

City of Sheboygan
2021-04-13

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CITY OF SHEBOYGANMAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP CABINETTuesday, April 13, 2021

Mayor Vandersteen called the meeting to order at 7: 00 pm at the Kiwanis Park Fieldhouse, 726 Kiwanis Park Drive. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Members present: Mayor Mike Vandersteen, Alderperson Dean Dekker, Director of City Development Chad Pelishek, Grant Coordinator Abby Block, John Ogden, Beth Counard, Penny Weber, and Adam Roethel.

Others present: Superintendent of Parks and Forestry Joe Kerlin, Janet Duellman from City Development, Officer Israel Deutsch, Officer Kevin Post, Niki Zohrab, Keith Jacks, and Elaine Jacks.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of January 5, 2021 meeting. All ayes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

3.1 Feature

Presentation:

"Kiwanis Park Master Plan" Joe Kerlin, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry.

The past five years at Kiwanis Park have been very busy. The Kiwanis Park Master Plan was done in 2019, the last time one was done prior to that was 1990. The thing to understand about master plans is that not everything in them gets done exactly as planned, but the intended use is that they are following a general concept. In 2015 the old skate park was deteriorating so badly that Joe had to take action. He reached out to two adult skateboarders that he knew to discuss plans to take down the old skate park and plans to develop a new skate park. The new skate park opened in 2018. Work began in 2018 for plans on Der Sheboygan Biergarten, it officially opened in 2019. After all these changes it was necessary to have a new master plan for the park. The plan from 1990 included a path and an overlook, that is something that has been continued in the new plan.

There are plans for designated fishing rocks along the river. There is a plan to expand the off-street parking availability. There is a plan for a boardwalk alongside the river. They still want to keep a lot of open space so that it can be used for many different things, including space for Brat Days. They are planning to add in pickleball courts. The basketball court is proposed to be moved because it is currently too close to the Fieldhouse Building. They are considering a reduction of the three existing baseball/softball fields such that there would be only one. They are considering making a new playground area that could be constructed into the hillside and incorporate a built-in slide which would be a very unique feature again remember that this is just a concept. Near this area is a plan to add more off-street parking. There is also a splash pad planned near this area.

In the southern most portion of the park, there is a plan for the trailhead of the bike/pedestrian trail, there could be a bike fix-it station here similar to the others that are installed throughout the city. The beer garden and the shelter near it would continue to be used as they currently are. The green space to the west of that would stay open such that it can be used for soccer, la crosse, etc. South of this area is a concept for a dog park.

The link to the Prezi is <https://prezi.com/view/puRBgeWC-0-AjzuRjb-0-ji-9/>.

3.2

Presentation:

"An Introduction on Big Brothers Big Sisters" Niki Zohrab, BBBS Director of Community Development and Recruiting.

Niki is with Big Brothers Big Sisters Wisconsin Shoreline they had a name change recently because they had previously been Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sheboygan County and are now covering Manitowoc County as part of their territory. They offer one-to-one mentoring between a youth in need and a caring adult. Niki's ask of this presentation is that she get the opportunity to speak at the respective the neighborhood association meetings. They are always looking for Bigs to serve as mentors and also the opportunity to reach parents/guardians of youth who may need the program. They normally receive referrals through teachers/counselors at schools, but since this school year has been anything but normal, they haven't been receiving as many referrals this year. BBBS wants to get their name out to the community members further and through new avenues, the neighborhood associations is one such of these other methods. Mayor Vandersteen asked Niki to describe how BBBS has pivoted during the pandemic to allow matches to get together. Niki stated that there are two different programs that they offer. One is a community-based program that traditionally involves having the Big and the Little meeting after school/work or on weekends. The second program is school-based such that in a normal year involves the Big going to school during the Little's lunchtime and doing activities such as reading, playing games, or just talking. This year due to the pandemic they did those as virtual meetings. During the pandemic, the community-based program was left up to the individuals involved to do what was best for them. A question was asked about how many are on the waiting list and Niki said there are currently about 50 Littles in on the waiting list across both counties. There are generally more boys than girls on the waiting list because there are fewer men than women who volunteer to be Bigs. She said that they try to encourage men to volunteer and say, "You don't have to be perfect, you just have to be present."

