks and Recreation Director Dan Wick, Planner/Zoning Inspector Katie Meyer,
9 Parks Maintenance Supervisor Mark Hanson, Recreation Supervisor Marcus Aumann

10

11 Excused Absence: Sue Peterson

12

13 **Item 2 – Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

14

15 Motion by Andrea Vogler, second by Brian, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as
16 printed and on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

17

18 On voice vote, motion carried.

19

20 **Item 3 – Public Input (Limited to 3 minutes/individual)**

21

22 Victor called for anyone wishing to provide public input.

23

24 **Charles Nick**
25 **1017 Canary Lane**
26 **Onalaska**

27

28 “I’d like to make a recommendation for the budget. I know you’re going to discuss the budget
29 today, but my recommendation is to cement the remaining six golf tees that are on the disc golf
30 course in Rowe Park. Three of the nine tees were cemented when the course was created, and
31 I’m not sure of the date it was created. [I think it either was in] 2011 or 2012. Some of the tees
32 are eroding, so it just seems to me that it would be a good idea to maintain the course and cement
33 the remaining tees. I measured No. 7 and found a cement estimator online, and based on my
34 estimate it would be about 1.6 cubic yards of cement. For six tees it would be less than 10 cubic
35 yards. I don’t know what that costs, but that would be my recommendation – to enhance the
36 park. The city spent some money establishing the course. There’s a lot of play on that course,
37 and I’m a player on that course as well. As I played it I saw the erosion on No. 5 and No. 6. I
38 would also recommend that if it is place in the budget that the tee for No. 5 be relocated closer to
39 the road. I said I don’t know if it’s in the budget. If it’s something that cannot be budgeted for
40 whatever reason, I would be in favor of spearheading some fund drive to obtain money either
41 from the [Onalaska] Enhancement Foundation or the Onalaska Education Foundation. Plus, I

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42 would be a contributor myself.”

43

44 Victor called three times for anyone else wishing to provide public input and closed that portion
45 of the meeting.

46

47 **Consideration and possible action on the following items:**

48

49 **Item 4 – Authorize Clearwater Farms to use adjacent City property as pasture area for**
50 **their animals**

51

52 This item first appeared on the March 23 Parks and Recreation Board agenda, and will be
53 discussed again tonight. Dan referred to a handout included in board members’ agendas that lists
54 items the board would like to see in a proposal prior to rendering a decision. Shari Collas of
55 Clearwater Farms responded to the board’s questions and concerns and provided a certificate of
56 insurance. Andy Speropulos of the Onalaska Jaycees also wrote an email. Dan said there would
57 have to be a change to the Planned Unit Development and that the board will need to decide
58 whether or not to move this item forward. If the Parks and Recreation Board votes to move
59 Clearwater Farms’ request forward, it will go before the Plan Commission, which will determine
60 if this is a substantial change to the PUD. Dan said Land Use and Development Director Brea
61 Grace and Katie told him a public hearing may be held if the Parks and Recreation Board
62 members wish to hold one. Dan noted staff has met with the city’s legal counsel and said a lease
63 would need to be developed since the public would not be able to access the land when the
64 animals are in the pasture area.

65

66 Dan said, “I believe they [Clearwater Farms] have done everything that they’ve been asked for
67 from the board. As I stated, I think the first month that we did this ... I support this. There are a
68 lot of communities doing these things in park areas to help with invasive [species] and the
69 mowing. My opinion and my stance on this have not changed. I still think this is something that
70 is of benefit.”

71

72 Victor asked if input from the public should be taken now or if the board should begin discussing
73 this item.

74

75 Motion by Brian, second by Andrea Vogler, to approve authorization for Clearwater Farms to
76 use adjacent City property as pasture area for their animals.

77

78 Victor invited public input at this time.

79

80 **Ann Berg**
81 **624 Stonebridge Avenue**
82 **Onalaska**

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83
84 “I’ve lived in the neighborhood about 14 years. I’m pretty familiar with the area – the farm, the
85 animals that have come in, the job that Shari has done, and the turnaround that the whole barn
86 has taken since we’ve moved in. You know the property that she’s talking about. It’s tall, it’s
87 weedy. To have the animals go in there, [there would be] no tractor, no gas – just all animal-
88 powered. To have it fenced would keep people from letting their dogs run in there. There’s a lot
89 of dog waste along the sidewalk that doesn’t get picked up even though the bags are put there. I
90 think having everything trimmed down and having it fenced, it comes across as a personal piece
91 of property that I think hopefully people will take more care of that strip of land along the
92 sidewalk there. They’re not going to let their animals run up to the fence and scare the animals.
93 Everybody will be on a leash. It’s getting pretty weedy and pretty tall and becoming an eyesore.
94 From what Shari said, that farmer won’t cut hay in there anymore. ... I support it 100 percent.”

