

Public Works Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, August 11, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.  
Beckman Mill County Park Pavilion  
11450 South CTH H - Beloit, WI 53511

Call to Order. Chair Yankee called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 9:05 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Bussie, Diestler, Ott and Yankee

Committee Members Absent: Supervisors Arnold

Parks Advisory Committee Members: Gina Cook, Tom Presny and Floyd Finney

Parks Advisory Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Rob Baller, Parks Community Coordinator  
Ben Coopman, Public Works Director  
Lori Williams, Parks Director

Others Present: Phil Bolen, Interested Citizen  
Dave Dobson, FWEC  
Stephanie Dobson, FWEC  
Dick Dunagan, FBM  
Val Dunagan, FBM  
Sheri Disrud, FBM  
Richard Newsome, FWEC  
Frances Peterson Rose, FBM  
Kirby Simpson, FBM

Approval of Agenda. The agenda was moved and approved.

Approval of Minutes of July 14, 2009. Change Gina Castro to Gina Cook. Minutes moved and approved.

Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements. None.

Discussion and Possible Action on Beckman Mill Fishing Pier Project. Parks Director Williams presented her issue paper describing the history and planning of the fishing pier from the year 2000 onward.

Supervisor Ott arrived.

Ms. Williams reported all grants require approval before changing and recommends continuing with the plan.

Tom Presny arrived.

**NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Bolen asked if the pier is mostly for wheelchair access and use or is it for a larger purpose of fishing and canoe launching.

Parks Director Williams replied it is for ADA access and not put in as a canoe launch. Mr. Bolen felt it would be used as a canoe launch as people are launching from the pier on his side (west) of the pond.

Chair Yankee commented parking is better on the east side.

Mr. Bolen stated people are parking on CTH H and carrying canoes to the west side. He advocated making the pier boat launch friendly in order to entice visitors to use the east side boat launch.

Ms. Disrud stated that people often park on CTH H south of the mill, more than in the main parking lot.

Chair Yankee stated an official pier on the west side would induce more parking on CTH H.

Public Works Director Coopman commented parking on CTH H is dangerous and is not recommended. He recommends abandoning the west side parking for safety reasons. He believes more people will use the east side once the fishing pier is in. Mr. Bolen agreed.

Mr. Dobson would like to see the pier built as soon as possible, midway between the Cooperage and the Mill.

Director Williams explained that the west side pier is probably on County land. Mr. Bolen replied he believed his pier is on his land, and did not mind the public using the pier as long as their behavior was decent and they did not damage the pier. Mr. Baller explained that the millpond is lower since the dam was rebuilt, and this exposed a new rim of shoreline. The property line follows the old shoreline and the staff position is that the line has not changed because the water level changed. The pier is probably on County land. Supervisor Bussie commented that the County might be liable for any accidents happening on the pier.

Ms. Disrud suggested creating an ADA parking lot just north of the Welty house. This would provide flat terrain to reach the pier. It would be an attractive location for wheelchair people to travel. Discussion on ADA compliant bathroom facilities and a hard surface path to the same took place.

Various parking scenarios were discussed. Prohibiting parking alongside CTH H was also discussed. Chair Yankee called for a tour of the park and the group departed. Parks Director Williams described the location and proposed path and pier. Public Works Director Coopman described the pier elevation and fill needed.

Mr. Presny departed.

Discussion on the hard surface path and possible damage or removal of trees took place.

More discussion.

The group toured the south end of the park and looked over the highway and parking issues, then looked at the west parking area and Mr. Bolen's west bank pier. Discussion on various items took place. A couple supervisors walked onto the west side pier made by Mr. Bolen.

The group returned to the pavilion. Chair Yankee thanked everyone for their time and comments.

Motion was made to support the staff recommendation as presented by Parks Director Williams for the fishing pier project. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Community Coordinator Baller informed the Committee that the DNR Permit was withdrawn and will have to be reapplied for.

Parks Director Report. Parks Director Williams stated her report was short due to budget demands. She reviewed her report line-by-line at Chair Yankee's request.

On the subject of the Farmington Hills Subdivision's violations of yard waste along the Ice Age connector, Supervisor Diestler stated he is the Town of Harmony's Zoning Officer and Parks Director Williams should direct him to respond to the violations.

Parks Advisory Committee Remarks. None.

Next Meeting Date. Tuesday, September 8, 8:30 a.m.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Baller  
Community Coordinator