

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2010 - 6:30PM
CITY HALL BUILDING, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Council President Krause called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Hartz, Mott, Marsala, Kehoe, Fesenmaier, Krohn, Tolar, and Krause. Also present: Administrator Jordan.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderman Mott.

Hartz/Mott motion for approval of Minutes from August 2, 2010 Committee of the Whole Meeting as distributed. Unanimously carried.

Comments from the public as allowed by Wis. Stats. §19.84(2), except for public hearing items. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes.

Ray Ames, 603 Center Street, addressed the Committee to comment on the proposed plans for Flat Iron Park. He stated his opinion that green space in the community should be protected as much as possible, adding that the City should use caution in approaching any plans for building in the existing park area so as not to encroach on the already-limited amount of green space. He suggested that proposed sidewalk along the east side of the park was unnecessary. Mr. Ames also commented on the restoration of the gazebo structure at the south end of the park, stating that it seemed that the only portion of the gazebo in need of significant attention was the floor. He further addressed the question of constructing a stage area versus a pad, cautioning that more space would be needed for a stage because of the requirements for a safety buffer area between the stage and the seating areas. He stated that the pad would be preferable because it would require less space and would be more suitable for multiple uses than a stage.

Vern Magee, 1120 Mobile Street, addressed the Committee as a representative from a neighborhood group with concerns about the Park Row and Pleasant Street area. She noted that this group had been meeting for over two years and had invited representatives from the City to participate in their discussions. The group was coming before the Committee to ask for its assistance in ensuring that local ordinances were enforced by City officials or, in the absence of any existing ordinances, that appropriate ordinances be enacted to address the issues in this neighborhood. Mrs. Magee stated that residents should not have to live in an area in which problems continued to persist as a result of landlords who neglect to maintain their properties. She suggested that these issues were detrimental to the property values of the homes in that area, and issued a plea to the Committee members to listen to the concerns voiced by these residents.

Jennifer Ott Wilson, 1129 Pleasant Street, discussed the activities of the neighborhood watch committee that had been formed to address issues in the Park Row-Pleasant Street-Marshall Street area. She noted that the City Police Department had provided significant support to the group in its efforts to target and reduce criminal activities in the neighborhood. She stated that the City has a beautiful downtown area, and asked the Committee to work with these groups to ensure that Lake Geneva would have beautiful neighborhood areas as well. She stressed that residents should have a right to live in a safe and clean neighborhood, adding that the neighborhood watch committee would greatly appreciate any assistance and support that the Council could provide in helping them meet those standards. Mrs. Wilson then distributed photographs of various properties in her neighborhood to provide examples of the type of code enforcement issues facing the residents of that area.

Frank Huml, 1124 Park Row, addressed the Committee to discuss the proposed roundabouts in the Flat Iron Park plan. He stated that roundabouts would not be appropriate in these areas because of a lack of sufficient space at the intersections of Wrigley and Broad and Wrigley and Center.

Barry Greene, 1213 Park Row, spoke in support of the neighborhood watch committee. He also voiced concerns about the state of sidewalks in the City, noting that there were places where sidewalks ended mid-block or were not properly ramped to accommodate wheelchairs or bicycles. Noting that the City had beautification plans for the downtown area and not for neighborhood areas, he suggested that there was an appearance that the City was more concerned about providing services for visitors and tourists than for its taxpaying citizens.

Mary Weeden addressed the Committee as the founder of the neighborhood watch group, adding that she was very grateful for the support and efforts of the group members in making the Pleasant Street area a better place to live. She stated that the role of the Common Council was to represent the citizens of the City in the decision-making process. She noted that Lake Geneva offers a great quality of life; however, that quality should be extended to all residents of the City. She reported that there were a high number of rental properties in her neighborhood and, while there were several landlords who took care of their properties, many of the problems in the area were the result of those landlords who neglected maintenance of their properties. She asked the Council to review the City ordinances that deal with maintenance of rental properties and to correct the current deficiencies of those ordinances so they could be appropriately enforced. Ms. Weeden commended the Police Department for its response and also acknowledged the aldermen who had been supportive of the group and attended its meetings. She further described some of the issues in the neighborhood, including dilapidated buildings, roaches, and abandoned vehicles. She stressed the importance of having City officials to enforce the appropriate codes, suggesting that the City might need to revisit the part-time status of its code enforcement officer. She added that the Common Council had a moral obligation to ensure that all residents were treated equally.

