

Public Works Committee Minutes
Tuesday, May 8, 2012 – 8:30 a.m.
Department of Public Works Committee Room
3715 Newville Road - Janesville, WI

Call to Order. Chair Yankee called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 8:30 a.m. Parks Director Williams is absent today due to a death in the family.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Arnold, Bussie, Brown, Fox and Yankee

Committee Members Absent: None.

Parks Advisory Committee Members: Floyd Finney and Tom Presny. Mike Guisleman was absent.

Staff Members Present: Deb Lawton, Secretary
Joleen Stinson, Parks Community Coordinator
Ben Coopman, Public Works Director

Others Present: Andrew Bremer, MSA
Nancy Pope, Friends of Carver-Roehl Park
Tammy Van Pamel, Friends of Carver-Roehl Park
Kevin Kawula, Friend of Magnolia Bluff County Park

Approval of Agenda. Supervisors Fox and Bussie moved the agenda, deleting item 9b concerning an easement across the Pelishek Tiffany Nature Trail. MOTION CARRIED.

Election of Vice-Chair. Supervisors Arnold and Fox nominated Supervisor Bussie. Chair Yankee called for more nominations three times. Supervisors Fox and Arnold moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Supervisor Bussie as Vice-Chair. MOTION CARRIED.

Set Meeting Day and Time. Supervisor Fox asked that the meetings begin at 8:00 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m. Supervisors Fox and Arnold moved to keep meeting days the same and change the start time from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Minutes of April 10, 2012. Supervisors Arnold and Brown moved the minutes. MOTION CARRIED.

Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements. Ben Coopman stated Corporation Counsel is available to speak to any committee member about the citizen participation aspect of the meeting.

Supervisor Bussie stated she was very pleased to have Supervisor Brown on this committee.

Chair Yankee also welcomed new committee member, Dave Brown.

Vouchers/Bills/Encumbrances/Pre-Approved Encumbrance Amendments. None.

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Rock County Public Works Committee
May 8, 2012

Public Hearing on Park Draft Master Plans (DMP) for Carver-Roehl and Magnolia Bluff County Parks. Andrew Bremer discussed the creation of both park plans starting with an online survey that was conducted last summer.

Kevin Kawula spoke about the plans and what it does not include:

His three main points were:

- 1) Inaccurate and incomplete State Natural Area designation and mapping will leave Magnolia Bluff susceptible to continued harmful land management practices by Public Works & Parks. No DMP should go forward without accurate maps and natural area surveys.
- 2) Proposed "New Trail Construction" should be removed as it will lead to fragmentation, habitat loss, erosion, and would publicly, through Public Works & Parks, perpetuate historical inaccuracies surrounding the "Ice Age Trail" and Magnolia Bluff's significance during the Wisconsin Era Glaciation.
- 3) The recommendation to bring electricity to Magnolia Bluff should be removed from the DMP until proper Environmental Impact Studies can be conducted, and a more sustainable less invasive solution can be reached for park users requesting amenities.

Extensive discussion took place on the aforementioned and other related items. Supervisor Brown spoke in favor of including a couple of paragraphs regarding the endangered species of flora and fauna at Magnolia Bluff County Park. He does not feel the plan needs to be redesigned. Adding an appendix was discussed. More discussion.

Tom Presny expressed his admiration for Kevin's commitment. We need to think about what we are doing. Kevin's knowledge is rare and his commitment is rare. Tom looks at a plan as a starting point. It is a guide. We want the best possible outcome.

Ben Coopman agrees with Tom Presny. This is a passive recreational area. It sounds like Kevin and others want to turn this into a restoration area – a great change of scope.

Discussion on electricity at the park took place. Supervisor Brown wants a few paragraphs from Kevin Kawula on including the SNA area to be included in the plan.

Kevin Kawula agreed to provide information for the appendix to the plan on endangered species at the park. He will forward the information to the Parks Division.

Nancy Pope commented on the DMP for Carver Roehl Park. She stated everyone is excited about getting a hand pump installed by the pavilion. No one was excited about having a bike rack – they felt it did not fit in. They liked the idea of stepping stones in the creek. They were not in favor of removing the red pines.

Written comments were submitted by Kevin Kawula, Angel Kubly, Suzie Smith and Randy Hoffman concerning Magnolia Bluff Park and are on file at the Parks Division office.

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Rock County Public Works Committee
May 8, 2012

Public Hearing was closed at 9:50 a.m. by Chair Yankee.

PARKS BUSINESS

Approve Resolutions for Adoption of the Carver-Roehl County Park and Magnolia Bluff County Park Master Plans. Supervisors Arnold and Brown moved to table the resolution until the June 12 meeting. Andrew Bremer will work on an addendum and Kevin Kawula will have his written comments to the Parks Division in the next couple of weeks. MOTION CARRIED.

Project Report. This was included with the agenda. Supervisor Arnold asked about the Delong property. Ben reported we are working on it.

Ben Coopman discussed large stands of trees planted by the Parks Division many years ago that now need trimming and/or thinning. He discussed the roadside tree trimming along the road by Gibbs Lake County Park.

Parks Advisory Committee Remarks. The Parks Advisory Committee had no special comments.

Next Meeting Date. Tuesday, June 12.

Adjournment. Supervisors Arnold and Brown moved to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Lawton
Secretary II