95
96 Shari noted that Clearwater Farms’ female turkey and her chicks had been pulled into the field
97 and killed by coyotes.

98
99 Katie Wellnitz, Clearwater Farms’ Education Coordinator, noted that children who visit the farm
100 see its composting system. Katie said waste is managed in a safe manner and noted that visitors
101 are taught how the marsh is ideal for filtering any runoff from the fields. Katie said the field in
102 question is overgrown and there are deer ticks living in the tall grasses. Katie said, “Just from a
103 safety standpoint for the kids that we’re bringing out to the farm, I would like to see that trimmed
104 down. The cleanup that we do in these fields and putting them into these well-managed compost
105 piles is really helping to eliminate the waste that would come from the animals out there.”

106
107 Shari noted that individuals from the Kane Street Garden in the City of La Crosse utilize the
108 compost and said it is always being utilized and put back into Clearwater Farms. Shari noted
109 that Clearwater Farms has utilized no fertilizer and has used weed control sparingly in the
110 garden. Shari also noted that Clearwater Farms’ animals primarily consume grass.

111
112 Ald. Binash said he believes the public should be informed that this land is not currently being
113 utilized for anything. Ald. Binash said, “If you were to use it for parking because of the weather
114 conditions it’s not usable for that either. I think this would be an excellent idea to go ahead and
115 let Clearwater Farms use this particular area for this reason.”

116
117 Katie said that the board must determine whether or not it wishes to hold a public hearing at the
118 Plan Commission level if it votes to approve this item. Katie also said a lease agreement could
119 easily tie into a Condition of Approval as part of the PUD process.

120
121 Andrea Benco said she was going to propose not holding a public hearing, but she also said she
122 believes a lease needs to be in place because city parkland is being utilized. Andrea Benco said
123 she hopes that Clearwater Farms eventually has enough goats in its herd so that the city may

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124 lease them and have them control the invasive species on the hill. Andrea Benco said, “It seems
125 to me that we’ve been talking about this long enough, and it seems like many of the neighbors in
126 the affected area are already aware of it. I’m just wondering from a cost standpoint if there much
127 benefit to having a public hearing.”

128

129 Victor said he does not think holding a public hearing would be a negative thing from a due
130 diligence standpoint.

131

132 Andrea Benco asked what kind of radius would be needed on the public notice, noting that the
133 city would need a wider notification area than 250 feet.

134

135 Katie noted that the standard radius is 250 feet, but said the Planning Department can look into
136 expanding that distance.

137

138 Shari noted that she has spoken with several residents neighboring Clearwater Farms and said
139 they have told her they will attend a public hearing and speak in support of the request.

140

141 Victor told Shari that she has done her due diligence and said the city now must do its due
142 diligence.

143

144 Dan said he believes holding a public hearing would be wise in the sense that the public will be
145 aware of the city’s intentions. Dan noted that Zone 2 of the PUD is the entire wetland area and
146 said he believes the 250-foot radius will go around the entire Zone 2. All the residents adjacent
147 to the wetland area would be included.

148

149 Andrea Benco said she believes there have been other properties that have not been involved in
150 public hearings. Andrea Benco also said she believes the fencing should inform individuals that
151 the land is owned by the City of Onalaska and leased by Clearwater Farms.

152

153 Victor noted there a motion on the floor and that there should be an amendment to the motion to
154 include a public hearing.

155

156 Ald. Binash said he believes the motion may be restated and include the condition that a lease
157 agreement be reached and a public hearing be held. Ald. Binash said he favors holding a public
158 hearing because the land is public land and a public hearing would give citizens the opportunity
159 to raise objections. Ald. Binash said, “I doubt anybody is going to object to it, but I think it’s a
160 good idea to go ahead and have a public hearing.”

161

162 Andrea Benco asked if the discussion is about changing the PUD or changing the PUD and
163 allowing Clearwater Farms all as one action. Andrea Benco noted that the PUD must be
164 amended before the notion of grazing by Clearwater Farms may be entertained.

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165
166 Dan said, “We’re strictly saying yes or no. The Plan Commission will be making that
167 determination. We could say no to the public hearing. The Plan Commission, based on the
168 determination, could say this is a substantial change and we have to do a [public hearing]. ... The
169 Plan Commission will make the determination. Once we say ‘yea’ or ‘nay’ here, if the Park
170 Board says ‘no, we’re not doing it,’ then it’s a done issue. If it goes to the Plan Commission, the
171 Park Board has washed their hands of it. We have a representative [Sue Peterson] on that
172 committee, but the Park Board has washed their hands. The Plan Commission will make the
173 determination then forward it on to the Council.”

