

WISCONSIN POINT COMMITTEE
August 13, 2019
Room 204, Government Center

Members Present: Tom Bridge (Superior Citizen Rep), Keith Allen (Douglas County), Thomas Howes (Fond du Lac Band), Kevin Feind (WI DNR), Karina Heim (NERR)

Excused: Jenny Van Sickle (City Council), Nick Danz (UWS)

Also Present: Linda Cadotte, Angie Harker, Councilor Brent Fennessey, John Kiel, Shelley Nelson

1. Election of officers.

MOTION by Allen, seconded by Howes, and carried to appoint Bridge as chair.

MOTION by Bridge, seconded by Feind, and carried to appoint Allen as vice-chair.

2. Approval of May 22, 2019 meeting minutes.

MOTION by Allen, seconded by Howes, and carried to approve the Wisconsin Point Committee minutes of May 22, 2019.

3. Wisconsin Point Enforcement discussion.

Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director Linda Cadotte gave an update on enforcement and recapped the committee's previous vote not to place a gate on the Point. She indicated that the Public Works Committee recently approved an ordinance that prohibits parking on all of Wisconsin Point Road. She also reported on some of the vandalism and parking violations that have occurred. Police Patrol Captain John Kiel indicated that the Point has long been an area that has been difficult to patrol due to its location and the time it takes officers to respond to the area. He also explained that at times they have a very limited number of officers on duty. The use of volunteer auxiliary police to assist with enforcement was discussed. Kiel explained that these individuals are unable to give citations and are not armed. Also, the number of volunteers has declined from 22 to 7. Cameras were suggested, however these would have to be solar power due to no electricity on the Point. Kiel did assure the committee that officers have been directed to make a presence on the Point when possible.

4. Metal detectors.

Cadotte explained that the issue of metal detecting was brought up at the last meeting when the Wisconsin Historical Society mentioned it. Currently there is no ordinance prohibiting metal detecting on City property. There was a discussion and it was noted that the practice is prohibited in Wisconsin State Parks. Members voiced concerns about metal detecting in cultural areas however not as much concern about it being done on the beach. Ultimately the committee decided to simply monitor the issue for now and if it becomes a problem, readdress.

MOTION by Feind, seconded by Howes, to receive and file the issue of metal detectors on Wisconsin Point.

5. Tobacco Free Parks.

Cadotte explained that this issue was recently brought to the Parks and Rec Commission by Councilor Brent Fennessey. Consideration of an ordinance prohibiting the use of all tobacco products on City owned/managed property is being drafted and will be brought back to the Parks Commission on August 22nd and ultimately to the City Council for their consideration. Wisconsin Point would be included in this ordinance. Fennessey was present and explained his reasons for bringing for the ordinance forward

explaining how he feels the use of tobacco in parks affects the enjoyability of the setting and also the litter problem from discarded cigarette butts. He indicated that 1100 cigarette butts were found on the Point during the last coastal cleanup. The City does not currently provide cigarette butt receptacles. It was noted that in addition to cigarettes, vaping, chewing tobacco, cigars and pipe smoking would also be prohibited. Tobacco would be allowed for ceremonial purposes. The question was raised if providing receptacles in parking areas, for example would be more effective than a total ban. The ability to enforce such an ordinance was also discussed as there will be fines associated with violations. The committee indicated they would like ongoing monitoring of the ordinance to see if cigarette butt litter does decrease on the Point and would like to revisit the issue annually.

MOTION by Heim, seconded by Howes, and carried, to go on record in support of moving forward with tobacco free areas including Wisconsin Point, with ongoing monitoring.

6. Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director's Report.

- Wisconsin Point Restoration and Access Improvement Project update.
Cadotte reported that work continues at Lot 1, as there were delays due to the old landfill boundaries. The lot was redesigned with bus parking and the location of the vault toilet being shifted. The two toilets for the project will be delivered at the same time, which will offer cost savings. Once Lot 1 is finished, the contractor will move down the Point toward the wooded area and begin work. Lots 9 and 13 are completely finished. Work on signage is in progress. A celebration of the project is scheduled for September 20 at noon. Additional trees will be planted in the spring thanks to a CN grant.
- Wisconsin Point Trail/Bear Creek Trail update.
One mile of the trail is nearly complete with crushed concrete in place. Staff are waiting on the timber order to complete boardwalks and timber crossings. It is the hope that the wood arrives next week and park staff can start building those. The plan is to complete the trail over the next two summers. At some point, the official naming of the trail will need to be done.
- WI DNR Bird Sanctuary Project/Piping Plover update.
Construction began on August 11. The DNR has issued a burning permit for the woody debris and this is good through August 30th. Roen Salvage has extended barge hours and are working 7 days per week. The offset gate will be installed when tribal monitoring is onsite for the digging of the holes.
- The Superior Entry Lighthouse is open for bids to purchase at this time. There was a brief discussion about potential future uses for the lighthouse.
- Committee member Howes mentioned the property that the Fond du Lac Band owns at the end of the Point and indicated he may bring this matter to the committee for discussion of potential uses in the future.

MOTION by Allen, seconded by Feind, and carried, and the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Minutes submitted to the Council Meeting of September 3, 2019.