

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

Monday, June 27, 2016

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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, June 27, 2016. It was noted that the meeting had been announced and a notice
3 posted at City Hall.

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5 Roll call was taken with the following members present: Ald. Jim Binash, Gretchen Newhouse,
6 Andrea Benco, Brian Udermann, Ohbe Johnson. Victor Hill arrived with the meeting in
7 progress.

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9 Also Present: Parks and Recreation Director Dan Wick, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Mark
10 Hanson, Buildings Manager Brian Babiash

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12 Excused Absence: Andrea Vogler

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

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

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19 On voice vote, motion carried, with one abstention.

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

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23 Andrea called for anyone wishing to provide public input.

24

25 **Gretchen Newhouse**

26 **635 Meier Lane**

27 **Onalaska**

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29 Gretchen complimented “Celebrate Onalaska,” which was held June 24-26. Gretchen also noted
30 she had spoken to some residents and said, “One thing that I brought to the board before was
31 about the bathrooms being open, especially those at Rowe Park when there aren’t even activities
32 over in that area.” Gretchen noted she recently had gone to a park on the north side during the
33 day and the restrooms were “wide open.” Gretchen said, “I know there have been issues or
34 challenges with vandalism at some of the different park facilities. But as a mom with three little
35 ones, I think it’s something to consider. I think that the populations we want to reach out to, they
36 need a bathroom. The people who need it most aren’t going to go because it’s a pain when you
37 have three little kids you’re trying to take to the bathroom.” Gretchen said she also wanted to
38 address the times of summer athletic contests, noting that several parents had raised concerns to
39 her about games finishing late in the evening. Gretchen said, “I’m thinking that you might be
40 trying to accommodate the parents who are working, but [several] parents [have asked me],
41 ‘Why are the games and the practices so late at night?’ and, ‘Why are they starting later, and why

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42 are they ending later?’ ” Gretchen also said residents have expressed concern over the setup of
43 the pickleball courts and asked if perhaps there could be a rental program for the equipment.
44 Gretchen said is attempting to find and purchase pickleball equipment, and she also suggested
45 that perhaps the city could borrow equipment from Onalaska High School. Gretchen also noted
46 that several residents in the neighborhood were not given any information regarding the
47 pickleball courts.

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49 **Jim Binash, First District Alderperson**
50 **700 Westwood Drive**
51 **Onalaska**

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53 Ald. Binash noted he had received an email from Elizabeth Ramsey regarding “Cycling Without
54 Aging” and said Elizabeth would like this topic included on a future Parks and Recreation Board
55 meeting agenda. Ald. Binash said Elizabeth is fully licensed to work with the aging and is
56 willing to provide a demonstration to the board.

57

58 Andrea called three times for anyone else wishing to provide public input and closed that portion
59 of the meeting.

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

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63 **Item 4 – Report from La Crosse County Bluffland Steering Committee**

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65 Dan said he has not received any updates following Charlie Handy’s presentation to the board at
66 its June 13 meeting.

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68 Andrea said the La Crosse Area Planning Committee had met and requested more information
69 and changes regarding the financing of the project.

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71 **Item 5 – Report from Onalaska Enhancement Foundation**

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73 Dan said it appears that “Celebrate Onalaska” had been a success and noted that the OEF will
74 meet again on July 13.

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76 **Item 6 – Report from Great River Landing Committee**

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78 Ald. Binash noted that the archaeological costs have nearly tripled.

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80 **Item 7 – Director’s Report**

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82 **a. Parks Update**

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84 Mark reported the following:

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- 86 • Staff is mowing, cleaning, and repairing shelters.
- 87 • “The Rugged Run” was held as part of “Celebrate Onalaska.”
- 88 • Two of the restrooms located at Rowe Park are open 24 hours a day, as are the restrooms
89 located at the waterfront. The restrooms located at the dog park automatically lock their
90 doors at 11 p.m.
- 91 • New signage is planned for the Oak Park pickleball court.

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93 Dan noted there is pickleball equipment for rent at the Parks and Recreation Department’s front
94 counter.

95

96 Mark said groups who wish to utilize a park may request that the restrooms be opened.

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98 **b. Recreation Update**

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100 Dan reported the following:

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- 102 • Approximately 140 individuals had participated in “The Rugged Run.”
- 103 • The first track and field meet was held June 24 in Holmen. Onalaska will host a meet on
104 July 15.
- 105 • A youth softball tournament and “Ballapalooza” will be held in late July.
- 106 • A high school hockey tournament will be held July 16-17.

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108 **c. Aquatic Center Update**

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110 Dan said everything has been going well.

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112 **d. Omni Center Update**

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114 Brian Babiash reported the following:

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- 116 • The Blue Stars Drum & Bugle Corps had utilized the facility for one week.
- 117 • Staff set up for “Celebrate Onalaska,” a Mayo Clinic picnic that served 500 individuals as
118 well as a 15-team volleyball tournament.
- 119 • There was a diesel fuel leak from the bus company serving the Blue Stars.

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121 Dan said Fahrner Asphalt Sealers will determine what options the city has regarding the diesel
122 fuel that was spilled in the parking lot, which is scheduled to be seal-coated.

123

Reviewed 6/28/16 by Dan Wick

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124 **Item 8 – Closed Session**

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126 To consider a motion to convene in Closed Session under Section 19.85(1)(e) of the Wisconsin
127 Statutes for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the
128 investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or
129 bargaining reasons require a closed session:

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- 131 • Tornado Youth Hockey Contract

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133 If any action is required in Open Session, as the result of the Closed Session, the Board will
134 reconvene in Open Session to take the necessary action and/or continue on with the printed
135 agenda.

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137 Motion by Brian Udermann, second by Gretchen, to convene in Closed Session.

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139 On roll call vote: Ald. Jim Binash – aye, Gretchen Newhouse – aye, Andrea Benco – aye, Brian
140 Udermann – aye, Victor Hill – aye, Ohbe Johnson – aye. In Closed Session.

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142

143 Recorded by:

144

145 Kirk Bey