Presentation on proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge (Aldermen Krohn & Fesenmaier)

Ed Collins and Lenore Beyer-Clow delivered a presentation on the proposal before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to site a national wildlife refuge in the area of southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Mr. Collins discussed the history and purpose of wildlife refuges in the United States. He stated that this area was a special place in terms of the resources available and the geographical features of the glacial terrain. He further discussed the biological significance of the region and the importance of protecting the endangered wildlife and natural resources of southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

Ms. Beyer-Clow noted that the proposed Hackmatack refuge would not only provide opportunities for education and leisure, but also the potential for economic development. She stressed the importance of having a natural wildlife area within a reasonable commuting distance from the major metropolitan areas of Chicago and Milwaukee. She reported that studies had indicated that a significant number of people in the Wisconsin and Illinois region were involved in fishing, hunting and wildlife watching activities. There were also several multiple-use recreational trails in the area of which visitors would be able to take advantage. A natural wildlife refuge would allow area communities to take advantage of the potential for millions of dollars to be infused into the local economy by additional visitors through the refuge. Ms. Beyer-Clow also stated that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be creating a refuge boundary that would ultimately be expected to include 10,000 to 20,000 acres that would include private lands. These private lands within the refuge boundary would not be subject to any special restrictions as a result of their inclusion in the refuge area. She reported that the USFWS would continue the process with studies and analysis of the area in terms of the overall project goals. A series of public informational meetings would also be conducted to educate the residents and provide feedback opportunities on the proposed project. She noted that one such open house meeting was scheduled for October 21 at Lake Geneva City Hall, from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. Residents would also be able to obtain more information about the project and submit comments through the Hackmatack website. The information about the open house would be posted on the City's website.

Revised Design Plan for Flat Iron Park, including Presentation from Beautification Committee

Grace Eckland addressed the Committee to provide a presentation of the revised plan for the improvement of Flat Iron Park, noting that this revision was designed to address many of the comments and concerns that had been expressed by the Council and the public in response to the initial plan. She stressed that the Beautification Committee felt very strongly about the importance of protecting the City's green space and lakefront views and that the careful consideration had been given during the plan design to situating proposed features such that these views would not be obstructed. Ms. Eckland noted that the proposed roundabout at Wrigley and Broad had been eliminated from the revised plan; however the plan still reflected

the possibility of a roundabout at the intersection of Wrigley and Center, at the southern end of the park. The Committee had felt that this item needed additional study to determine potential advantages or disadvantages before any final decision should be made on the roundabout. The plan also maintained the proposed directional sidewalks to address potential safety issues for people crossing the park space, and provided for a new gazebo to be located in the ceremonial space. It was believed that the existing gazebo was not salvageable and the present location was too close to traffic areas. Plans also included the addition of a splash water feature, stage area with a backdrop of pillars to complement those at the Riviera, and additional plantings to enhance the beauty of the park and its features. The plan also suggested the addition of rubber speed humps to control the speed of traffic on the streets in the vicinity of the park. Ms. Eckland stressed that the beautification of Flat Iron Park was not simply geared toward tourists, but was also for the benefit of the citizens of Lake Geneva. Following the presentation, feedback was solicited from the aldermen.

