

*****ATTACHMENTS*****

CITY OF SHEBOYGAN

REQUEST FOR MARINA, PARKS AND FORESTRY COMMISSION DISCUSSION

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Skatepark update and discussion on possible fundraising

REPORT PREPARED BY: Joseph L. Kerlin, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry

REPORT DATE: February 3, 2017

MEETING DATE: February 7, 2017

FISCAL SUMMARY:

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

Budget Line Item:	N/A	Wisconsin Statutes:	N/A
Budget Summary:	Block Grant Fund/CPF	Municipal Code:	N/A
Budgeted Expenditure:	\$442,588		
Budgeted Revenue:	\$442,588		

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

In 2015, the Sheboygan skatepark was removed because the features could no longer be properly maintained. The City hired Stantec Consulting in fall 2015 to design a new skatepark. Since then Stantec has held three community design meetings and has worked with the City and EOS, a local skate and surf business, to reach out to the community by social media.

In 2016, a final skatepark design was completed. Using several different consultant sources, the city staff recommended a \$442,588 budget for the skatepark project which was approved by the Common Council for construction in 2017.

STAFF COMMENTS:

The identified 2017 revenue sources to pay for the \$442,588 cost included:

- \$176,375 in anticipated donations. (To date, \$10,000 has been donated.)
- \$35,000 in Capital Project Fund assigned fund balance
- \$231,213 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

It is anticipated that construction bid documents would be sent out late February, construction of the park would be over the summer and grand opening would be fall of this year, 2017.

In an effort to invite community ownership and offset budgeted money for construction of the Sheboygan skatepark, I would like to discuss with the Marina, Parks and Forestry Commission a fundraising effort for the naming and sponsoring of the skatepark and the different features. Attached is a list of fundraising items and costs for discussion.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For informational purposes only.

ATTACHMENTS: (NONE)



Lakefront Water Safety Task Group Report

April 2017

Lakefront Water Safety Task Group Members*:

Aldersperson John Belanger, Chair of Public Works Committee
Mike Froh, Chair of Board of Marina, Parks and Forestry
Joe Kerlin, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry
Deputy Chief Charles Butler, Sheboygan Fire Department
Officer Jeff Mares, Sheboygan Police Department
Jason Dwyer, US Coast Guard
Steve Steinhardt, Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department
Attorney Charles Adams, Sheboygan City Attorney
Chad Pelishek, Planning and Development Director
Karen Davis, Community Recreation Department
Robert Stanick, Army Corp of Engineers
Matt Bauer, Harbor Center Marina
Matt Wirzbach, Representative from SEAS
Larry Williams, Citizen Member
Scott Hanson, Citizen Member
Aldersperson Scott Lewandoske, Citizen Member/ Aldersperson

**The Lakefront Water Safety Task Group provides a broad base of knowledge with collective experience in water rescue, swimming and life guard training, surfing, local weather, wave and current patterns, and emergency incident response.*

Introduction

On August 15, 2016, the City of Sheboygan Common Council established the Lakefront Water Safety Task Group. The mission of the group was to:

- Review the report of similar committee that was completed in March 2009.
- Study the water rescue events that have occurred since the recommendations of the last report were implemented.
- Investigate new and additional safety measures for both the North and South swimming beaches and pedestrian access of the North and South piers on the Sheboygan lakefront and river.
- Formulate a report with both short and long term recommendations to the Public Works Committee, Board of Marina, Parks, and Forestry, and the Common Council that would reduce the potential for water-related loss of lives and the near drowning of our citizens and visitors.

With the above mention mission statement in mind, the Task Group has met regularly since August 31, 2016 to develop a plan to enhance safety on our water front. This report outlines their recommendations.

Background

In 2008, after a tragic year on our water front, the City of Sheboygan Common Council created a committee known as the Water Safety Task Force. This committee was tasked with reviewing the incidents that had occurred in 2008 and to provide recommendations as to how to make our water front safer. Their report was submitted to the Common Council in March of 2009. Since that time the majority of the recommendations have been implemented which have been noted within this report.

The 2008 Person in Water (PIW) table was provided by the US Coast Guard Station, Sheboygan. This table represents the number of incidents that occurred during the 2008 water front season and was the basis of the 2008 report.

Date	# PIW	M/F/Child	Location	Weather	Wind	Waves	Saved/ Lost
6/26/2008	1	CHILD	KINGS BEACH	SUNNY, HOT, WATER TEMP 68	10-15 KTS	2 FT	LOST
8/5/2008	1	CHILD	SHEBOYGAN HARBOR	SUNNY, HOT, WATER TEMP 72	10 KTS	1 FT	SAVED
8/8/2008	1	CHILD	KINGS BEACH	SUNNY, HOT, WATER TEMP 72	5 KTS	2 FT	SAVED
8/9/2008	1	MALE	NORTH BREAK WALL	SUNNY, HOT, WATER TEMP 72	13 KTS	2 FT	SAVED
8/10/2008	1	MALE	DELAND BEACH	SUNNY, HOT, WATER TEMP 72	12 KTS	1-2 FT	SAVED
8/10/2008	1	CHILD	DELAND BEACH	CLEAR, WATER TEMP 70	15-20 KTS	4-6 FT	LOST
8/10/2008	2	CHILDREN	DELAND BEACH	WATER TEMP 70	10-15 KTS	2-4 FT	SAVED
8/26/2008	1	MALE	NORTH POINT	SUNNY, CLEAR, WATER TEMP 70	15 KTS	4 FT	SAVED
9/14/2008	1	MALE	KINGS BEACH	SUNNY, CLEAR, WATER TEMP 70	5-10 KTS	2-3 FT	SAVED