174
175 Gretchen asked Ald. Binash if he wants to hold a public hearing and then have this item return
176 before the Parks and Recreation Board so it may make a decision.

177
178 Ald. Binash said the Parks and Recreation Board is recommending that the Plan Commission
179 hold a public hearing.

180
181 Motion by Andrea Vogler, second by Ald. Binash, to amend the previous motion and
182 recommend both holding a public hearing at the Plan Commission level and establishing a lease
183 agreement between the City of Onalaska and Clearwater Farms.

184
185 Vote on the amendment:

186
187 On voice vote, motion carried.

188
189 Original motion restated:

190
191 To approve authorization for Clearwater Farms to use adjacent City property as pasture area for
192 their animals.

193
194 On voice vote, motion failed, 4-2.

195
196 Dan explained that this item will now be turned over to the Plan Commission.

197
198 Andrea Benco asked if a lease agreement between the city and Clearwater Farms will eliminate
199 the opportunity for parking in the field. Andrea Benco said if this is not the case this item will
200 need to be placed on the August 24 Parks and Recreation Board meeting agenda because she
201 does not believe anyone should be allowed to park in the field.

202
203 Dan noted the field belongs to the city and said there had been an assumption that the field
204 belonged to Clearwater Farms. Dan said the city may impose any restrictions it so chooses.

205

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206 Victor suggested that the lease may include a condition that the field may be utilized for parking
207 for events.

208

209 Andrea Benco said she believes the city must determine whether or not parking is allowed.

210

211 Dan said the city can inform individuals that they are not allowed to park in the field.

212

213 **Item 5 – Request from Tornado Youth Hockey to waive meeting room rental fee at the**
214 **Omni Center**

215

216 Dan noted that board members' packets include a copy of an email from Tornado Youth Hockey
217 President Jamie Dirks.

218

219 Ald. Binash asked if there will be an increase in skating fees for 2016.

220

221 Dan said he has not made such a proposal, but added he believes the board will discuss this topic
222 under Item 7.

223

224 In response to a question by Ald. Binash, Dan said the cost to rent a meeting room is \$45 an
225 hour.

226

227 Ald. Binash asked if another group would utilize the meeting room if Tornado Youth Hockey
228 was not.

229

230 Dan said it is possible.

231

232 Andrea Benco noted the Omni Center is successful in booking meeting rooms.

233

234 In response to a question by Ald. Binash, Dan said he believes Tornado Youth Hockey has been
235 paying the rental fee.

236

237 Ald. Binash said, "I don't see any reason to stop that."

238

239 Victor asked if the board would be setting a precedent by waiving the meeting room fee for
240 Tornado Youth Hockey.

241

242 Dan noted there are two representatives from Tornado Youth Hockey present and suggested that
243 they be allowed to speak.

244

245

246

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247 **Kris Borene**
248 **1809 Snowflake Place**
249 **Onalaska**

250

251 “I’m the treasurer for the Tornado Youth Hockey Association. We currently spend between
252 \$60,000 and \$65,000 on ice time. Our concern with the charge for the meetings is it seems to be
253 – and I do pay those every month – a consistent charge and our meetings are very inconsistent.
254 We have meetings that are a half-hour, and we have meetings that are three hours. It doesn’t
255 matter which length of time we have; we pay the same fee. Yes, ideally with the amount of
256 business and everything we give the Omni Center and the city we think that it would be really
257 nice to have that for no charge. But at least if there was a way to make it what we’re using it for
258 – and maybe there is or isn’t – but that was our topic of discussion for that.”

259

260 Victor asked Kris if she knows at the time how long meetings will last.

261

262 Kris said no.

263

264 Victor noted that Tornado Youth Hockey might book the meeting room for three hours and only
265 utilize it for 30 minutes. Victor pointed out that at that point the Omni Center cannot allow
266 another group to book the room.

267

268 Kris said she understands Victor’s point of view and noted that Tornado Youth Hockey holds
269 meetings on Monday evenings at 6. Kris also noted that she does not see many groups at that
270 time at the Omni Center.