Alderman Tolar stated that most of the citizens who had contacted him had expressed a preference for maintaining the existing green space in the park without the addition of any of the proposed features aside from the gazebo. Alderman Krause expressed concern about having a large enough stage area to sufficiently accommodate performances and felt that the stage included in the revised plan would not be functional in that respect. Alderman Kehoe reiterated that residents wanted the existing green spaces protected. Alderman Fesenmaier noted that, although initial funding for the project would come through TIF, taxpayer funds would eventually be required for the future maintenance and upkeep of the features of the park. Alderman Hartz agreed with the concerns about future maintenance costs, particularly those costs associated with the proposed irrigation system. Alderman Marsala stated that the consensus of the public seemed to be that the citizens are content to leave Flat Iron Park in its current state, adding that he also had concerns about the maintenance of the splash feature and skating rink. Alderman Mott inquired about the estimated cost for the project. DPW Winkler responded that initial estimates had come in over \$500,000.00; however, these figures would need to be readjusted to reflect any components of the project that had been eliminated from further consideration. In response to the concerns raised by the aldermen, Ms. Eckland asked the Committee to look at the different components of the plan to determine if there were any that could be embraced rather than shelving the entire project.

Alderman Krause asked for a poll of the Committee. In the subsequent discussion, the consensus of the aldermen was that the eastern sidewalk along Center Street was an important addition to the park. Aside from that walkway, most of the aldermen expressed the opinion that their constituents wanted to see Flat Iron Park remain unchanged.

Finance, License & Regulation Committee, Alderman Krause

Alderman Krause reported that the committee had begun a series of budget workshop sessions that morning, meeting with the various department heads to review their budget requests for 2011. The process was scheduled to continue with additional committee workshops on October 5 and October 7. He encouraged the other aldermen to be present for these sessions, if possible, so they could have all the information necessary to act on the budget.

Personnel Committee, Alderman Hartz

Alderman Hartz reported that the committee had met to discuss the possibility of contracting with an outside firm to handle the duties of the assessor's office, forwarding this item to Council without recommendation. Two firms had provided proposals for this service; the low bid would save the City approximately \$40,000.00 per year from its current arrangement with a full-time assessor on staff. A second item involved the review of a revised City organizational chart that had been recommended by the City Administrator, Comptroller and City Clerk to reflect changes in supervisory assignments. This item had been forwarded to Council with a recommendation for approval. The final item that had been considered by the committee involved the review of specific procedures for the conduct of future staff performance evaluations. No action had been taken on that item.

Alderman Fesenmaier noted that the committee had voted to forward the performance evaluation for the City Administrator to the full Council without recommendation. Alderman Hartz replied that the committee would meet again on October 6 to discuss the motion that had been made with respect to the evaluation. Alderman Fesenmaier suggested that proper procedure dictated that the original vote of the committee would have the effect of placing the item in question upon the agenda for the subsequent Council meeting.

Alderman Hartz responded that he would be asking the committee to reconsider the motion that had been made and that the City Attorney had advised that this would be an appropriate procedure for the committee. Alderman Krohn noted that the majority of the committee had voted to forward the item to Council for its consideration, questioning the need for the committee to reconsider that vote. Alderman Hartz stated that he wanted the committee to consider some of the potential implications of its original vote before proceeding to Council. Alderman Fesenmaier expressed concern about the last minute nature of the upcoming committee meeting, suggesting that the public would be better served by taking this matter to a regular Council meeting for discussion and consideration.

Alderman Krause raised the subject of the working hours of the code enforcement officer. Administrator Jordan responded that working hours were limited as a part-time employee and, due to a heavier workload during the summer months, the working hours for the code enforcer had been reduced during the current season to stay within budgetary constraints. Alderman Krohn asked if it would be possible for the Building and Zoning assistant to perform code enforcing activities. Administrator Jordan stated that it might be possible, although the activities would be limited to those for which special certifications were not required.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of landlord registration and licensing as a means to curbing some of the issues that certain neighborhoods were experiencing with unmaintained rental properties. Alderman Krause read an item of correspondence from Building & Zoning Administrator Brugger questioning the potential benefits of such a program.

Public Works Committee, Alderman Tolar

Alderman Tolar reported that bids for the Riviera had been recommended for rejection. The committee also reviewed the seasonal alley speed bump policy and snow and ice removal policies, which were then forwarded to the Ad Hoc Policy and Procedure Committee for additional suggestions. He stated the bidding process for the tuckpointing of the Geneva Lake Museum building was underway, and the committee had also discussed possible options for the WE Energies property. He noted that Mayor Connors had suggested putting signage on Center Street to direct motorists to the various establishments on the other side during the closure of Wrigley Drive during the bridge reconstruction project. The committee had also discussed the crosswalks in the downtown area, noting that it was ultimately decided that the crosswalks would be asphalt.