Mayor Vandersteen said that he spent a number of years on the BBBS board and also served as the board president. He has enjoyed hearing the stories from the school counselors when they have Lunch Buddies that turn into community matches because the pair enjoyed meeting so much during the school year that they wanted to keep meeting during the summers. BBBS is such a great program and he appreciates the help from the MNLC members to promote it within their neighborhood associations.

One of the meeting attendees stated that he was a Little when he was growing up and he has great memories of getting to do woodworking, learning how to make bread, and various things that a kid would typically do with their dad. It was amazing for him to have his Big as a father figure.

3.3 Neighborhood roundtable discussion.

Mayor Vandersteen mentioned that any neighborhood associations are able to use the Council Chambers at City Hall to hold their meetings the meetings can be in-person or hybrid.

Various people shared the challenges that they ve had with getting regular participation and attendance at their meetings. They ve learned that having a guest speaker, such as the Mayor, at their meetings helps to increase attendance.

Chad continues to encourage MNLC members to reach out to him and the Planning and Development Department to get support from City staff to print flyers for their events and access to many of the additional resources that the City has available.

Various people stated that the Large item disposal events are very popular and always get a positive response from the residents in the neighborhoods. This is a great program because it collects large things like mattresses and couches which improves the neighborhood because then those items aren't causing problems that the code enforcement officers have to deal with.

Winter Fest in Fountain Park on February 20 was a nice event that the Gateway Neighborhood and the Kuehne Park Neighborhood collaborated on. There was great support from businesses who donated raffle items, craft items, and food. There is interest in doing more collaboration events like this and interest in doing a Christmas decorating contest to generate friendly competition among neighbors.

3.4 Neighborhood Association Outreach Activities Things that have worked, things that do not work to get residents involved.

The representative from King Park neighborhood stated that they've found regularly sharing event and meeting information on Nextdoor and Facebook has been the most efficient way of keeping neighbors informed.

A question was asked about if it is possible to have Movie in the park nights, Kuehne Park Neighborhood is interested in possibly hosting an event like this. Chad said that the licensing for doing this is not covered by the City of Sheboygan, but the Rec Dept. and the SASD has had a license for that type of thing in the past. He and Abby will check into this.

Though it seems difficult sometimes to get people to attend events, things tend to go well after events because people hang around and talk afterward that is when the sense of community is being built. Having small informal events is helpful for fostering the growth of the group.

Abby Block mentioned that they did a survey in conjunction with their Large item disposal event and found that to be successful for gaining an understanding of their reach to the residents in the Kuehne Park Neighborhood.

Officer Israel Deutsch mentioned that he took part in a neighborhood meeting that was in a resident s front yard that was next to a known drug house. Having a presence by doing small acts like that makes a statement to the whole neighborhood.

3.5 Sheboygan Neighborhood Pride update. Mayor Vandersteen extended his gratitude to Penny Weber for being like a Den Mother to the neighborhood associations to raise them up through the Sheboygan Neighborhood Pride organization. Penny stated that things with SNP have been pretty quiet lately because they haven t had too many meetings over the winter months. They expect that as the weather gets warmer that more meetings will be happening because they can be outdoors.

CLOSING OF MEETINGNext meeting date: Chad and the Mayor-Elect Ryan Sorenson will work on determining a date for the next meeting. Chad told the group that Mayor Vandersteen was the one who got the MNLC up and running, he will soon be retiring and we thank him for all that he has done in the City of Sheboygan during his 8 years as mayor.

ADJOURNMeeting adjourned at 8: 13 pm.