



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Park Commission

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

5:30 PM

Lyman F Anderson Ag & Conservation Center
5201 Fen Oak Dr - Room A/B
Madison WI 53718

5201 Fen Oak Drive - Room A/B

A. Call To Order

Present: 3 - DAVE RIPP, WILLIAM LUNNEY and DANIEL WISNIEWSKI

Excused: 2 - TOM THORESEN and GEORGE GILLIS

THORESEN was not present at the beginning of the meeting but was present as noted below.

Staff Present: Adam Alves, Laura Hicklin, Darren Marsh, Sharene Smith

Others Present: Judie Pfiefer

LUNNEY called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

LUNNEY requested a change of agenda order, moving Item F "Presentations" before Item B "Consideration of Minutes." Commission members agreed to the request.

F. Presentations

Career Pathway Program & Equity in Urban Forest Project - Adam Alves, Dane County Forester Specialist

Alves provided handouts on the Parks Division Pathway Program. The Pathway Program provides expanded training in the areas of conservation and forestry for Operation Fresh Start students. Training for the OFS students includes: operating and care of power equipment, tree vegetation identification, equipment demonstrations and job shadowing opportunities. Alves explained that he has worked with OFS to develop a Skills Achievement Record that helps track each student as they progress with training in conservation and forestry skills. The program expanded in 2017 with grant dollars that came from Madison Community Foundation for creating a parks forestry trainee position. This LTE position is the next step in developing job-ready students from the program. The trainee works directly with staff to learn skills of the profession including the operation and maintenance of equipment. Parks sponsored the trainee to obtain a commercial drivers license, pesticide applicator license and other certifications that show proficiency in specific areas of their work. One trainee, Carlos Rubio, successfully completed the program during the Fall 2017/Winter 2018 season.

Another program that is being promoted by the Parks Division is the Urban Forestry Project that identifies communities where there is a greater need for outreach. Large landscape maps of the county and cities are analyzed for average tree size within communities and neighborhoods. This helps identify potential disparity between tree planting and green space. Urban tree diameter and planting plans are one way of seeking out less-advantaged areas. Typically communities and neighborhoods with higher household incomes have large diameter trees and a higher percentage of parks and open space. Another index that can be used are the latest census figures that geographically identify household incomes of each city or area of the county. This information can help target programming, tree planning, park land purchases and access to amenities. Some of the work that Forestry is doing for outreach programs targets these areas, and then partners with their community centers.

LUNNEY requested a change of agenda order to move item G. Reports to Committee to be considered next. Commission members agreed to the request.

G. Reports to Committee

Friends of Pheasant Branch - Recommendation to Limit Dogs in Critical Grassland Habitat Area

Marsh provided the Park Commission a handout with the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy recommendation to limit dogs on county lands north of the multi-use trail at the north end of the conservancy. Their request is being made to protect birds and other wildlife that need the special habitat provided by these restored lands. Marsh displayed several maps that outlined the area being proposed to be closed to dogs. Marsh stated that dogs are currently allowed on county lands at Pheasant Branch, but must be restrained on a 6' lead and the owner must have a valid Dane County dog permit. Marsh explained that he met with the Friends representatives Lloyd Eagan, John Daly and Janet Kane on April 10th to review their request. The Friends recommendation is to limit dogs only in the restored grassland habitat north of the multi-use trail. The loop multi-use trail is the main public thoroughfare through and around the entire conservancy. Marsh informed the Commission that he had provided the Friends with a general process that the Park Commission used for policy changes. The proposed size of the dog restricted area is approximately 96 acres. Dane County manages a total 160 acres on the north end of the conservancy. The conservancy has over 550 acres of public lands. The restricted area is about 17 percent of the public land base. Marsh mentioned that there are two City of Middleton dog parks in the vicinity, one that is 34-acres is about 2 miles away and another 6-acre park that is 3.5 miles away. LUNNEY asked Marsh to move forward with a public information meeting the week of April 30th or May 7th.

Marsh noted that Parks staff has been working on signage related to bird nesting season awareness directed at dog walkers throughout the parks system. The signs inform dog owners that dogs must be leashed to prevent impacting ground nesting birds. These signs are two-sided (yard type) that would be used temporary in the spring to highlight the bird nesting period. The signs would be placed throughout the park system where there is critical grassland habitat.