Once again water front safety became a predominant issue after multiple people were swept off South Pier in July 2016. These tragic events lead to the creation of the Lakefront Water Safety Task Group in hopes that this committee will be able to address the current concerns and make our water front even safer. Below are the incidents from 2009 -2016. This table was created from data provided from the US Coast Guard –Sheboygan, Sheboygan County Dive Team, Sheboygan Police Department, and Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project (www.glsrp.org/statistics). Due to system upgrades some of the incidents may not be accounted for.

Date	# PIW	M/F/Child	Location	Saved/ Lost
4/27/2009	1		SHEBOYGAN HARBOR	LOST
6/26/2010	3		SHEBOYGAN HARBOR	1-LOST 2-SAVED
7/26/2010	1	MALE	POWER PLANT	LOST
6/29/2011	1	MALE		LOST
8/10/2012	3	1-FEMALE 2-MALES	NORTH BREAK WALL	2-LOST 1-SAVED
9/2/2012	2	1-CHILD 1-MALE	DELAND BEACH	1-LOST 1-SAVED
7/15/2013	1	MALE	BLUE HARBOR	LOST
7/11/2016	1	CHILD	KINGS BEACH	SAVED
7/17/2016	3	MALES	SOUTH BREAK WALL	2-LOST 1-SAVED
7/17/2016	2	MALES	SOUTH BREAK WALL	2-SAVED

Part of the 2016 Task Group's mission was to review the 2009 report and it was found that both the 2008 and 2016 committees agree on the issues at hand and possible solutions. However, the 2016 Task Group did make a few other

suggestions which are noted after each of the 2008 recommendations. To make the report easier to follow, all of the 2008 report is in blue and the 2016 committee report is in black.

From 2008 Committee:

1. Lake Michigan is a wondrous natural feature that attracts residents and a variety of recreational users. The City of Sheboygan has invested in venues to enhance the use of the lake, with the use comes inherent risks. It is the goal of the Task Force to develop strategies to reduce the risks of water front drowning.
2. The degree of drowning hazard varies with weather conditions and locations. The biggest problem exists when warm temperatures bring people to swim and the prevailing wind and hydrographic of the beach and pier structures combine to create RIP currents.
3. The most significant RIP currents for swimmers exist in the area of the power plant and North Pier.
4. There are a number of local resources that provide first response for water emergencies (U.S. Coast Guard, Police Department, Fire Department and Sheriff's Department), and other resources available for extended search/recovery. It is the role of the Task Force to recommend strategies that best interface with the professional services.
5. Lack of specific site location information delays water front emergency responses.
6. Barriers and legal restrictions would have minimal effect because of difficulty implementing and enforcing them; and they may conflict with recreational users who are generally competent in the local waters.
7. Regulations may be useful to enhance and reinforce informational programs.
8. There are existing venues that can be utilized to enhance lakefront safety training for youth.
9. A signification public awareness campaign is needed to draw attention to Sheboygan's Lakefront hazards (multi-media).
10. A real time warning/education system should be established at the beach front (flag system, information signs, etc.).
11. An on-site emergency communication system should be established (call boxes, etc).
12. An enhancement/modernization of the life-rings program should be considered.
13. A traditional family swimming area, with life guards watching over a defined beach area, would not address the most critical safety issues.

14. It has become apparent that with increasing Lake Michigan water levels our piers are more susceptible to having waves wash over them. Because many of our visitors and residents are not familiar with the danger of being washed off our piers more care needs to be taken to educate and warn them of this hazardous situation.
15. After review of the incidents from 2009-2016, it would appear that the implemented recommendations from 2008, such as; life rings, rip current signs, emergency phones, and public education have made a difference.

Based on these assumptions the Task Force developed the following work elements:

- Develop a public educational program including annual awareness campaigns and use existing venues to educate.
- Develop a waterfront warning system including risk information and a real time warning/information system.
- Develop an incident system providing communication with emergency responders and availability of life saving devices.
- Enhance regulations to support risk reduction efforts.

Public Education Program

From 2008 Committee:

It is apparent that hot weather and inviting waves have occasionally attracted individuals to a hazard they may not be aware of. Task Force members have expressed concern that life style and demographic changes have resulted in fewer residents with knowledge of RIP currents, therefore public education is a key to reducing drowning risks.

Awareness can be enhanced by providing general information to the public and by providing a targeted training for youth. The local Coast Guard station issues regular press announcements about water safety. It is intended that drowning concerns will be highlighted. The City Park Division will have a similar opportunity when announcing the beginning of the beach and swimming season. The safety recommendations in this report also increase public awareness. In addition there are opportunities for short public service announcements if the materials are developed.

