



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Park Commission

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

5:30 PM

Virtual Zoom Meeting: See top of agenda for
instructions on how to join the webinar or call in by
phone.

A. Call To Order

Present: 7 - NANCY BOGUE, STEFANIE BROUWER, ANALIESE EICHER, DAVE RIPP, TOM THORESEN, GRACE MORAN and KRISTIE GOFORTH

Youth Governance Member Present: Sam Kaufmann

Staff/Others Present: Sharene Smith, Rhea Stangel-Maier, Ryan Schwab, Chris James, Darren Marsh

Chair RIPP called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2020](#) PC MINUTES_11-18-20
[MIN-333](#)

Attachments: [2020 MIN-333](#)

A motion was made by THORESEN, seconded by BROUWER, that the Minutes of November 18, 2020 be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote: 7/0, YGP: 1/0

C. Fund Transfers - None

D. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments)

1. [2020 RES-291](#) APPROVE CROP LEASES ON COUNTY LAND

Sponsors: RIPP, CHAWLA, DOWNING, EICHER and RITT

Attachments: [2020 RES-291](#)
[2020 RES-291 Fiscal Note](#)

Marsh explained that the County has a long history working with area farmers to lease lands and use them to help maintain park lands until they can be restored or transitioned into a different use. Smith stated that these lease agreements are extensions with existing farmers.

A motion was made by BOGUE, seconded by BROUWER, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote: 7/0, YGP: 1/0

2. [2020 RES-296](#) AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR SNOWMOBILE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT LITTLE SUGAR RIVER-DANE 16 BRIDGE, STATE CORRIDOR TRAIL #21

Sponsors: RATCLIFF, DOWNING, RIPP and RITT

Attachments: [2020 RES-296](#)
[2020 RES-296 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2020 RES-296 CONTRACT #14186](#)

RIPP asked the Commission if all three Resolutions for Snowmobile Bridges could be taken up at the same time.

RIPP explained that he added these Resolutions onto the Commission agenda to give people an opportunity to learn what role Dane County Parks plays in the County Snowmobile Program. Marsh stated that Dane County Parks is responsible for the Snowmobile Program for Dane County. RIPP added that some trails may continue outside the County like this trail where these bridges are going to be replaced. Bridge structures are bid out by Public Works. Marsh said that the DNR grant funding, supported by the sale of snowmobile registrations, comes through the County. BROUWER stated that she worked on the program when she was with the State. THORESEN added that it also covers the County Trail Patrol program. Marsh stated that the program is fully funded to cover grant projects such as snowmobile bridges. Marsh stated that some bridges do serve multiple uses such as at Donald Park with the equestrian and hiking trails.

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by GOFORTH, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote: 7/0, YGP: 1/0

- 3. [2020 RES-297](#) AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR SNOWMOBILE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT SPRING VALLEY CREEK-DANE 14 BRIDGE

Sponsors: RATCLIFF, DOWNING, RIPP and RITT

Attachments: [2020 RES-297](#)
[2020 RES-297 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2020 RES-297 CONTRACT #14187](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by GOFORTH, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote: 7/0, YGP: 1/0

- 4. [2020 RES-298](#) AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR SNOWMOBILE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT MOUNT VERNON CREEK-DANE 9 BRIDGE

Sponsors: RATCLIFF, DOWNING, RIPP and RITT

Attachments: [2020 RES-298](#)
[2020 RES-298 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2020 RES-298 CONTRACT #14188](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by GOFORTH, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote: 7/0, YGP: 1/0

GOFORTH left the meeting at 6:02 pm.

Present: 6 - NANCY BOGUE, STEFANIE BROUWER, ANALIESE EICHER, DAVE RIPP, TOM THORESEN and GRACE MORAN

Excused: 1 - KRISTIE GOFORTH

E. Items Requiring Committee Action - None

F. Presentations - None

G. Reports to Committee

1. Volunteer Program

Rhea Stangel-Maier, Volunteer Coordinator, gave an update on the Parks Volunteer Program showing the latest data from 2019. She stated that 2020 was a difficult year with the pandemic. There were many events planned for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and many other regular events that had to be canceled due to the pandemic. Some Friends groups still provided opportunities for volunteers to work virtually or outdoors on projects, following the public health guidelines. In recent years the volunteer numbers have averaged around 3200 volunteers and 66,000 hours of time supporting the county parks. The pandemic will result in much lower averages for 2020. An example of a county activity that was canceled would be the prescribed burns, where trained volunteers help with county burns. Most of the volunteer training programs were after the shutdown in March. Stangel-Maier pointed out that there were 18 Friends Groups or partner groups working on county park lands. There are more tools and resources from the volunteers with Foundation for Dane County Parks and the Friends of the Parks Endowment. The Friends have given out over \$32,000 in grants over the last two years. In 2020 the County also provided \$100,000 in grants to support the Friends on their projects throughout the parks system. Stangel-Maier announced that she will be retiring as of January 15, 2021. The Park Commission thanked her for everything she has done to build such a premier program for Dane County. It was stated that we would not have the park system we have today without all of our volunteers and Friends Groups. The Commission wished her well in her next pursuits.

2. Donation Policy Discussion

Marsh stated that he and James worked on a draft form to be used when someone wants to donate a unique gift. The questions that were raised earlier by the Commission were added to the gift donation form. Marsh reviewed the specific questions and the Commission's input that gifts should be the property of Dane County and will have a set lifespan. Marsh stated that staff thought 20 years would be appropriate as it is generally considered the lifespan for a capital project. THORESEN asked if the value and impact of the gift will require action by the County Board for recognition, etc. Marsh stated he would check on this, but stated that since Park Commission has an approved and adopted Recognition and Donation Policy, there are certain decisions and actions related to recognition and donations that are Commission oversight. THORESEN added that it would be beneficial to add to the form, that a decision on the donation will be made by the Park Commission based on the plans for the Park. James stated that each park is different from the next property and each park has its own type of theme. Planning should provide direction on where gifts can be placed and what type of gift so that the donation adds to the theme of the park rather than taking away from it.

[2020
RPT-594](#)

NON-DESIGNATED_UNIQUE_GIFTS DRAFT

Attachments: [2020 RPT-594](#)

H. Announcements - None

I. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. Next Meeting: January 13th at 5:30 pm
2. 2021 Meeting Schedule

[2020](#) 2021 PARK COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE
[COM-016](#)

Attachments: [2020 COM-016](#)

J. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda - None

K. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

A motion was made by THORESEN, seconded by MORAN, to recognize Rhea Stangel-Maier for her years of service developing and leading the Dane County Parks Volunteer Program that has helped create and shape our park system to serve the Dane County Community. The motion carried by a voice vote: 6/0, YGP: 1/0

L. Adjourn

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by BOGUE, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote: 6/0, YGP: 1/0

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Darren Marsh. Minutes are subject to Commission approval.