

CITY OF PRESCOTT, WISCONSIN
JUNE 29, 2022, PARKS, AND PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the Parks, and Public Property Committee was held, June 29, 2022, Municipal Building, 800 Borner Street, Prescott, WI 54021.

Call to Order: Committee Member Bailey Ruona called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. Members present were John Peterson, Bailey Ruona, and Pat Knox. City Administrator Matt Wolf, Public Works Director Mike Kinneman, and Planner Carter Hayes represented staff. Members of the public included Brady Randolph and Chuck Block of the CAB Company, as well as Israel Haas from The Great River Road Visitor and Learning Center.

1. Approve Minutes for May 16, 2022.

Ruona motioned to approve the minutes for May 16, 2022, Peterson seconded, motion passed without a negative voice vote. (3-to-0)

2. Park Sign Approvals: Riverfront Signs, Non-motorized Boat Launch

At the April 18, 2022, meeting the Parks and Public Property Committee approved signs for the downtown Riverfront Project. With the Riverfront Phase 1 bids being lower than originally planned, a savings of \$79,083 from the original estimate is expected. It was proposed that if the committee would like to move forward with the signs that the savings used from the riverfront project be used to pay for the signs out of TID #4. The committee approved that by a vote of 2-to-0. The committee since that time has requested that a sign be put together for the Non-Motorized Boat Launch.

City Administrator Wolf presented information on the Parks Sign Approval. Committee member Ruona mentioned “No Glass” should be mentioned on the Prescott Beach sign. It was discussed that “No Pets Allowed” should be added to the sign as well, but a cross examination with the city ordinances will be required to determine if the rule can be enacted. “No Littering” was also placed under question, the more blanketing statement “Leave No Trace” was decided upon by the committee members.

Committee member Ruona motioned to move the matter to council, Knox seconded. Motion passed without a negative voice (3-0).

3. Skate Park Removal Request

The City of Prescott Skate Park located next to the well house at 769 Dexter Street is deteriorating and keeps experiencing issues of vandalism. Staff would like to discuss with the Committee the option of removing the skate park and considering developing a future plan for the park at a later date.

City Administrator Wolf presented the information regarding the request to remove the skate park. It was met with general sentiment from the committee that the skate park is in disrepair and should be removed.

Committee Member Knox motioned to approve the removal request, Ruona seconded. Motion passed without a negative voice (3-0).

4. Boat Launch Discussion

The City of Prescott has allocated \$125,000 for the development of a Boat Launch and Fishing Pier in the 2022 Budget through TIF #4 funds. Cedar Corporation worked with River City Welding to design a preliminary plan set to submit to the DNR and Army Corps of Engineers for approval.

City Administrator Wolf presented information regarding the boat launch dock and fishing pier. City Administrator Wolf expressed that the dock be reduced in size (from 8' wide by 40' length to 6' wide by 40' length) to circumvent the US Army Corps of Engineers approval process and proceed with the WDNR approval process for smaller structures.

Committee Member Ruona motioned to move forward with resizing the boat launch dock, Knox seconded. Motion passed without a negative voice (3-0).

5. Public Comments

Brady Randolph and Chuck Block representing the CAB Company attended the meeting to discuss the water utility bill for Fire Hall Field. Brady Randolph stated that the CAB Company organizes 80+ games per year at Fire Hall Field and an estimated 30,000 people travel through Prescott to attend games, creating local business activity for Prescott. Chuck Block of the CAB Company stated 60 of the 80 games are played by baseball clubs not associated with the School District, and rather with other organizations throughout the city. Chuck Block expressed the CAB Company's desire for the city to contribute to the utility payments for the reasons stated above.

According to the CAB Company, in years prior, the City of Prescott has granted an exemption for water usage which varied from 500,000 to 1 million gallons (usage over the amount was billable). It is estimated that the CAB Company uses 800,000 gallons of water for field irrigation.

Committee Member Ruona questioned whether the School District should have stake, as Fire Hall Field is owned by Prescott School District. The CAB Company had signed a lease in 2019 that makes them responsible for utility bills associated with field operations. Committee Member Ruona expressed the complications of the situation and potentially creating a memorandum of understanding with the non-profit will be difficult for that reason.

The Committee expressed to explore multiple avenues of action for assisting the CAB Company, including the CAB Company reaching out for grants. The Committee also expressed that water bill exemptions are no longer a common City practice.

6. Other Business

There have been numerous reported complaints about the width of Front Street during the Riverfront Project construction. At its current state, parking has been a crude undertaking due to the road being in construction and the lack of striped parking spaces. It was stated that most vehicles cannot fully approach the curb due to the construction, leaving vehicles to sit out further into the roadway. City engineers expect the parking predicament to solve itself once the spots become striped, and citizens return to parking in a more organized manner.

An alternative plan of parallel parking was presented. The drawbacks of the plan included losing 6 total spaces for the downtown, and a safety issue between pedestrians and vehicle doors opening over the sidewalks.

Committee members explored the idea of moving forward with perpendicular parking, although nothing was decided upon because striping will not occur until the month of September.

7. Adjourn

Ruona/Knox motion to adjourn passed, without a negative voice vote at 6:31 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Carter Hayes

Carter Hayes
Planner