

**CITY OF TWO RIVERS
SPLASH PAD AND SKATING RINK SPECIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 21, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by City Manager Greg Buckley at 6:00 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Sheila Bialek, Wendy Kozlowski-Brandt, Nathan Kronforst, Kathy Peterson, Jay Remiker, Jayne Rulseh, Alyssa Schmidt (via Zoom), Scott Steckmesser (via Zoom) and Adam Wachowski. Committee members absent: none.

City Staff Present: Elizabeth Runge, City Planner/Community Development Director; Terri Vosters, Parks and Recreation Director; Greg Buckley, City Manager. Two Rivers Main Street Program Staff Present: Roger Russove, Executive Director.

Citizens Present: Dorothy Tinkham-DeLo and Kelly Hilliker.

3. Introduction of Committee Members and Support Staff

All committee members, staff and citizens present introduced themselves.

4. Project Overview

Mr. Buckley stated that the City has talked about a possible splash pad for at least five years. Various locations have been suggested, from Neshotah Beach to Washington Park to downtown.

During the 2021 process, the Council approved \$20,000 in the Parks Capital Budget for preliminary planning, design and cost estimates for such a project. Council member Adam Wachowski, now on the planning committee, advocated strongly for the project. Along the way, several Council members have suggested co-locating a winter skating rink on or near the site of the splash pad.

Mr. Buckley added that he has included \$200,000 for construction of such a project in a draft capital projects plan for 2022. He stated that amount would likely cover the base cost of a splash pad and skating area, but a more extensive park project, like including the splash pad and ice rink in a re-do of Central Park West, could cost substantially more, and would require community fund-raising and possible grants.

He urged the committee to begin the process by “thinking big, not small,” noting that the Two Rivers community has responded in support of major projects in the past, whether the Community House renovation in 2005-06 or the Rotary Beach Pavilion in 2015.

The City Manager stated that the Committee would be joined at 6:20 PM by representatives of Parkitecture + Planning of Madison, a firm with considerable experience in splash pad design that staff is recommending as consultant for this project. He noted that a proposal from this firm was included in the Committee’s agenda packet.

5. Presentation by Blake Theisen and Katie MacDonald of Parkitecture + Planning

Mr. Theisen and Ms. MacDonald joined the meeting at about 6:30 P.M., following some technical difficulties with Zoom. They reviewed a portfolio of projects where their young firm has done the design work and overseen construction.

Mr. Theisen noted that the bulk of their work has been in Dane County and the Fox Valley. Projects cited included a park with splash pad and bandstand in Shawano, splash pad in the Village of Sherwood, and a planned splash pad project in Thiensville.

There was discussion of the relative merits of a splash pad with recirculating water, or one with a “flow through” design, where water is discharged to sanitary or storm sewer. The Parkitecture representatives reported that facilities using less than 50,000 gallons of water per day do not need to have water treatment equipment and do not have to have certified pool operators on site. For those reasons, nearly 80 percent of their recent projects have been of flow-through design; recirculating splash pads are most frequently installed at aquatic centers, where they can take advantage of existing staff and water treatment infrastructure.

Mr. Theisen and Ms. MacDonald also addressed some of the practical operation and maintenance considerations that they strive to be aware of when designing these projects.

In response to a question from Mr. Buckley, Mr. Theisen stated that their firm could begin work on the Two Rivers project in February. The first step would be to evaluate several alternative sites, then arrive at a preferred site and develop designs and cost estimates for a project at that site.

The Parkitecture team concluded their presentation and discussion at approximately 7:10 P.M.

6. Discussion of Project and Path Forward

The Committee, staff and citizens present engaged in further discussion of the project.

Mr. Wachowski suggested that the committee be polled as to locations that should be considered for this facility. All committee members, staff and members of the public suggested locations, including Central Park/West, Neshotah Park and Washington Park. A majority of those present expressed a preference for the Central Park/West location. Several expressed concerns about safety at that location, noting its proximity to a heavily-travelled street that is the major state highway passing through Two Rivers.

Following discussion, Adam Wachowski moved, supported by Wendy Kozlowski-Brandt, to recommend to City Council that Parkitecture + Planning, LLC be retained to assist the City with planning, design and cost estimates for a new splash pad and ice rink facility and related park improvements.

The motion was approved by voice vote of the committee, without dissent.

Mr. Buckley stated that this recommendation will go to City Council at its meeting on February 1.

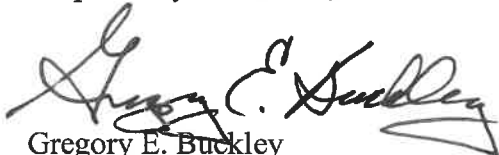
7. Set Date and Time for Next Meeting

All committee members and staff indicated that they would be available to meet again on Thursday, February 18 at 6:00 PM. Mr. Buckley stated that he would confirm that date and time with Parkitecture, and will include on that meeting agenda the election of a committee chair and vice chair.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business on the agenda, Mr. Buckley declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gregory E. Buckley
City Manager