

Parks and Public Spaces Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 5:30- 6:30 pm, City Hall Council Room

Present: Marg Barter, Dorothy Washburne, Robert Abbey (Chair), Debbie Kimball (Council Member), John Cameron (Director PW), Andrew Love, Cathy Galgano, Hilary Reeder, Melissa Lindley (Director Economic Development), Shawn Dolley (Council Member)

Meeting called to order at 5:32

1. April Minutes - City Manager Robert Peabody's name needs to be corrected, as well as Dorothy Washburne's first name. Debbie makes a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections, Cathy seconds the motion. The motion passes.
2. Dearborn Park Project Update:
 - a. Removed two larger trees. Removed flowering middle level trees today. Tomorrow will start removing the pavers and retaining walls. Need to remove the Ash tree roots by pulling.
 - b. When the project is finished, signage will need to be updated.
 - c. Berube will be doing work for the majority of the summer - although the completion date is listed in the contract as August 15, 2025.
 - d. All of the bricks will be removed along the old alley leading up to the electric panel and there will be granite steps going up to the panel.
3. Waterfront Park Gardens Project:
 - a. Compost was spread by volunteers on the large garden and southernmost garden
 - b. Both gardens were weeded by volunteers
 - c. 50+ perennials were purchased to install in the "newly" designed garden
 - d. 50+ perennials were saved from Dearborn Park by volunteers
 - e. These plants were planted by volunteers
 - f. Dorothy reminds the group that there are 5 gardens at the waterfront and urges the group to find people to attend to the remaining three gardens, as well as weed the two larger gardens weekly.
4. Kent Cooper - DOT signage guru - maybe invite him to a future meeting?
 - a. There is a City signage plan that was developed about 15 years ago.
 - i. Melissa can share this document with the group.
5. Waterfront Park
 - a. When was the park constructed? Dorothy - it was done in two parts and the dates are down on a placard at the Waterfront.
 - b. There has been significant damage done by ice and flooding to the piers of the Boardwalk.

- c. The Climate Vulnerability Work group is asking for the Waterfront Park to be one of the first city-owned assets to be discussed as far as solutions related to Climate Change.
- d. Audit of Features and Conditions
 - i. Feeling of being there: Lively, fun, event space, peaceful, respite, connecting with the water, wild, connected to art through the sculptures and nature, great view, strongly connected to the space, the confluence is a sacred space.
 - ii. Use: dog walking, reading, exercise, lunch spot,
 - iii. Robert asks the committee to think about the other parameters on the rubric for the next meeting.
- 6. Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Shawn Dolley, seconded by Andy Love. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Next Meeting June 24, 2025 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Tamara Whitmore