271

272 Andrea Benco noted that the Omni Center’s budget had consistently run at a deficit before
273 starting to show signs of improvement over the last 18 months. Andrea Benco also expressed
274 concern over setting a precedent and said, “If we can’t make it go, then we lose the Omni Center.
275 We have a lot of groups that use it, and one of the things that was quite eye-opening when we
276 took it over was the discrepancy in rates and the discrepancy in freebies that had been
277 historically used and passed out. It seemed like that as a city facility we need to find a way to
278 equalize things. I would like to see equal rates for everybody. I would like to see equal
279 opportunities for, whether it’s rentals or not, I think everybody gets a free room or nobody gets a
280 free room. From a scheduling standpoint, the other thing that was interesting was a lot of times
281 things would get reserved and then not used. And when they weren’t used they didn’t have to
282 pay for them. Once you reserve it, that’s income that we lose, too.”

283

284 **Dianne Pica**
285 **981 Tahoe Drive**
286 **Onalaska**

287

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288 “I’m the fundraising coordinator, and I’m always trying to look for ways for us ... Our budget is
289 very, very tight. And as you know, asking other people for money and fundraising is just getting
290 harder and harder in this day and age. We just thought this might be, since we do spend that
291 amount of money every year, we thought that maybe this would be one slight way you could
292 possibly help us. We only use it [meeting room] once a month. I’ve only lived here a couple of
293 years, but I don’t know that we’ve rented it multiple months. I think it came up in discussion
294 because a while ago – I know you [the city wasn’t] owning it at that point – I don’t think [Rink
295 Management] charged us because we spent so much on ice time.”

296

297 Brian asked how many groups spend approximately the same amount of money for ice time as
298 Tornado Youth Hockey.

299

300 Dan noted that Tornado Youth Hockey utilizes the most amount of ice in the facility. Dan said
301 that based on his records Tornado Youth Hockey used 467 hours of ice time in 2014. The next
302 closest group logged 313 hours of ice time.

303

304 Brian said he would like to see usage statistics on rooms and suggested providing a meeting
305 room for a set amount of time such as 60 to 90 minutes.

306

307 Gretchen suggested offering an incentive based on how much money groups spend.

308

309 Dan said, “The only concern I would have is if we determine the amount of money or the hours
310 used, because we aren’t going to know that. If we set the standard and we get to December 31
311 and we’ve given them that room and they are 10 hours short of what they’re supposed to use, are
312 we going to charge them 10 hours worth of ice time? I like that idea, but then that’s almost more
313 of a contract that we’re saying ‘X group, you’re going to use 500 hours of ice. If you use 250
314 hours we’re going to charge you another 250 hours worth of ice.’ ”

315

316 Andrea Vogler said the board often sees the numbers of the groups utilizing the Omni Center in
317 lump sums. However, Andrea Vogler also pointed out that there are instances where the groups
318 must flex their schedules and said, “Setting a hard line like that will make that very difficult. I
319 would agree with Dan on that.”

320

321 Victor said he believes this should be part of a larger discussion about a policy for the Omni
322 Center and stated he is uncomfortable with approving this item at this time.

323

324 Andrea Benco noted that there still are rate discrepancies as some groups are paying more than
325 other groups.

326

327 Victor reiterated he believes this item is part of a larger discussion.

328

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329 Andrea Benco noted there is a mandate for a zero-budget increase and pointed out there are no
330 increases despite the fact there are increases that come with expenses. Andrea Benco said further
331 cuts would be necessary if groups are not charged.

332

333 Dan referred to sponsorship and noted he hopes to be moving forward on Saturday with new
334 scheduling software. Dan said he is attempting to obtain as much sponsorship for the Omni
335 Center as possible and expressed hope that perhaps the Omni Center and Tornado Youth Hockey
336 can partner together and obtain something from sponsorships.

337

338 Victor said he would be willing to discuss this policy with Dan and determine if there are
339 opportunities to address the inconsistencies. Victor suggested denying the request now with the
340 possibility that it will be revisited in the future.

341

342 Motion by Andrea Vogler, second by Andrea Benco, to deny a request from Tornado Youth
343 Hockey to waive meeting room rental fee at the Omni Center with the understanding there will
344 be further investigation into creating policies that might help meet the needs of customers.

345

346 On voice vote, motion carried.

347

348 **Item 6 – Approve Omni Center flooring for banquet rooms 3 & 4 and hallway between the**
349 **arenas**

350

351 Dan noted that two bids had been received for the project and said Floorcrafters had submitted
352 the low bid at \$35,031.94. The project includes the installation of carpet squares. This the same
353 type of flooring that was installed in the Omni Center entryway.

354

355 Motion by Brian, second by Gretchen, to approve Omni Center flooring for banquet rooms 3 & 4
356 and hallway between the arenas at a cost not to exceed \$35,031.94.

