Call to Order: Chairperson Schaefer called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. in the Municipal Center Training Classroom.

Roll Call: Deputy Clerk Meadows called the roll: Members present: Chairman Schaefer, Alderman Devine and Alderwoman Condon. Others in attendance: Director of Parks & Recreation Hobson and Nicole Thompson, Athletic & Aquatic Supervisor.

Public Comment: None

Approval of past Park and Recreation Committee Minutes
A. August 21, 2017
B. October 26, 2017
C. November 16, 2017
D. April 26, 2018
E. July 30, 2018

Chairman Schaefer asked if any of the Committee Members had any comments on any of the past Park and Recreation Committee minutes. The Committee Members offered no comments. A Motion was made by Alderwoman Condon and seconded by Alderman Devine to approve the minutes A-E as presented. Roll call: Vote: 3 ayes by unanimous voice vote. 0-nays, 0-abstained. Motion carried.

Walsh Park Donation Update
Director Hobson provided the Committee Members with an update on the redesign of Walsh Park. He reported that he had meet with the donor and discussed the possibility of entering into a license agreement or having the City donate the land to him then he would be the responsible party to completed and pay for all the improvements associated with the redesign of Walsh Park. However, the donor declined the offer.

Director Hobson then discussed the new proposal for the reconstruction of the seawall which includes prevailing wage. The new proposal increased by $20,000 but the other improvement
costs remained consistent with the original proposal bringing the total cost of the project to $139,890.

The new proposal contains two contingencies one for the seawall itself in the amount of $3,700 and the second for the plantings and brick pavers in the amount of $5,412.

Director Hobson reported that he had informed the donor that since the project cost had increased he still thought it was only fair that the City’s exposure cost matches the donor’s exposure cost.

Alderman Schaefer asked if Director Hobson could clarify the differences related to Phase I and Phase II improvements. Director Hobson reported that the Phase I improvements are located on City owned property and the Phase II is located on privately owned property (other than a small section) and will be paid for solely by the donor.

Alderman Schaefer commented on the fact that there is only one quote for the project. Director Hobson noted that due to the fact that this project is a design/build, the donor more than likely has a relationship with the chosen contractor. Alderman Schaefer thought that it might be problematic to present the proposal to the City Council with only one quote. The Committee discussed the need to obtain other quotes prior to presenting this matter to the full City Council.

**A Motion was made by Alderman Devine and seconded by Alderwoman Codon to amend their original motion dated July 30th to reflect the following language as recorded in the set forth minutes. A Motion to present to the full City Council a proposal for the Walsh Park redesign including the City’s portion of the prevailing wage cost and the reconstruction of the seawall not to exceed $70,000 along with acceptance of a donor’s matching contribution contingent upon obtaining additional quotes.** Roll call: Vote: 3-ayes by unanimous voice vote. 0-nays, 0-abstained. Motion carried.

**Petersen Farm Draft Market Study Presentation**
Ms. Diane Williams provided the Committee with a presentation on the Petersen Farm Market Study. She discussed the current demographics of the City of McHenry and the demographics of the surrounding communities within a 10-minute and 20-minute drive times.

Ms. Williams discussed the “A Day at Petersen Farm” event. She noted that the visitors interviewed learned about the event with traditional media campaigns such as flyers, word of mouth and newspapers. Ms. Williams recommended in the future increasing the use of technology, particularly mobile phones used to identify entertainment options.
Ms. Williams commented on typical farm programming activities which consist of historical demonstrations, receptions and reunions, gardening classes, a music festival, and community garden plots.

Ms. Williams reported on common interview themes. She stated that the "A Day at Petersen Farm" is regarded by all stakeholders as a great event, well organized and well attended.

Ms. Williams commented on the maintenance of the grounds particularly the barn and other outbuildings. In her opinion there needs to be a more pro-active approach. She suggested developing a capital plan or mid-term strategy plan to stabilize and preserve the farm buildings.

Ms. Williams discussed the peer site assessments. She reported that that there were four similar sites that were identified as peers for Petersen Farm. All four sites are dealing with limited funds and staff resources.

Ms. Williams explored the expansion of partnership options. She recommended partnering with the McHenry’s school district and 4H clubs.

A lengthy discussion ensued that explored ways to improve the farm grounds, expand programming activities, and generate revenue streams.

The Committee Members along with Staff thanked Ms. Williams for her hard work and her time.

**Department Updates**

Director Hobson reported on the Rotary Club’s Blues, Brews and BBQ event. He noted that the event was well received and well attended.

Athletic & Aquatic Supervisor Thompson provided the Committee Members with updates on the season’s aquatic programs and the beach and pool attendance numbers which had increased from last year.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Meadows

Reviewed and approved this 17 day of December 2018.

[A Signature]

Alderman Jeffery A. Schaefer, Chairperson