Alderman Fesenmaier asked if the City had a listing of areas that were identified for the future location of sidewalks. Alderman Tolar responded that the committee would look into this concern, particularly with respect to ADA compliance.

Piers, Harbors, & Lakefront Committee, Alderman Marsala

Alderman Marsala announced that the letters had been sent to the renters in the lagoon informing them that their boats would need to be removed before October 15, as they would otherwise be entrapped by the Wrigley Bridge project. He reported that the committee had reviewed lakefront revenues, with beach revenues coming in at an all-time high of over \$300,000.00. He noted \$6,000.00 in vendor collections with six collections yet to be made, and added that additional revenue had been generated by the addition of an ATM machine at the Riviera. The committee had discussed an amendment to the Joint Uniform Lake Law Ordinance regarding additional pollution regulations, which was pending review by the City Attorney. The members had also been considering the terms of leases for piers, slips and buoys with Gage Marine and Lake Geneva Boat Lines, which had been forwarded to the City Attorney for additional review.

Utility Commission, Aldermen Marsala & Tolar

Alderman Tolar reported that the Utility Commission had discussed approval for the Conant Street water main replacements as well as the construction services proposal with Crispell-Snyder for the Conant Street project. He also reported that 50 replacements of lead services had been completed this year, noting that there were probably 100 or fewer remaining in the City. Alderman Krause suggested that the City should publish a full schedule of construction projects so citizens would be informed of ongoing and upcoming projects.

Tree Board, Alderman Fesenmaier

Alderman Fesenmaier reported that the Chamber of Commerce building addition plan had come before the Board, adding that the Board had expressed concern about removing any live trees but had not adopted any

official position on the project. There were concerns raised about the fire barrel in Library Park, with the Board discussing the possibility of removing the item and planting additional trees in that space. This had been referred to the Fire Chief. She also stated that the Tree Board had requested that adequate funding be included in the 2011 budget for tree replacements, so that these projects would not be totally reliant upon TIF funds. Finally, she reported that a request had been made to plant a tree in honor of Elmer Zingle.

Alderman Marsala stated that he had contacted Chief Connelly for his input on the fire barrel issue. He said that Chief Connelly had not expressed any concerns; however, he would bring this issue to the rest of the Fire Department before providing a formal response on the subject. The issue had also been brought to the attention of Park Commission President Skates, who responded that the item would be placed upon the next Commission agenda for discussion.

Police & Fire Commission, Alderman Tolar

Alderman Tolar reported that the main topic of discussion at the last commission meeting had been the budget request for the Police Department. He also reported that the Phoenix system was now operational. Interviews had been conducted for some additional part-time reserve officer positions. The Fire Department had brought forward the request for a new aerial ladder truck. Additional paid on-premise personnel had also been hired for the Fire Department. He also reported that three Fire personnel had completed their operator's class training.

Planning Commission, Alderman Hartz

Alderman Hartz reported that the Commission had not met since the last Council meeting. Alderman Fesenmaier requested that the packets of information provided to the Plan Commission by Ms. Kordecki regarding the proposed changes for commercial indoor lodging be made available to the Council members. She also asked for copies of the County's ordinance on that subject.

Board of Park Commissioners, Alderman Fesenmaier

Alderman Fesenmaier reported that representatives from the YMCA had presented a proposed budget including a wish list for future programs to be brought to Lake Geneva. She also stated that Mrs. Smith had discussed the "Art in the Park Event" and would be submitting applications to hold the event next year. The Board had also approved the proposed addition to the Chamber of Commerce building.