357

358 On voice vote, motion carried.

359

360 **Item 7 – Presentation of Park and Recreation 2016 Budget**

361

362 Dan noted there is a zero-percent increase to the line item budget. There also are no increases in
363 full-time personnel, and there is a zero-percent increase on Equipment Replacement funding as
364 estimated. Dan noted the effect of potential changes to FSLA has not been included in the
365 budget. The federal labor law is looking into changing the minimum salary an employee may
366 earn, and there are six City of Onalaska employees – four of whom work in the Parks and
367 Recreation Department – who might be affected. Dan said any changes to FSLA would take
368 effect January 1, 2016, and it then would become necessary to bring the budget back before the
369 board. The budget as presented will be satisfactory if no action is taken. Dan said a

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370 determination hopefully would be made by early September. Dan noted that there is no proposal
371 to increase ice rates in 2016 and said Victor's assistance will be beneficial. Dan said a policy
372 decision that ties into ice rates is skate sharpening. Dan expressed frustration over groups that
373 bring in skate sharpeners even though an employee is available to sharpen skates in the pro shop.
374 Dan said he believes the board must determine if outside groups will be allowed to bring in skate
375 sharpeners and if so, if they will be charged for doing so. Dan noted there are areas of the Omni
376 Center where skate sharpening has occurred and the walls have been soiled as a result.

377
378 Andrea Benco said, "I would like to see us take some step on the rates because all those meetings
379 we had with all those groups for the year before. We talked about the inequities that were there,
380 and if we want to do small increases and bringing these things closer together, I think we need to
381 do something this year. Even if you make both arenas the same price, that would be one step
382 towards unifying this crazy price structure. Then when we get down to figuring out what we're
383 really going to do so we don't have to make a huge leap that's going to send people looking for
384 other alternatives."

385
386 Dan noted that there are 10 primary users at the Omni Center. Seven of these groups are paying
387 \$134.50 in Arena No. 1 and \$129.50 in Arena No. 2. Tornado Youth Hockey and Coulee Region
388 Girls both pay \$125 for Arena No. 1 and \$120 for Arena No. 2. The fall/winter men's league
389 pays \$125 for both Arena No. 1 and Arena No. 2. Dan noted that the user fees for both Tornado
390 Youth Hockey the Coulee Region Girls increased last year from \$120 for Arena No. 1 and \$115
391 for Arena No. 2. Dan acknowledged there is a disparity between the rinks. For example, Arena
392 No. 1 has greater seating capacity (1,200) than Arena No. 2 (300). However, both sheets of ice
393 are the same. Dan asked if there should be a difference in fees charged for the two arenas.

394
395 In response to a question by Andrea Benco, Dan said all the user groups would prefer to utilize
396 Arena No. 1, but added not every group can be accommodated. Dan noted the only times games
397 are played in Arena No. 2 is if games already are taking place in Arena No. 1.

398
399 Dan said, "We can do whatever this board would want. But as we discuss policies, how are we
400 going to move forward? How many more requests are we going to get to not pay for this
401 because they do this?"

402
403 Andrea Benco noted that each user group stated they wanted something for free because they
404 believed they were the best group. However, Andrea Benco also noted that their numbers are
405 "rising and falling."

406
407 Victor said it is crucial to maintain level of service and stated, "Whatever price it is to maintain
408 level of service is what you have to try to get to."

409
410 Andrea Benco noted that significant improvements had been made at the user groups' request to

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411 meet their needs.

412

413 Dan noted that the new chiller system costs \$570,000 and the new boards cost \$130,000 and said
414 “It [raising rates] is a very, very politically motivated decision.”

415

416 Gretchen said she believes informing the user groups about the improvements to the Omni
417 Center would be educational. Gretchen added she is more willing to pay for a service if she
418 knows an organization is investing in whatever she is utilizing.

419

420 Dan presented the 2016 budget:

421

422 **Parks**

423

424 **Personnel Wages**

425

- 426 • Overtime for full-time staff remains unchanged at \$2,000.
- 427 • Temporary wages for seasonal maintenance were reduced by \$513 to \$33,799.
- 428 • 2016 wages will be \$33,799, compared to \$34,312 in 2015.

429

430 **Line Item**

431

- 432 • There will be increases for water/sewer (\$1,103), subscriptions & dues (\$300),
433 certifications & licenses (\$150), buildings & grounds (\$1,500), vehicle maintenance &
434 repair (\$500), and vehicle main/repair (\$500).
- 435 • There will be decreases to fire contractual (\$75), seminars, conference & travel (\$50),
436 regular fuel (\$500), off-road fuel (\$900), and tree/brush (\$1,000).
- 437 • 2016 park line item is \$90,529, compared to \$90,020 in 2015. The seasonal labor
438 account has been reduced to cover the increases.

