JOINT COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE CITIES OF NEENAH AND MENASHA
Company E Room, Menasha Library
440 First Street, Menasha
Tuesday, March 17, 2015
MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER
   Meeting called to order by Mayor Merkes and Mayor Kaufert at 6:00 p.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL/EXCUSED ABSENCES
   EXCUSED: Menasha Alderman Langdon
   MENASHA STAFF PRESENT: Parks & Recreation Director Tungate, Public Works Director Radtke, Community Development Director Keil.
   NEENAH STAFF PRESENT: City Attorney Godlewski, City Clerk Sturn, Director of Finance Easker, Director of Community Development & Assessment Haese, Director of Public Works Kaiser, Director of Parks & Recreation McCoy, Recreation Supervisor Olson, Engineer Merton.
   ALSO PRESENT: Amy Barker, Executive Director of Future Neenah (FNI), Annette Look (FNI), Patrick Skalecki, Graef P.E., State Representative Mike Rohrkaste, Senator Roth’s Legislative Assistant Bill Kloiber, the Media, and 40+ members of the public.

   Moved by Ald. Ramos seconded by Ald. Hillstrom to move to agenda item E.
   Motion carried on voice vote.

   Moved by Ald. Sevenich seconded by Ald. Benner to move to agenda item E.
   Motion carried on voice vote.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY MATTER LISTED ON THE AGENDA

E. REPORT OF DEPARTMENT HEADS/STAFF/CONSULTANTS

   Park & Recreation Directors Tungate and McCoy did a short slide presentation on the Twin Trestle Pedestrian Bridge Project.

   Patrick Skalecki, Graef P.E., informed the audience that the Fox Cities Trestle Trail was built in 2005. They estimate 971 pedestrians per day cross the Trestle Trail from 21 states and 7 countries. The proposed twin bridges and trail will connect the loop. The Twin Trestle Pedestrian Bridge Project is estimated to cost $3.2 million: $1.6 million in the form of DNR grants; $1 million (32%) to be raised by “Loop the Lake” Trestle Project conducted by Future Neenah; and $300,000 (9%) from both the cities of Neenah and Menasha. He advised that the feasibility study addressed: alignment of the bridges; structure alternatives; pier alternatives; decking alternatives; and environmental issues. They investigated DNR permitting available for the project. They also found that the Coast Guard does not have
jurisdiction therefore no permits are required. He pointed out renderings done of the actual structure and invited the audience to view them. He feels it is a neat project and hopes it moves forward.

Amy Barker, Executive Director of Future Neenah (FNI), introduced herself and gave a short presentation on their project “Navigate Neenah-Menasha”, which is their non-profit effort to raise $1 million dollars for the Loop the Lake Trestle Project. Projects like this help recruit businesses, employers, employees and residents. She advised that FNI assisted with the Shattuck Park Neenah Riverwalk Project.

Public Comments/Questions:
1. Dir. McCoy read into the minutes a letter from the Neenah-Menasha YMCA expressing their support for the Navigate Neenah-Menasha Loop the Little Lake Trestle Project. They believe this trail project correlates well with the YMCA’s mission to promote youth, adult and family activities that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.
2. Tim Gosz, 98 Fox Street, Menasha, expressed concern that this project is a “trail to his house” which is located on the corner of Fox and Mathewson Streets. He asked if the trail could be relocated away from the neighborhood.
3. Mike Kading, 669 Appleton Road, President of the Fox Cities Greenways, spoke in favor of this project. The proposal utilizes public infrastructure already in place.
4. Jeff Harvey, 514 Broad Street, Menasha, expressed concern over this project increasing taxes. He has issues with the city representatives acting like this is a done deal. He asked what the city has done with other issues such as parking on Broad Street and to maintain projects such as the Trestle Trail. He would like to know the exact cost and effect on his neighborhood and asked that every aspect of this project be reviewed. He also asked that the cities do their best to get the community and companies involved to possibly lower the city portion of this project and maintain the budget.
   Amy Barker explained that their fund raising efforts are 32% compared to the taxpayers 9%. They will strive to possibly lower that 9%.
5. Ned Hughes, 1140 Manor Drive #4, Neenah, questioned long term maintenance. Dir. McCoy indicated they have a ten-year investment of $24,000 for maintenance of the Trestle Trail, which is less than they spend on the Neenah Pool. Ned Hughes indicated this is a wonderful project, which will add to the quality of life and have a positive economic impact.
6. Dick Sturm, 1203 Greenwood Court, Menasha, favored the trail as he always looks for recreational opportunities. He is waiting for a safe way to High Cliff.
7. Joe Mass, 70 Lawson Street, Menasha, opposed the trail and expressed concern over people walking past the disposal plant.
8. Dean Moede, 858 Broad Street, Menasha, commended the communities and Future Neenah for coming together. He suggested trying to increase the funding efforts for this project.
   Amy Barker indicated the goal of FNI is to raise as much as they can and partner with as many entities as possible.
   Mayor Kaufert added that if FNI is successful in reaching out to the community the taxpayer burden might be less.
9. Ellen Kunz, 707 Congress Place, Neenah, supported the project for herself as well as her mother, Val Roemer, 232 Kaukauna St. Her mother is excited to see people walking past her home. At 81 she biked the Trestle Trail. Her family is grateful she had a place to go. Ellen asked that we don’t forget about the elderly and those in wheelchairs.