Library Board, Alderman Krause

Alderman Krause reported check-outs for September totaled 12,411 and this number surpassed check-out totals for all previous Septembers on record. He also reported 21 consecutive months of check-out totals exceeding the 10,000 mark. Year-to-date check-outs showed an 11 percent increase over the previous year. Library website access was also up over 12 percent from 2009. The 2010 summer reading program had nearly 300 children that had participated. 149 new library cards had been issued in September.

Historic Preservation, Alderman Kehoe

Mr. Ken Etten, President, provided the Committee with an update on the committee's activities.

Cemetery, Alderman Krohn

Alderman Krohn reported that the committee had called a meeting to discuss its budget request; however she had been unable to attend.

Parking Commission, Alderman Marsala

Alderman Marsala reported that Alderman Mott had brought forward his concerns about parking on Townline Road. Chief Rasmussen had responded that he was concerned about speed control along Townline and resolving that issue before proceeding with any plans to permit parking along that roadway. The situation would be further investigated before any final recommendation would be made on Alderman Mott's request. Alderman Marsala also reported that the commission had reviewed the proposed ordinance on compact car parking, and were forwarding that item on to Council with recommendation for approval. The commission had also discussed the possibility of a removable bollard system in the area of Central Dennison School. Administrator Jordan would contact the school district to see if there was any interest in sharing the costs for such a system. He also stated that researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater had approached the commission with a proposal to conduct a long-term parking study survey. This item was

being forwarded to Council for consideration, including a request to spend up to \$15,000.00 in parking funds to cover the survey project. He noted that the commission was looking at the possibility of instituting a pay station system for the parking lot north of the museum building.

Communications Committee, Alderman Fesenmaier

Alderman Fesenmaier reported that the committee had last met in August. The cable television ordinance was being reviewed by the City Attorney and would be brought forward to the Council for first and second reading in October. She also reported that the City Clerk was keeping the City website current with updated information on the front page. Clerk Reale would be scheduling additional staff website training with a representative from govoffice. With respect to the City Hall phone message, she noted that the committee had recommended moving the reference to the City's website to an earlier portion of the message. This way, citizens could be directed to the website for possible answers to their questions. The committee had also discussed including funding in the 2011 budget for modifications to the video equipment room in the Council chambers. It had also been recommended that a City newsletter be created and made available for sharing information with residents through the City's website.

Chamber of Commerce, Alderman Krause

Alderman Krause reported eight new members in the month of September. He also stated that Mr. Hennerley and Ms. Eckland had discussed the possibility of coming before the Council at the future date to deliver a presentation on the importance of tourism. The possible remodel and addition of the Chamber building had been discussed as well. The annual dinner had taken place a few weeks prior and it had been very well-attended.

Lake Geneva Museum, Mayor Connors

Mayor Connors reported that the Museum had conducted several successful fundraising events, including a boat cruise during the Venetian Festival that raised over \$1,800.00, a book and bake sale that generated \$1,150.00, and an Indian Summer dinner. In August, there were 527 regular patrons reported. The Board is working on a new design layout for the north gallery. The Museum currently has 169 members. He also reported that the Museum had hired Amanda McMurtry to work at the facility for a one-year commitment. The Board was also working on an antique car and historical musical instrument exhibit. The next meeting was scheduled for October 6.

Mr. Etten then provided an update on the status of the Museum remodeling project. The bids were due October 6, so the bid information should be presented to the Museum Board at its meeting that evening. With \$150,000.00 budgeted for the project, the base bid for the project focused primarily on new windows, lighting, entrance canopies, and upgrades to the restrooms for ADA compliance. He noted that the original allocation would need to include some funding for tuckpointing, so many of the other proposed projects had been bid as alternates. This would allow the Board and Council to determine what projects would be appropriate for the amount of funding available.

Geneva Lake Development Corporation, Aldermen Mott and Hartz

No report. Alderman Mott did note that the group had changed its name to Lake Geneva Economic Development Corporation.

Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, Alderman Fesenmaier

Alderman Fesenmaier reported that the car rally was held the previous weekend and had been a huge success over the two-day period.

Geneva Lake Use Committee, Aldermen Krohn

No report.

Marsala/Tolar motion to adjourn at 9:40pm. Unanimously carried.