Recent experience indicates that the most at risk groups are teens and young adults. A targeted program for youth is therefore a high priority. A number of venues exist to reach the youth; examples include school safety training, scouts, clubs, swimming lessons, etc. The desired audience is in place in these organizations. In addition utilizing long standing youth programs may help develop a training effort with longevity. Developing clear training materials that can be easily used by program leaders is a strategy to encourage existing youth programs to incorporate waterfront specific safety instruction into their activities.

Developing the education program will be the primary focus of the Task Force in upcoming months. Members of the Task Force have been discussing the opportunities with a media company. It is anticipated that a program can be developed using some material that already exists. A long shelf life will be important.

2008 Recommendation: Develop safety training program and professional support materials that can be utilized by organizations throughout the City. COMPLETED: DVDs and pamphlets were created.

The 2016 Task Group has been working with a media company to create three videos. These videos are being created with different time lengths to be used for different purposes, such as; hotels, schools and other events. The Task Group has already spoken to the hotels in the area and they are willing to show the videos on their information channel for our visitors. Also the Task Group has placed a RIP current ad in the 2017 Sheboygan County Visitors guide and the Recreation Department will continue to place these ads in their quarterly mailing.

The Sheboygan County Visitors Guide is published by the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce.

For more information:
 Sheboygan County Chamber Business & Visitors Center
 621 S. 8th Street
 Sheboygan, WI 53081
 (920) 457-9491, (800) 457-9497
 www.visitsheboygan.com
 www.visitsheboygancounty.com

@Visit Sheboygan



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Many photographers contributed to the production of this guide including Cheri Kent, Dennis Murphy, Lacey Muszynski, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Aviation Heritage Center of Wisconsin, The Sheboygan Press, Kohler, Elkhart Lake, Plymouth and Sheboygan Falls. We thank them for their support.

Table of Contents

City of Sheboygan	4-5
City of Plymouth	6-7
City of Sheboygan Falls	8-9
Village of Kohler	10
Village of Elkhart Lake	12
Map - City of Sheboygan	14-15
Map - Sheboygan County	16
Calendar of Events	18-19
Sheboygan County History	20-21
Waterfront Activities	22-23
Fish Lake Michigan	25
Outdoor Recreation	26-27
Parks & Beaches	28-29
Fun For the Whole Family	32-33
Itineraries	34-37
Art & Culture	38
Nightlife	40-41
Local Laudation	42-43
Culinary Experiences	44-46
Shop 'Til You Drop	50
Lodging Facilities	52-54
Four Seasons of Fun	56-57
Places of Worship	58

Lifeguard rings are located along Sheboygan's beaches, river boardwalks and piers. If you encounter someone having difficulty swimming, throw a life ring and use the emergency phone located on the piers to call 9-1-1. Please be aware of changing conditions at the piers and go to visitsheboygan.com for information on current watches and warnings. We hope you will enjoy our beautiful beaches, but respect the water and know how to stay safe!



RIP CURRENTS
 Break the Grip of the Rip!

ESCAPE ESCAPE
 ESCAPE ESCAPE
 RIP CURRENT

IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

SAFETY

- ◆ Know how to swim
- ◆ Never swim alone
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out

More information about the warnings can be found at the following web sites:
www.dcparrivals.mn.gov
www.wisconsin.gov

2016 Recommendation: Continue Public Education through videos and ads.

Warning

From 2008 Committee:

REAL TIME ADVISORY: One of the major factors in Sheboygan water front risk is the occurrence of RIP currents. They occur under specific weather conditions. A real time advisory would directly address the risks.

A traditional means of providing information in warm weather coastal communities has been a flag system. At one time the Coast Guard provided a similar system for boaters. The system is labor intensive and requires public education. Keeping all informed about the flag system in a community with a very limited beach season may not be productive.

A practical alternative would be an informative sign. Options range from a single warning sign similar to those used at DNR stations indicating fire risk, to a LED variable message board. There are several advantages to a variable message board.

1. An LED sign would directly display warning and be very apparent making warnings more noticeable,

2. A message center at Deland Park would reach more individuals than a notice at the water, helping to provide general education about the risk of RIP currents,
3. The message board would have uses when there is not a risk or during the off season. Example of messages:

WARNING
RIP CURRENT

BEACH CLOSED
BACTERIA

SEASONS
GREETINGS

FIREWORKS
JULY 4TH 9 PM

4. A modern LED sign is operated by computer and can be accessed through an online network.

It is anticipated a variable message sign would be designed to provide a simple message. No multicolor graphics. The sign would be located along Broughton Dr. or on the west side of the Deland Community Center. The estimated cost is \$30,000. Installation of an LED sign in Deland Park would require a special use permit through the City's zoning process.

The provision of safety advisories and warnings includes the responsibility that the messages are accurate and consistent. The Coast Guard has indicated that sufficient weather data is available to determine when a warning may be needed.