439

440 **Equipment Replacement**

441

- 442 • Replace Truck No. 408, replace lawnmower, sealcoat Van Riper Park parking lot, replace
443 rollup door at Community Park Shelter
- 444 • 2016 Equipment Replacement total is \$64,026, compared to \$32,925 in 2015.

445

446 Dan noted that the city has started putting some vehicles in the Capital Improvements Budget,
447 which is paid for over 20 years. Dan noted a new truck and plow would cost approximately
448 \$31,000 and said he is concerned that the department would be down to zero funding if this item
449 either is removed or transferred to the 2016 CIB. Dan said if his department is stuck at a zero-
450 percent increase each year, there will not be sufficient funding for projects. Dan said, “I felt the
451 need that if they decide to move this to Capital Improvement I needed to have projects in there

Reviewed 7/30/15 by Dan Wick

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452 that are definitely 'need' items that we need this year, and that we can put in there and try to
453 move forward. I don't suspect that we're going to get all of these items, but we have to put
454 ourselves in a situation if they happen to say 'We're going to move this one to the Capital
455 Improvement' that we're in a position that we can maintain where we have been in the past. If
456 you take the truck out of there we're at \$32,925 to get us to where we need to be into the future."

457

458 **Recreation**

459

460 **Personnel**

461

- 462 • Increase of \$1,839 in permanent part-time to cover pay increases
- 463 • Decrease of \$1,931 in temporary wages
- 464 • 2016 Personnel total of \$91,561, compared to \$91,662 in 2015

465

466 **Line Item**

467

- 468 • There will be an increase in phone/internet/cable (\$360)
- 469 • There will be a decrease to other contractual (\$500)
- 470 • 2016 line item total of \$49,825, compared to \$49,865 in 2015

471

472 **Aquatic Center**

473

474 **Personnel**

475

- 476 • 2016 total will be \$80,321, compared to \$82,326 in 2015

477

478 **Line Item**

479

- 480 • There will be an increase in water/sewer (\$392).
- 481 • There will be decreases to telephone (\$40) and other contractual services (\$372).
- 482 • 2016 line item total is \$60,777, compared to \$60,797 in 2015

483

484 **Equipment Replacement**

485

- 486 • Water slide reconditioning, parking lot sealcoating, umbrella replacement
- 487 • 2016 equipment replacement total is \$17,697, compared to \$17,700 in 2015

488

489 **Revenue**

490

- 491 • Non-profit vending (\$1,200), park facility rental (\$11,000), recreation fees (\$61,378),

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492 recreation fees (18 and up) (\$13,395), swimming pool fees (\$63,495), swimming lessons
493 (\$7,680), Aquatic Center miscellaneous (\$2,500), Aquatic Center concessions (\$28,000).

494

495 **City Hall**

496

497 **Personnel**

498

- 499 • Increase of \$156 in permanent part-time wages
- 500 • Increase of \$96 in temporary wages
- 501 • 2016 personnel is \$13,335, compared to \$13,083 in 2015

502

503 **Line Item**

504

- 505 • Increases to HVAC contractual (\$64), water/sewer (\$687), operating supplies (\$850),
506 building & grounds repairs (\$1,075)
- 507 • Decrease to telephone, internet & cable (\$2,986)
- 508 • 2016 line item is \$94,324, compared to \$94,634 in 2015

509

510 **Equipment Replacement**

511

- 512 • Overhead door spring replacement (minimum of six), water fountain bottle fill stations
- 513 • 2016 equipment replacement total is \$8,197, compared to \$9,060 in 2015

514

515 **Library**

516

517 **Personnel**

518

- 519 • Increase of \$782 in permanent part-time wages
- 520 • 2016 personnel total of \$10,904, compared to \$10,122 in 2015

521

522 **Line Item**

523

- 524 • Increases in HVAC contractual (\$64), water/sewer (\$268) and buildings/grounds (\$225)
- 525 • Decreases to equipment rental (\$250), other contractual (\$910) and electrical services
526 (\$83)
- 527 • 2016 line item total is \$44,740, compared to \$45,526 in 2015

528

529 **Equipment Replacement**

530

- 531 • Parking lot sealcoating, re-key building, wall-hanging units in meeting rooms

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- 532 • 2016 total is \$6,630, compared to \$0 in 2015

533

534 **Special Projects/Park Fund**

535

536 **Park Fund**

537

- 538 • \$35,000 allocated for Nathan Hills playground, \$20,000 allocated for Oak Park pickleball
539 court construction

540

541 Dan noted that up to 30 individuals are playing pickleball three times a week, and also noted
542 there are two tennis courts at Oak Park that are seldom utilized. Dan said he would like to
543 resurface these courts and create four or six pickleball courts.