[2018
RPT-008](#)

PHEASANT BRANCH DOG RECOMMENDATIONS

Attachments: [2018 RPT-008 Pheasant Branch Dog Recommendations](#)

THORESEN arrived at 6:20 pm

Present: 4 - DAVE RIPP, WILLIAM LUNNEY, DANIEL WISNIEWSKI and TOM THORESEN

Excused: 1 - GEORGE GILLIS

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2017
MIN-598](#)

PC MINUTES_3-28-18

Attachments: [2017 MIN-598_PC Minutes_3-28-18](#)

A motion was made by WISNIEWSKI, seconded by RIPP, that the March 28, 2018 minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote: 4/0

Ayes: 4 - RIPP, LUNNEY, WISNIEWSKI and THORESEN

Excused: 1 - GILLIS

C. Fund Transfers - None

D. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments) - None

E. Items Requiring Committee Action - None

H. Announcements

4/13/18 Earth Day w/ Humana Vlntrs, 8-4, Lake Farm/Heritage Cntr/Cap Springs
4/17/18 Earth Day Student Program, 9-noon, Heritage Cntr - FOSCRA & DC Park Staff
4/18/18 Cross Plains Lions & Boy Scouts Workday, 4 pm, Festge - Friends of Festge
4/19/18 Earth Day Student Program: Work & Hike, 9-noon - FOSCRA & DC Park Staff
4/19/18 Earth Day w/ OFS Volunteers, 9-3:30 - DC Park Staff & Friends of Festge
4/21/18 SW Trout Unlimited Workday, 9-noon, location TBD - SWTU Volunteers
4/21/18 Youth Service Day, 9-noon, McCarthy - Friends of McCarthy & DC Park Staff
4/27/18 Arbor Day 6th Grade Field Trip, 9-1, Anderson Farm-DC Park Staff&Park Friends
4/28/18 Arbor Day Celebration, 11-1, Silverwood - Friends of Silverwood
4/29/18 Ice Age Trail Evening Hike, 6:30 pm, Indian Lake - Ice Age Trail Alliance
4/29/18 Spring Time at the Farm, 1-3, Schumacher Farm - Friends of Schumacher
4/30/18 VlntrTrain Series - Spring Invasives ID, 9-noon - DC Park Staff & UW-Extension
5/4/18 MAS Field Trip, 6:30-8:30, Nine Springs E-Way & Lagoons - MAS
5/8/18 American Family Vlntr Work Project, 1-4, Lake View - Friends of Lake View Hill
5/10/18 Garage Sale Off Property, Schumacher Farm - Friends of Schumacher Farm
5/10/18 Seed Collection, Tree Planting, Park Cleanup, 1-3, Goodland - DC Park Staff
5/11/18 Garage Sale Off Property, Schumacher Farm - Friends of Schumacher Farm
5/12/18 Donald Dash Trail Run - Friends of Donald Park
5/12/18 Silverwood Farmers' Market, 8 am - Friends of Silverwood

I. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. Park Tour Sites

Park Commission discussed future meeting location for the summer tours. There are a number of projects that will be completed later this summer including:

- *Schumacher Farms "Center for Rural History"*
- *Silverwood – Stone House Visitor Center*

Other sites offered for tours included:

- *Stewart Lake County Park*
- *Pheasant Branch Conservancy*
- *Prairie Moraine*

2. Next Commission Meeting: April 25th, 5:30 pm at Lyman F Anderson Ag & Conservation Center

J. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

none

K. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

none

L. Closed Session

The Commission entered into closed session per Wis. Stat.

19.85(1)(e): The Commission may go into closed session for the purposes of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

A motion was made by THORESEN, seconded by WISNIEWSKI, that this meeting enter into closed session. The motion carried by the following vote: 4/0

Ayes: 4 - RIPP, LUNNEY, WISNIEWSKI and THORESEN

Excused: 1 - GILLIS

M. Return to Open Session

A motion was made by RIPP, seconded by THORESEN, that this meeting exit out of closed session. The motion carried by the following vote: 4/0

Present: 4 - DAVE RIPP, WILLIAM LUNNEY, DANIEL WISNIEWSKI and TOM THORESEN

Excused: 1 - GEORGE GILLIS

N. Adjourn

A motion was made by WISNIEWSKI, seconded by THORESEN, that this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote: 4/0

Ayes: 4 - RIPP, LUNNEY, WISNIEWSKI and THORESEN

Excused: 1 - GILLIS

Respectfully submitted by Darren Marsh. Minutes subject to committee approval.