2008 Recommendation: Install a variable message sign in Deland Park to provided RIP current warning. COMPLETED



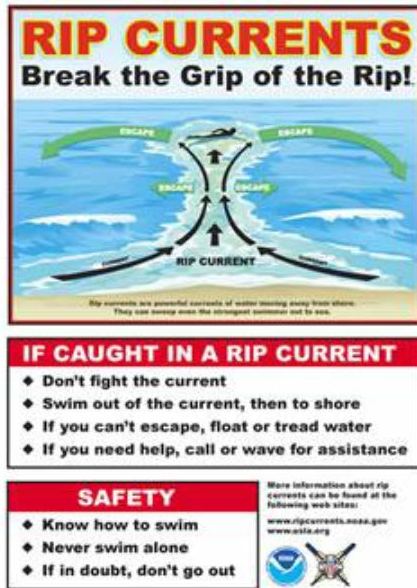
The 2016 Task Group discussed the addition of a flag system and/or flip-down signs to the lake front. They agree with the 2008 Task Force that these systems are labor intensive and keeping the public educated on the systems with the limited beach season is not feasible.

2016 Recommendation: Continue to use the message sign in Deland Park to provide RIP current warnings.

From 2008 Committee:

WARNING SIGNS: There are standard RIP current warning signs available. The Task Force is recommending the placement of the signs indicated below. One provides some basic information regarding RIP currents and would be installed in English and Spanish. The other is a more graphic warning sign. The sign can be produced by the Sheboygan Public Works Department.

Source: www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov



Source: Hawaiian Lifeguard Association



The new warning signs need to be coordinated with the existing signage along the water front. Care needs to be taken to avoid sign clutter and the appearance of over regulation. Where possible, sign kiosks can be used for multiple messages. Sign location will be determined in the field.

2008 Recommendation: Install RIP current warning signs along the water front. COMPLETED

The Army Corp of Engineers brought to the attention of the 2016 Task Group that they had new warning signage that they would like communities to consider installing on their piers. The Task Group reviewed the signage and felt it was important to have the new signage installed. The Department of Public Works is able to make and install the signs at the beginning of the piers.

2016 Recommendation: Installation of new warning signs on piers (COMPLETED) and additional RIP current warning signs along the lake front. Also painting of the ladders along the piers for better visibility from the water.



SOCIAL MEDIA: A new element that the 2016 Task Group added to this report is social media. As social media has evolved over the past few years, many City Departments are taking advantage of different programs, such as; Nixle, Facebook, Nextdoor, city website, and Twitter to notify the public of public service announcements as it relates to city business.

With the public having easy access to these programs via cell phones or computers the Task Group decided to start notifying the public of lakefront warnings on social media hoping to be able to reach more people. Also a banner was placed on the home page of the City of Sheboygan website for people to check if there are any warnings issued from NOAA about RIP currents, structural RIP currents, gale warnings, or small craft advisories.

2016 Recommendation: Continue to use Nixle, Facebook, Nextdoor, Twitter, and website for notification of pier use warnings and hazardous conditions.

See sample notifications next page.

Notification on Nixle



certified Sheboygan Police Department

Tuesday January 10th, 2017 :: 05:24 p.m. CST

Advisory **Dangerous conditions on piers during winter season, put off a walk on the pier until the warmer months**
Message Expired

Sometimes the piers become dangerous due to high wind and wave activity. We'd ask the public to remember that the piers are dangerous all winter due to the slippery conditions caused by ice. It's best to enjoy a walk out on the pier during the warmer months. You can still safely appreciate the view from the shoreline.

Address/Location
[Sheboygan Police Department](#)
1315 N 23rd St
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Contact
Emergency: 9-1-1
Non-emergencies: 920-459-3333

Notification on Sheboygan Police Department Facebook




Sheboygan Police Department shared a link.
January 12 at 5:00am · 🌐



Both North and South Pier are now open
North and South Pier were closed on 1/10/2017, due to high winds and dangerous conditions. On 1/12/2017 both piers were reopened.
[HTTPS://LOCAL.NIXLE.COM//ALERT/5823868/](https://local.nixle.com/alert/5823868/)

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Notification on Nextdoor



North and South Piers are Closed
Sheboygan Police Department from City of Sheboygan · 11 Nov

Per the United States Coast Guard's Advisory, the North and South Piers have been closed. Please, adhere to the advisory and do not go out on the piers.

Shared with City of Sheboygan in Crime & Safety

THANK · 8 REPLY ▾

★ Elizabeth, Penny, Betty, and 5 others thanked Sheboygan

Notification on City of Sheboygan's Twitter Page



Website Banner on City of Sheboygan's Home Page



Emergency Response

From 2008 Committee:

COMMUNICATION: Rapid response is critical in a potential drowning incident. Both north and south piers are distant from communication systems. In addition, the Police Department has indicated that identifying the location of a water front problem can be difficult when responding to a cell phone call.

There are several manufacturers of emergency call boxes. The most task focused would be a cell phone programmed to dial a single emergency number upon pressing a button. The box can be labeled in order for a caller to identify location. A solar powered unit would provide the most flexibility regarding location. A device is estimated to cost \$5,000.