10. David Palmer, 544 Grove Street, Neenah, expressed concern over the streets included in the project.
   Pat Skalecki indicated they would look at parking and trail widths. There are certain criteria they need to meet.

11. Pat Galloway, 325 Ninth Street, Neenah, indicated he is excited about the project. He asked that trash removal, maintenance, minimum congestion and the proper path be taken into consideration. The vibrancy of a project like this can reduce the tax base.

12. Jake Lamb, 221 Kraft Street, Neenah, supports the trail as they bring people into his area. He would love a bigger site.

13. Mark Green, 1480 Circle Drive, Menasha, supported the trails as they allow him to avoid the heavy traffic on Commercial Street. He does not like litter and does his part to help by picking up litter as he walks the trails. If everyone did their part litter would not be an issue.

14. Dave Morton, 1177 Westwind Drive, Neenah, supported the project. He suggested scheduling “pick up” projects similar to what the Rotary does. It is just as much the public’s responsibility as it is the responsibility of the municipality.

15. Mike Kading, 669 Appleton Road, Menasha, President of the Fox Cities Greenways indicated he is excited about this project. He indicated the Town of Menasha sends their crews out to maintain the trails. He suggested organized volunteer work days similar to the “Neenah Slough” clean up each spring.

16. Ned Hughes, 1140 Manor Drive, #104, Neenah, advised that he is involved with the Fox Cities Greenways and supports the project. Studies show trails built adjacent to residential properties increase their worth by 2-5%.

Mayor Merkes thanked the citizens for this input.

F. ACTION ITEM

1. Neenah Resolution 2015-16 and Menasha Resolution R-9-15 Joint Resolution Authorizing Application for Outdoor Recreation Grant Funds Through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the Construction of Two Pedestrian Bridges Connecting the Cities of Neenah and Menasha


General discussion ensued on; cost to taxpayers, environmental issues, grant process, other grants available, disrupting wildlife in the area, maintenance of bridges/trail, concerns of wording of the resolution, Cities of Neenah & Menasha and Future Neenah working together, holding public hearings during each phase of project.

Moved by Ald. Lendrum seconded by Ald. Pollnow to amend the Neenah motion to remove the four bullet points: submit an application to the DNR for any financial aid that may be available; submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within 6 months of the project completion; sign and submit documents; and take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project. Amendment failed on roll call 1-8. Ald. Lendrum voting aye
Moved by Ald. Ramos seconded by Ald. Hillstrom to amend the Neenah motion to add wording before the second bullet point to read. “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event the State grant is awarded, the Neenah and Menasha Common councils would further need to approve the grant agreement and authorize the City of Neenah and City of Menasha Park and recreation Directors to do the following.”
Amendment carried on roll call 7-2. Ald. Lendrum and Kunz voting nay.

Moved by Ald. Sevenich seconded by Ald. Keehan to amend the Menasha motion to add wording before the second bullet point to read, “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event the State grant is awarded, the Neenah and Menasha Common Councils would further need to approve the grant agreement and authorize the City of Neenah and City of Menasha Park and recreation directors to do the following;”,
Amendment carried on roll call 5-2. Ald. Taylor and Zelinski voting nay.

The original City of Neenah motion as amended, carried on roll call 8-1. Ald. Lendrum voting nay.

The original City of Menasha motion, as amended, carried on roll call 5-2. Ald. Taylor and Zelinski voting nay.

G. ADJOURNMENT
Moved by Ald. Pollnow seconded by Ald. Ramos to adjourn the Neenah Council meeting at 8:33 p.m.
Motion carried on voice vote.

Moved by Ald. Keehan seconded by Ald. Sevenich to adjourn the Menasha Council meeting at 8:33 p.m.
Motion carried on voice vote.

Patricia A. Sturn, WCPC/MMC