



ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highways & Parks

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Public Works Committee Meeting – Parks Minutes

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 – 8:00 a.m.

Public Works Department- Committee Room
3715 Newville Road
Janesville, WI 53545

Call to Order. Chair Richard called the meeting of the Parks Committee to order at 8:01 a.m.

Committee Members Present. Supervisors Richard, Mulligan, Rashkin, Mawhinney and Yeomans.

Committee Members Absent. None.

Staff Members:

John Traynor	Parks Manager
Amy Friend	Community Coordinator
Duane Jorgenson	Director of Public Works
Amy Hartley	Secretary II
Rich Greenlee	Corporation Counsel
Terri Carlson	Risk Manager

Others Present:

Tom Presny	Parks Advisory Board
Dean Paynter	Parks Advisory Board
Floyd Finney	Parks Advisory Board
Richard Bostwick	Rock County Board Member
Alan Sweeney	Rock County Board Member
Everett Reese	Rock County Snowmobile Alliance
Levi Olson	Rock County Snowmobile Alliance
Steve Fausnaugh	Rock County Snowmobile Alliance
Erica Keehn	Rock County Alliance of Snowmobile Clubs
Richard Plautz	Sundowners Snowmobile Club President
John Sweeney	Sundowners Snowmobile Club Member
Robert Shumaker	Citizen
Harold Dettinger	Citizen
Kate Fuchs	Citizen
Rodney Bruzinski	Citizen
Jackie (unknown LN)	Citizen

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Approval of Agenda. Supervisor Mawhinney moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Yeomans. ADOPTED.

Approval of Minutes from June 9, 2020. Supervisor Yeomans moved approval of the minutes, second by Supervisor Mulligan. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements. Ms. Hartley read four emails received from the community regarding the Sundowners Snowmobile Club.

Mr. Reese, Rock County Snowmobile Alliance Travel Coordinator, reported that the WI DNR supervises and has authority over the trails. The Alliance formed in 1981 to maintain trail safety to include grooming and sign placement. The Sundowners Snowmobile Club chose to leave the Alliance January 20, 2020. Mr. Reese stated he received unnecessary threatening e-mails from Mr. Shumaker on this subject.

Ms. Keehn, President of Rock County Snowmobile Alliance Club, explained her desire to continue a partnership with the county. Ms. Keehn reported to have received intimidating e-mails from Sundowners Snowmobile Club members.

Mr. Bruzinski explained he would like to maintain a good relationship with all.

Mr. Plautz reported to have had several discussions with the Snowmobile Alliance regarding the Sundowners Snowmobile Club's desire to leave the Alliance. Mr. Plautz reported landowners feel the same. Mr. Plautz reported the Club's departure and continuance to serve the area would not disturb the safety of the trail.

Mr. Dettinger reported best practice in the past has been all clubs working together; volunteerism is appreciated and done at one's own discretion, but never compensated.

Parks Advisory Board Communications. Mr. Presny and Mr. Finney reported how nice it is to see a lot of outdoor activity as families utilize the parks. The parks look great!

PARKS BUSINESS

Resolution – Authorizing Application with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for County Conservation Aids Application Grant Funds. Supervisor Mawhinney approved the resolution, second by Supervisor Mulligan. Mr. Yeomans questioned in what areas can grants be used? Mr. Traynor responded that the grants may be utilized in several different approved areas and are non-specific. ADOPTED.

Discussion – Boat Launch User Fees and Fines (See Attached). Mr. Traynor reviewed and explained the attachments and the payment tracking process for boat launch fees. The lake access fee (launch fee) pays for improving and maintaining the parks. Kayak launch fees are per vehicle, not per vessel. This regulation was implemented pre-2008. If a patron fails to pay the

launch fee, a warning citation of \$169 is issued and resolution is sought. Supervisor Mulligan suggested creating non-resident incentives to utilize the parks and/or launches. Supervisor Mawhinney suggested review of the park fees, including shelter rental fees.

Discussion – Snowmobile Club Status Update. Mr. Greenlee discussed and explained the Snowmobile Alliance contract: its purpose, renewal, the action of the alliance and volunteering. Rock County Corporation Counsel and Parks Manager explained that it is in the best interest of the County to continue to contract with the Alliance.

Parks Manager Report – See Attached. Mr. Traynor provided information on the items listed in his report.

Parks General

Park Usage Update – the crew is busy. There has been an increase in traffic as the parks are inadvertently promoted due to the worldwide health crisis.

Parking Log Striping – Royce Dallman, Beckman Mill, Gibbs Lake – striping is complete and done well.

Trail Maintenance Status – ongoing, as a result of weather conditions.

Septic Service – Pit Toilet Pumping Completed – company doing great job.

POROS Plan Update

Final Steps of the POROS Process – The County Board has approved the final submission and the plan is nearing completion. The interactive map is being finalized.

Park Reservation and Bathrooms

Review of Current Status – bathrooms in all the parks are open (approved by Corporation Counsel) with current COVID-19 signage. There have been eighteen park reservation cancellations thus far due to the health crisis.

Grant Applications

Update on Peace Trail Application – awaiting federal approval for the Peace Trail project.

Gibbs Lake Park

Boat Launch Work – Bollards, Blacktop Repair – bollards will be placed at the piers to prevent collisions.

Horse Lot – Posts – research is being done to obtain replacement posts for the current horse lot posts.

Sweet-Allyn Park

Ball Field Rehab – leveling is needed. Mr. Traynor is working with some local farmers to donate their services.

Memorial Bench Request – placement expected to be alongside the creek at no cost to the Parks Department.

Turtle Creek Parkway

Smith Road Bridge Progress – reconstruction is on schedule and may be finalized by August 31, 2020.

Memorial Update – John Vogel – discussions continue. The memorial is expected to be placed on the pathway, near the kayak launch.

Indianford Park

Trash Problems – the need to empty receptacles increases due to the surge in park attendance.

Alliant Energy Fiber-Optic Crossing – discussions continue.

Magnolia Bluff Park

Horse Lot Repair – Pursuing 2021 CIP for Magnolia Bluff and Gibbs Lake horse lots.

Toilet Repairs – Ridge Cap and Painting – toilets have been repaired to include a ridge cap to prevent continued deterioration from water flow.

Royce Dallman Park

Pier Repairs – all new bumpers have been installed.

Gravel Shoulder Upgrades – completed.

Crew Update

Update on Personnel and Work Needs – Parks has a full staff working diligently, however, continue to need more personnel to keep up with demands.

Community Coordinator Report – See Attached. Ms. Friend provided information on the items listed in her report. Supervisor Richards requested the status of the tree identification project at Carve-Roehl Park. Ms. Friend reported the project is nearing completion.

Next Parks Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. at Department of Public Works. (There will be no August 2020 Parks Meeting.)

Adjournment. Supervisor Mawhinney moved to adjourn at 9:28 a.m., second by Supervisor Rashkin. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy J. Hartley, Secretary II