

Joint Meeting of Parks & Rec and Harbor Commission February 3, 2025

Bayfield City Hall, 125 South First Street, Bayfield, WI 54814 * 715-779-5712

Call to Order: Acting Chair Carrier called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm

Roll Call:

Harbor Commission Members: L. Cornelius, K. Jensen, G. Ringberg (online), G. Wilcox, M. Schrider (absent)

Parks and Rec Committee Members: L. Rovi, F. Clark, M. Carrier, V. Tumas, P. Havlik (joined online at 4:47 pm)

Council: Mayor Dougherty, D. Fizell, B. Bland (**NOTE:** quorum of Common Council members)

Staff: Clerk Ray, PWD Weber, Harbormaster Hayes, M. Hall

Others (in person): K. Vadnais, G. Hogan, M. Dougherty, L. DelMain

Others (online): G. Grinde (HKGi), H. Schmitz (HKGi), C. Skaaden, Ron Trosvig (5:17 pm), Tom, Bob

Motion to Approve Agenda: Clark/Tumas

Public Input on Agenda: Mayor Dougherty – amend agenda item #1 establish desired outcomes (see below)

Motion to Approve Agenda with Amendments: ayes carried

Mayor Dougherty: Letter from Anich, Wickman, & Lindsey dated January 9, 2023, specifically talks about the decision-making process. Recognized and welcomed Hannah and Gabrielle from HKGi online and appreciated they joined us tonight.

AGENDA

1. Desired Outcomes Facilitated by K. Jensen :

- a. Clarity regarding responsibilities and end goals for both Parks & Rec and Harbor so decisions can be made, civil outcome, clarity on process moving forward, clarity on geographic scope moving forward, improved communication and collaboration between both departments, make a conclusion to give to the contractor (HKGi)
- b. Ground rules: 90 sec speaking limit, summarize, aim for hour-long meeting with hard stop at 6 pm
- c. Request to share name and role when speaking

2. East Dock Park Project Background/Timeline

- a. **Historical Planning & Vision:** 50+ years of history; context of past vs present and rerouting of highways and streets that weren't travelled on need to be considered; marina was contracted out in the past and stifled development; green space between Marina office and travel lift is green space that could be better suited for fencing; one of the old documents suggested vacating 1st street and be part of the boat and storage area.

- b. **RFP and HKGi Proposal:** feedback from community and potential fund raisers wanted to look at the park as a whole and not just a playground; scope of project is why RFP was created and HKGi was brought in to help design the space; three phase proposal: (1) playground (2) interior park (3) adjacent areas to the park including LE building and some surrounding structures;. Harbor open to reconfiguration, without loss of physical property, with a focus on safety. Concerns that Harbor hasn't been heard during meetings.
3. **Decision Making Process** – *not addressed formally or in order*; discussion ensued including: compliance with current ordinances (ie, spot zoning, rooming houses); not enough parking spaces for current boat owners; subcommittee meetings haven't been posted; lakeshore is premium property; lesson learned from playground subcommittee re: survey, their intention was to have been more clear on fundraising efforts; intrigue with convertible space; after much discussion; eventually recognized the following as correspondence.
- a. **Letter from Bill Bland**
 - b. **Letter from Harbor Commission** – received by Carrier as a cease and desist letter, don't do any planning outside of park boundary and safety is paramount; let's work together to brainstorm; Harbor felt the letter conveyed willingness to reconfigure but not lose land; couldn't afford to give up parking spaces for boats and lose income has been the concern; there has always been a dual purpose (Marina and Park), the disconnect of not being heard is running a business, generating revenue for the residents, and offer a park;
 - c. **Letter from Playground Subcommittee**
 - d. **Email from Mayor Dougherty to HKGi**
 - e. **Balancing Competing Interests** – survey didn't address concerns and safety issues of Harbor, changed from swing sets to skating rink, sledding hills, saunas, and cold plunge; where is the money coming from to cover cost of maintenance/upkeep as well as impact on Public Works for additional responsibilities; possibly consider more seating, an open pavilion, equipment for seniors; all future statements regarding changes to be vetted by all parties; streets and sidewalks need to be replaced.
4. **Next Steps** – *not addressed formally or in order*
- a. **Clarify geographic scope of planning efforts** – difficult topic, emotional responses, not specifically decided
 - b. **Clarify what group will lead project?** The project team members will go unchanged: Kylie, Grace, Matt, Pete, Nick, Kathryn, Joel, Bill, HKGi; all meetings will posted with an agenda held at City Hall meeting prior to Parks & Rec meeting
 - i. Point of Contact for HKGi – not explicitly stated
 - c. **Outline review process for draft and final plans** – HKGi usually starts with 2 concepts for feedback and then streamlines concept; did not create issues/opportunities map because needed to get Vibrant Spaces grant submitted in time; HKGi will identify and provide issues/opportunities as a next step
 - d. **Discussion/dialogue/questions on park planning**
 - i. **Motion** to maintain current project team with publicly posted meeting and report back to Parks & Rec, with Fred Clark as HC liaison. (Clark/Tumas – carried)
 - e. **Is additional information needed?** Future planning project meetings will be properly posted ahead of time and recorded; consolidate project team meeting with P&R monthly meeting

Adjourned at 6:23pm.