

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2012 - 6:30PM  
CITY HALL BUILDING, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Council President Kupsik called the meeting to order at 6:35p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderman Kupsik.

Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Hougen, Wall, Mott, Hill, Kehoe, Kupsik, Krohn and Tolar. Also present: City Administrator Jordan.

Tolar/Mott motion for approval of Minutes from October 1, 2012 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.**

Ed Yaeger, Water Street, Lake Geneva, read a statement on how the railroad helped in the building and development of Lake Geneva, starting in 1871. He outlined the route and procedures of the steam train in Lake Geneva, along with some of the changes that occurred until the engine service site was demolished by order in 1912 and forgotten about. In 2007, research confirmed that the engine service site property was still in its original configuration and dimension. He feels this should be turned into a park because this historic grouping is unique and needs to be preserved and protected, to recognize and honor our historic past. He outlined his ideas for the proposed park.

Jackie Getzen and Dee Fisk from the Historic Preservation Committee said they heartily agree with Mr. Yaeger regarding this park. They also addressed the need to preserve and restore some of the historic grave stones in Pioneer Cemetery. There has never been anyone designated to care for the grave stones. When they fall over and break, they are considered trash and are disposed of without notification to the families or documentation of their loss. They requested the City designate one or two individuals to oversee the gravestones and to have it open to anyone wanting to visit the cemetery.

Rick Steinberg, 1032 Williams Street, Lake Geneva, spoke in favor of the railroad park, adding that he would also like to see a locomotive in the park.

**Discussion/recommendation on maintenance and open hours of Pioneer Cemetery**

Hill/Wall motion to suspend the rules to have Mr. Sam Fredrickson address some of the questions on this issue. Unanimously carried.

Mr. Fredrickson explained reasons the Cemetery Commission has voted to keep the cemetery locked. He quoted an article about damage done by vandalism to a cemetery in Delavan in which 87 headstones were damaged with a repair cost of \$50,000. Pioneer Cemetery had vandalism in 1976. People around the cemetery do not wish to have it open. Before the new fence was installed, people would lift up the cyclone fence and let their dogs run in the cemetery. Regarding monument damage, the perpetual care fund is only applied to ordinary care of the lots but does not include maintenance of monuments or mausoleums. Any time someone requests having it opened, personnel at the Cemetery Office will be glad to open it for them. Alderman Hill asked about the past vandalism and how damaged stones are disposed of; Mr. Fredrickson said he was not aware that any have been. Alderman Kehoe spoke about how other communities handle their cemeteries. Discussion followed on how the Cemetery Commission and Historic Preservation Committee might have a joint meeting to address some of these issues. Sturges Taggart commented that the Cemetery Commission does not have the funds to do more than what they are doing now.

**Discussion/recommendation on establishing a park in the former railroad corridor from the White River bridge west to Sage Street**

Alderman Kupsik noted the letter from the City Attorney in their packets regarding ownership of the land being proposed for the railroad park and also indicated this would be a matter for the Park Board to consider. DPW Dan Winkler reviewed the history of that property since he came in 1995, starting with a gas station on part of the site on Main Street which became an abandoned and then dilapidated gas station with graffiti. The Utility Commission then

purchased and renovated the property; they have no interest in relinquishing the bridge. The bridge, owned by the Utility Commission, is not the portion under discussion tonight but rather the area up to the bridge. The bridge is constantly in a state of being graffitied; it is dilapidated, eroding and generally unsafe. Historic signs have been placed in two locations. The area also falls within their wellhead protection zone. After a lengthy discussion, the consensus was that this needs to go to the Park Board for consideration.

**Standing Committee Reports given:**

Finance, License & Regulation Committee, Alderman Hill  
Personnel Committee, Alderman Kupsik  
Public Works Committee, Alderman Mott  
Piers, Harbors, & Lakefront Committee, Alderman Wall

**Committee, Commission and Board Reports given:**

Utility Commission, Aldermen Hougen & Wall  
Tree Board, Alderman Kupsik  
Police & Fire Commission, Alderman Hill  
Planning Commission, Alderman Hougen  
Board of Park Commissioners, Alderman Kupsik  
Library Board, Alderman Wall  
Historic Preservation, Alderman Kehoe  
Cemetery, Alderman Krohn  
Parking Commission, Alderman Hill  
Communications Committee, Alderman Hill  
Avian Committee, Alderman Wall

**Other Boards and Committee Reports given:**

Chamber of Commerce, Alderman Hill  
Geneva Lake Museum, Alderman Mott  
Lake Geneva Economic Development Corporation, Aldermen Hougen & Kupsik  
Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, Alderman Wall

Hill/Wall motion to adjourn at 9:00p.m. Unanimously carried.

Transcribed from audio tape.

/s/ Artis M. Roenspies, Deputy City Clerk

**THESE ARE NOT OFFICIAL MINUTES UNTIL APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**