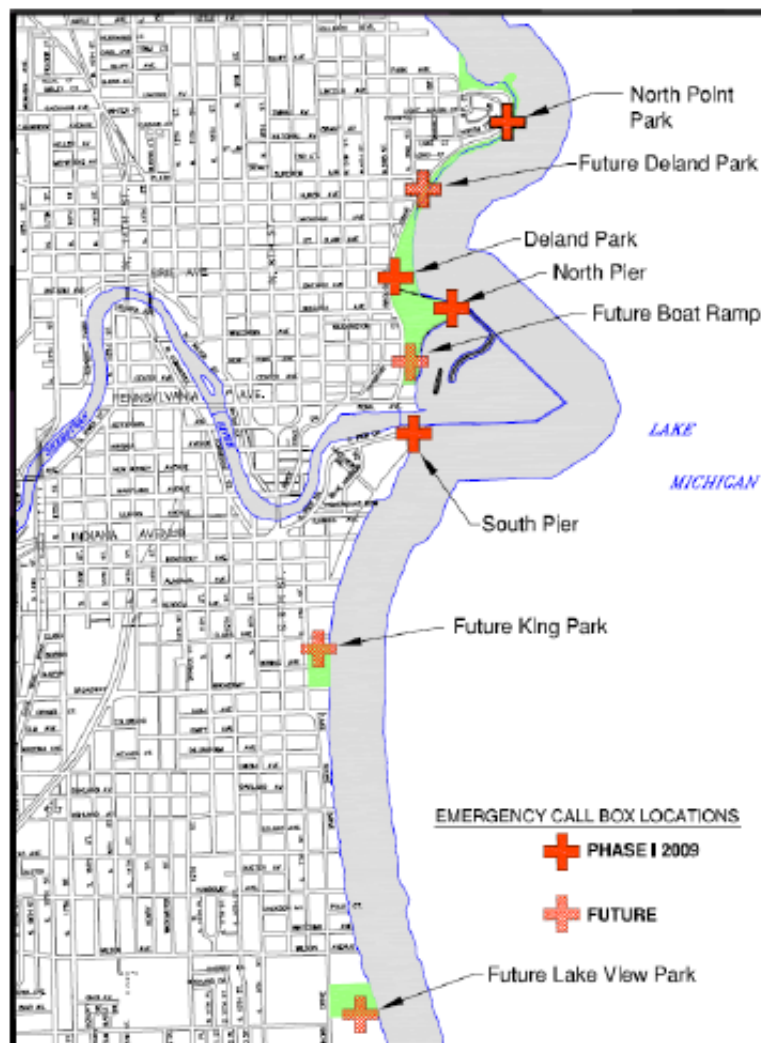
Potential locations for emergency call boxes are indicated on the map on the following page. The Task Force identified criteria for the placement of the boxes:

1. Reasonable proximity to the identified problem areas,
2. At locations where potential users will routinely pass and identify and note their function and,

- At locations where communication alternatives are not generally available because the location is remote from businesses, public facilities, and boater activity.

The Task Force has identified four critical locations. Additional sites are not recommended at this time as issues regarding vandalism, misuse and the ability of the equipment to weather a Lake Michigan winter are uncertain. The potential for false alarms is a concern. Should the installation be deemed successful additional locations can be considered.

2008 Recommendation: Install emergency call boxes (4 total) at North Point, South Pier, North Pier and at primary pedestrian entrance to Deland Park near Broughton Dr. COMPLETED w/ an additional emergency call box installed at King Park.



2016 Recommendation: No additional call boxes are being recommended at this time.

EMERGENCY LOCATION SIGNS: The emergency personnel of the 2016 Task Group expressed concern about the number of people using cell phones to call 911 and the inability of the caller to tell dispatch where they are. This causes precious time to be lost while the emergency personnel and dispatch try to locate where the incident is occurring. With this in mind, the emergency personnel along with dispatch created a map that would help dispatch notify Sheboygan Police Department, Sheboygan Fire Department, US Coast Guard, and Sheboygan County Dive Team where an incident is occurring. This map identifies areas with a numbering system that will be displayed by either a physical sign or stenciled numbers which dispatch will be able to ask the caller for the number on a sign or the stenciled number on the jetty. The emergency location number will be passed on to emergency personnel so they will be able to respond to correct location faster.