544

545 **Omni Center**

546

547 Dan reiterated he has not proposed any changes to the ice rates, but did note that he believes the
548 city possibly should partner with the Onalaska High School boys and girls hockey teams. Dan
549 acknowledged that several questions need to be answered regarding a possible rate increase, and
550 he also acknowledged that the user groups will not be happy about a rate increase. However,
551 Dan said, "It's the cost of doing business." Dan also questioned whether there is enough usage
552 to sustain summer ice, but he also said deciding to eliminate summer ice now would be
553 premature. Dan said, "I think 2016 is going to be a year that we have to really focus on. ... But
554 we're continuing to work to try to see what we can do."

555

556 Victor asked Dan if he has researched similarly sized venues and their rates.

557

558 Dan said yes, but also said the difficulty is determining what the market withstands. Dan noted
559 there are rinks in La Crosse, Winona, La Crescent, West Salem, Sparta and Tomah and said the
560 Omni Center is one of the highest charging facilities in the area. Dan cautioned that potential
561 users will choose another facility if the gap widens.

562

563 Victor asked Dan if he has researched other parts of the country with similar demographics.

564

565 Dan cited the City of Eau Claire as an example and noted there is a \$155 per hour charge there.

566

567 Andrea Vogler suggested charging the same rate for Arena No. 1 and Arena No. 2 for practice
568 time, and also suggested charging a reduced rate to teams that must play their games in Arena
569 No. 2.

570

571 Brian said he favors charging the same rate for both arenas and communicating with the user
572 groups prior to any rate changes.

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573

574 Victor expressed frustration over skates being sharpened outside the pro shop.

575

576 Dan noted that the Onalaska School District had purchased skate sharpeners for the Onalaska
577 High School boys and girls hockey teams and asked if perhaps players should be asked to
578 sharpen their skates outside.

579

580 Victor noted that the Omni Center must be maintained and suggested telling a user group that
581 while there will be a rate decrease there will be an extra cost if a team chooses to sharpen its
582 skates in the building.

583

584 Dan said if he were to suggest a rate increase he either would suggest attempting to charge the
585 same amount for both rinks or increasing the rates of the lower-paying groups.

586

587 Victor suggested that perhaps a step perspective, meaning some user groups would see an
588 increase while others would see a decrease, might be an option.

589

590 Andrea Benco noted that the rates had been established by a private enterprise and said, "Now
591 we're doing city dollars and tax dollars and everybody should be equal in the eyes of the city,
592 except perhaps the school district because we have this reciprocity of things. We use their
593 gymnasiums. They use our ice."

594

595 Dan noted that he must submit his budget by Friday and said he can adjust the user rates if the
596 board directs him to do so. Dan reiterated that he did not propose a rate increase.

597

598 Andrea Benco reiterated that she believes there should be a rate adjustment for 2016 and said,
599 "This is nothing that should be a surprise to any of the groups. ... They helped us figure out what
600 to do to the building, and we talked with them about the realities of the pricing. It should not be
601 a surprise if things go up or down. It shouldn't be a blindside to them. What would be
602 unfortunate is the groups that we've raised a little bit would be the only groups that might raise
603 again. That's the part that I struggle with."

604

605 Andrea Benco suggested charging the same rate across all user groups for both Arena No. 1 and
606 Arena No. 2. Andrea Benco said, "Then we would have only one price per user group that we
607 have to figure out how to bring together in years to come. Or we take the lowest rate up there
608 and we bump it up to the rink rate. It doesn't seem fair to make one group pay the same rate for
609 both rinks and not make all groups pay the same rate. I don't think we're ready to pick one rate
610 for all groups, but maybe we are. We can average them and see what it did to the budget."

611

612 In response to a question by Dan, Andrea Benco said the minimum rate at the Omni Center
613 would be \$125 for both rinks. Andrea Benco also initially suggested that perhaps there could be

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614 two rates – \$125 and \$129.50. However, she then pointed out that while one group’s rate would
615 be increased, another group’s rate would be lowered and suggested charging all user groups the
616 Arena No. 1 price for everything.

617

618 Motion by Brian, second by Andrea Benco, for the Parks and Recreation Board to create
619 standardized pricing for Arena No. 1 and Arena No. 2 at the Omni Center.

620

621 Brian said he would opt for Arena No. 1 pricing.

622

623 For clarification, Dan asked if the motion states it does not matter which rink a user group
624 utilizes and that, for example, the Onalaska High School boys and girls hockey teams will pay
625 \$134.50 to utilize either Arena No. 1 or Arena No. 2.