Example of Emergency Location Sign



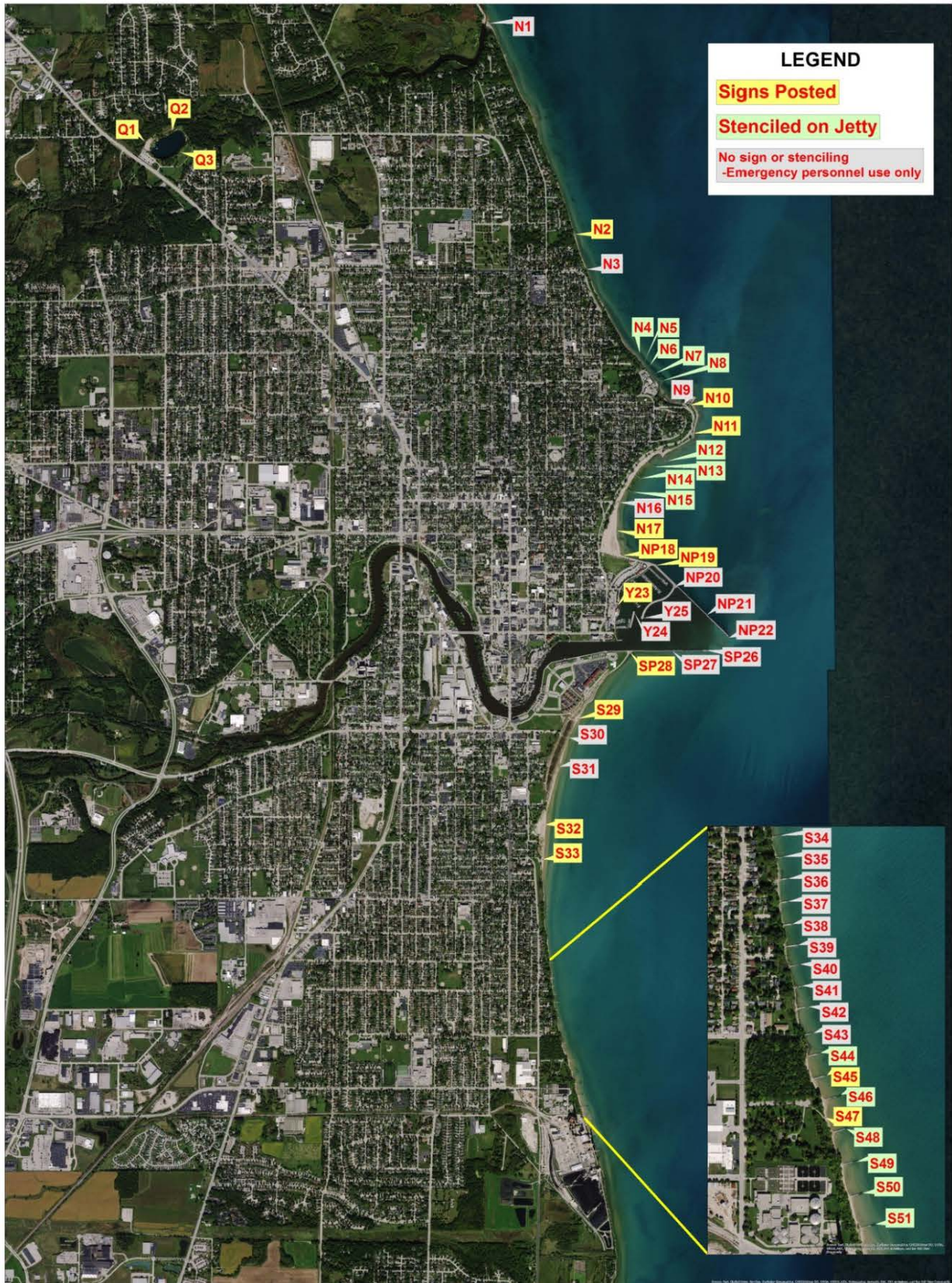
Once the emergency location map is created, the emergency personnel discussed creating routes to access each emergency location. This next step is important due-to-the-fact that not all locations are accessible by road. By creating a direct route to the location will help the emergency personnel respond to the person needing assistance faster.

The Task Group did have some concerns over the maps, signs, and stenciling. The first concern was the number of signs, they were afraid that it would cause sign clutter so they settled on placing emergency location signs on the existing sign kiosk and stenciling numbers on the jetties. And for the emergency location that didn't have a sign kiosk or jetty by them, they will be used for emergency personnel routes. Which lead to the next concern of who is going to make sure that the stenciling was going to be maintained? The Task Group talked about finding volunteer group(s) to

maintain the stenciling. And they felt pretty confident that between Eagle Scouts, area high schools, and other organizations they would be able to find volunteers to maintain the stenciling.

2016 Recommendation: Emergency personnel continue to work on creating an emergency location numbering system that works for all entities. After the numbering system is created emergency personnel shall create routes to the emergency locations to help improve response time.

See emergency location map next page



From 2008 Committee:

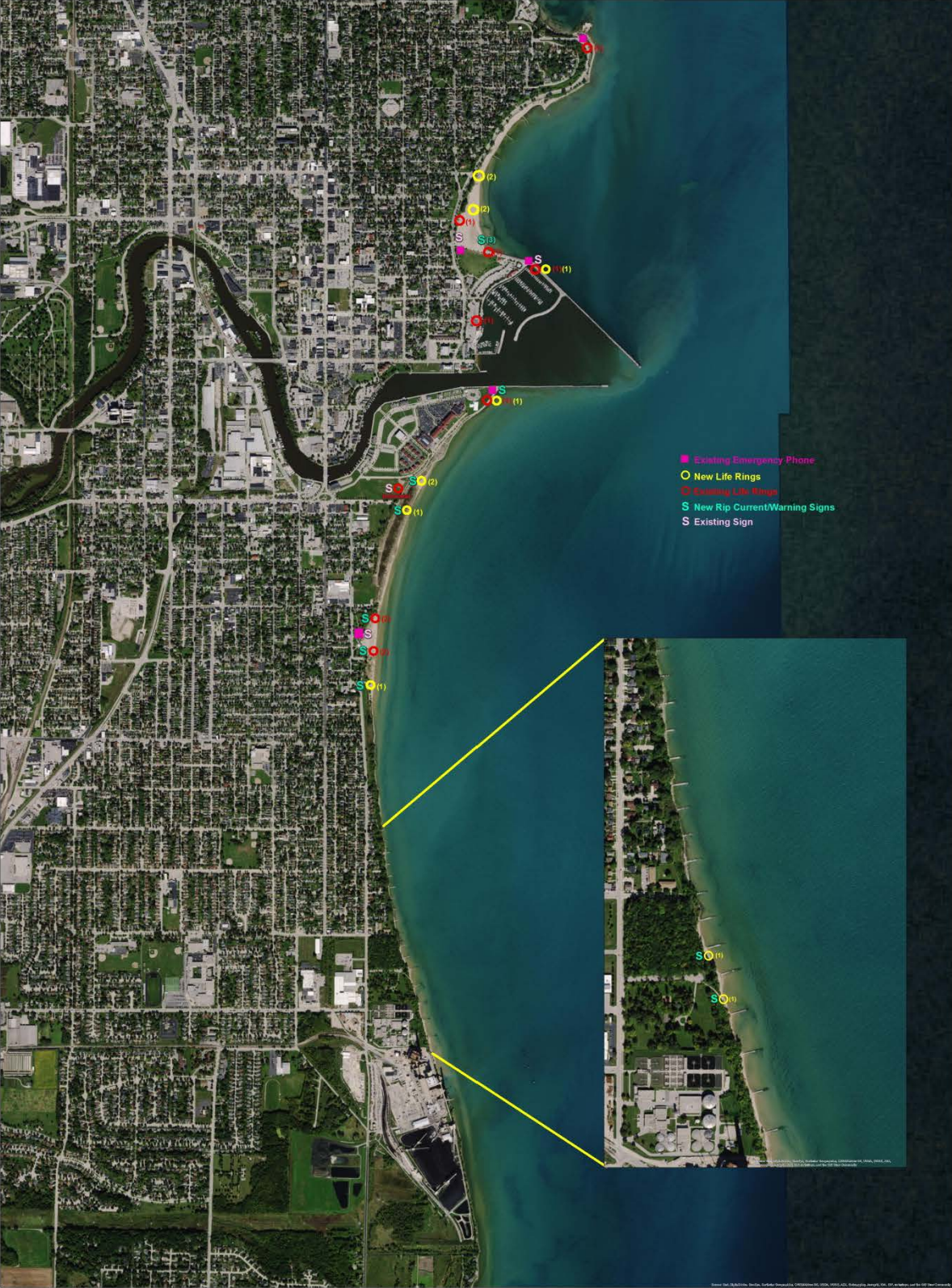
UPDATE LIFE RINGS: The City has received a petition from citizens asking for additional life rings. The existing life rings have been provided for years by the Sheboygan Area Great Lakes Sports Fishermen, which purchased the rings, constructed cabinets and donated the equipment to the City for installation. Approximately 45 rings are in place along the lakefront and Sheboygan River. The Task Force wishes to express appreciation to the organization for their efforts.

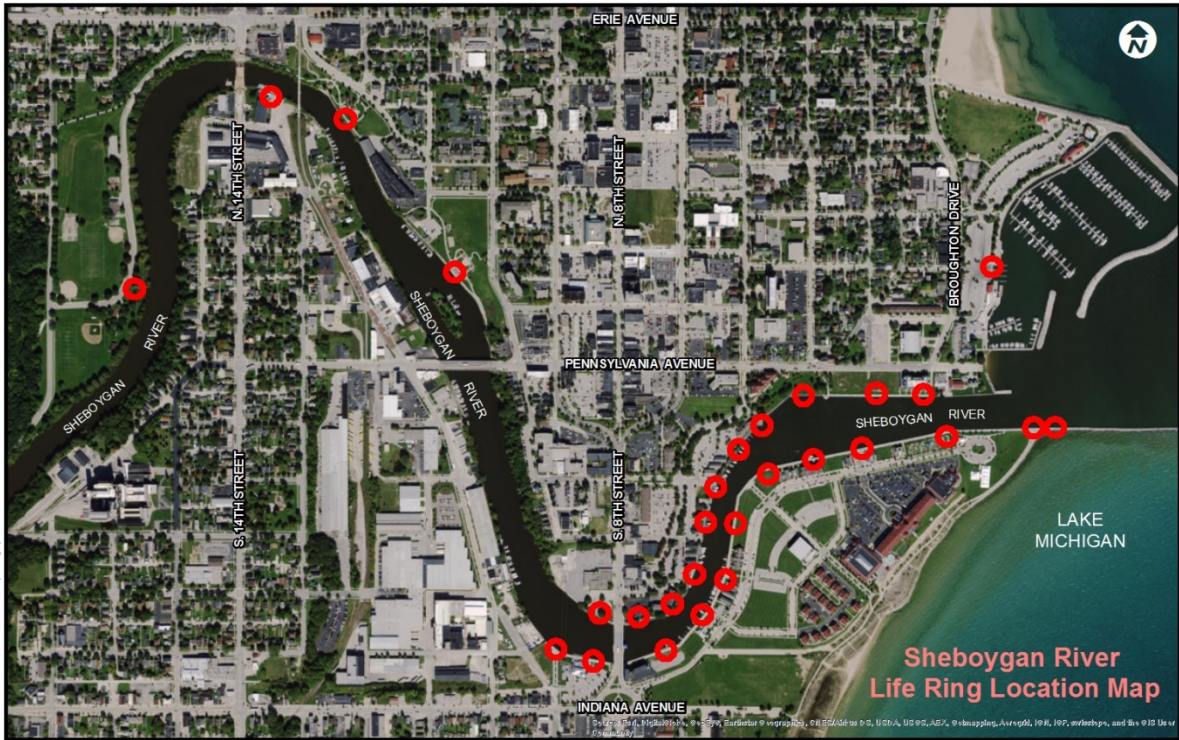
Adding life saving rings is a relative low cost safety measure. In addition the Task Force suggests that the new rings be purchased with cabinets that are consistent with the design of the improvements along the river and marina area. Significant cost has been incurred by the City to develop walkways with high visibility railings and decorative lighting. Cabinets are available that would be consistent with the design. The existing cedar cabinet will be moved to a more remote location along with the water front. Cabinets complete with life rings are estimated to cost \$250.00/each.

2008 Recommendation: Purchase and install up to 40 new life rings along the water front. COMPLETED

2016 Recommendation: Install additional life rings and continue to monitor existing life rings. Also to replace aging life rings as needed.

See life ring map of Lake Michigan coast page 18 and the life ring map of the Sheboygan River on page 19.





Enhanced Regulation

From 2008 Committee:

PROTECTION OF SAFETY DEVICES: During discussion of the need for warning and safety devices there was uncertainty how the existing devices are protected from vandalism and misuse. After review of the issue with the City Attorney, he recommended the following ordinance be adopted:

“Lifesaving Equipment. No person shall make or create a false alarm concerning the saving of life along the beaches, boardwalks, public walkways or piers within the City, or remove, use or tamper with any lifesaving station equipment, lifesaving rings, lifesaving station equipment boxes, or communication system provided therefore for public use, except in case of emergency.”

This language would be added as Section 70-221 of the Municipal Code, which would be part of Article VII, Offenses Against Public Safety, of Chapter 70, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions. The penalty section of Chapter 70 is contained in Section 70-5, entitled “Penalties for certain enumerated sections of this chapter”. Section 70-5 will also need to be amended as part of any ordinance creating the new Lifesaving Equipment section so as to establish the specific penalty for violation. It is recommended establishing the penalty at not less than \$50 nor more than \$250.

This would make the penalty for this violation consistent with the general unlawful damage to property ordinance.

2008 Recommendation: Adoption of the above reference ordinance. NOT COMPLETED

2016 Recommendation: Not to proceed with adoption of ordinance due to enforcement issues.

From 2008 Committee:

SWIMMING FROM PIERS: The Task Force also discussed the high risk of entering the water off the extended piers that form the harbor. These structures are routinely used for walking along the water, fishing, access for surfers and on some occasions swimming. The rock structure is difficult to traverse and can be a barrier to exit the water. Under certain weather conditions RIP currents along the North pier can be extremely hazardous.

In general municipal jurisdiction extended 1700 feet into the lake. The piers are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers and they are not currently posted. Agreement with the Army Corp. would be required to establish the ability to restrict the use of the piers. The City by lease agreement does have the authority to regulate recreational uses of the pier area that was modified for the construction of the Marina.

Although the Task Force discussed the benefits of restricting swimming from the pier, no regulation is recommended because of enforcement difficulty, the potential conflict with access for surfing, and the jurisdiction issues.

The 2016 Task Group also discussed the posting of “no swimming from piers” signs and agreed with the conclusion of the 2009 report, that enforcement is difficult along with jurisdiction issues.

CLOSING OF PIERS DISCUSSION: The 2016 Task Group discussed in great length the closing of the piers. The same issues apply to the pier closings as with the posting of no swimming from piers signs. Whose jurisdiction is it? And can we legally close the piers permanently or as needed? As discussions continued, the committee decided that this is not a matter that can be decided by this Task Group. That due to jurisdiction and legal ramifications it needed to be discussed by City Management.

At the City Management’s meeting, they agreed to install swinging entrance warnings at each pier that will have a sign on it that reads “Warning Dangerous Conditions”. Also at that meeting the following procedure was created:

1. US Coast Guard will notify Dispatch of the Dangerous Conditions
2. Dispatch will alert the Sheboygan Police Department of the Dangerous Conditions.
3. Sheboygan Police Department will close the swinging entrance warnings and send notice out on Nixle, Nextdoor, Twitter, and Facebook.
4. US Coast Guard will notify Dispatch when the Dangerous Conditions have passed.
5. Dispatch will notify the Sheboygan Police Department of the all clear.
6. Sheboygan Police Department to open swinging entrance warnings and send notice out on Nixle, Nextdoor, Twitter and Facebook.

2016 Recommendation: Proceed with the procedure and swinging entrance warnings that City Management has agreed to.



A final recommendation from the 2016 Task Group is: That the Lakefront Water Safety Task Group continues to meet on a quarterly basis to continue to monitor our lakefront safety and address any issues that may arise.