626

627 Andrea Benco said this is ice pricing and that there will be one price per team for whichever
628 arena they utilize on a given day.

629

630 On voice vote, motion carried.

631

632 Andrea Benco suggested contacting the user groups via a letter explaining there will be a rate
633 increase and why it is being done.

634

635 Dan suggested staying with this increase going forward for 2016. Dan said it appears that the
636 user group rates either will be \$140, \$134.50 or \$125.

637

638 Victor said that the rates will be stabilized and perhaps certain concessions may be made without
639 making exceptions for one group over another.

640

641 **Revenue**

642

- 643 • Increases for non-taxable ice (\$15,404), taxable arena rental (\$2,000), space rental
644 (\$35,000), rental income supplies (\$500), shelter rental nontax (\$750), nontaxable
645 admission (\$2,000), taxable meeting room (\$500), and rental income city (\$13,000)
- 646 • Decreases to taxable ice (\$21,500), concessions (\$10,000), taxable admission (\$5,000)
647 and sponsorship (\$5,000)
- 648 • 2016 revenue totals \$616,535, compared to \$551,576 in 2015

649

650 **Personnel**

651

- 652 • Permanent part-time decreased by 300 hours (\$11,025).
- 653 • No changes to temporary wages (\$63,450)
- 654 • 2016 personnel totals \$80,172, compared to \$84,129 in 2015. Dan noted the \$80,172 will
655 change as an enterprise fund.

Reviewed 7/30/15 by Dan Wick

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656

657 **Line Item**

658

- 659 • Increases for water/sewer (\$441), software maintenance (\$1,240), operating supplies
660 (\$500), building & grounds (\$500)
- 661 • Decreases for other contractual services (\$3,000), concession supplies (\$6,000), vending
662 supplies (\$1,300), equipment maintenance (\$700), fire & boiler insurance (\$1,098) and
663 CVMIC insurance (\$8,000)
- 664 • 2016 total line item is \$349,409, compared to \$362,666 in 2015

665

666 Dan noted there is no Equipment Replacement budget for the Omni Center because the facility is
667 not in a situation where it is making a profit to be able to use these funds for equipment
668 replacement. Equipment replacement items are moved to the CIB. Dan said he has a significant
669 list of items for the 2016 CIB that the board will discuss at its August 24 meeting.

670

671 Motion by Andrea Benco, second by Gretchen, to approve the 2016 Parks and Recreation Budget
672 with the changes discussed this evening.

673

674 On voice vote, motion carried.

675

676 **Item 8 – Update on Omni Center Chiller Replacement project**

677

678 Dan reported that the old chiller has been removed and that Minnesota Ice has given him a
679 delivery date of early September. Substantial completion is slated to be October 9. The new
680 boards may be installed on October 12, and a hockey tournament is scheduled for October 23.
681 Dan noted he is running the change orders and projects through the Board of Public Works. One
682 of the change orders coming forward is related to a subcontractor who omitted \$22,000 worth of
683 water heaters. Dan said this will go before the Common Council for recommendation.

684

685 **Item 9 – Report from Onalaska Enhancement Foundation**

686

687 Dan noted the OEF had met on July 8 and said the OEF is working on establishing a fee structure
688 for the groups that utilize it.

689

690 **Item 10 – Report from Great River Landing Committee**

691

692 Victor said he had attended the last Great River Landing Committee meeting, which he described
693 as informational.

694

695 Ald. Binash noted there ultimately will be public meetings regarding the project. Ald. Binash
696 also noted that three bonding options have been discussed.

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697

698

Item 11 – Director’s Report

699

700

a. Parks Update

701

702 Mark reported the following:

703

704

- Mowing operations and shelter maintenance continue.
- There were two softball tournaments held last weekend at the Omni Center.
- Two-hundred forty yards of wood chips will be put down at city playgrounds.
- Wild parsnip removal continues.
- A college group kayaked last weekend at the waterfront.

705

706

707

708

709

b. Recreation Update

710

711

712

Dan reported the following:

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716

717

718

719

c. Aquatic Center Update

720

721

Marcus reported the following:

722

723

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725

726

727

d. Omni Center Update

728

Dan reported the following:

729

730

731

732

733

734

735

736

- Staff is working on MaxGalaxy, the new scheduling software.
- There have been open gymnasiums and open skating times.
- A roller derby was held last weekend. The Omni Center also hosted a hockey program and a high school camp last weekend.

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19

737 **Adjournment**

738

739 Motion by Andrea Benco, second by Gretchen, to adjourn at 7:11 p.m.

740

741 On voice vote, motion carried.

742

743

744 Recorded By:

745

746 Kirk Bey