



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, May 22, 2024

5:30 PM

Lower Mud Lake Natural Resource Area
Hidden Farm Road, McFarland

A. Call To Order

Chair Thoresen called the Park Commission meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Staff Present: Joleen Stinson, Sharene Smith, Chris James, Alex DeSmidt, Dan Schmitt.

Youth Governance Member Steve Hoang present.

Others Present: Aaron Mullins, Kathy Pease, Marko Pease, Linda McKamey, Will Mann, Peter Mann, Mary Treamaine, Tim Fiocchi, Theresa Conger.

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

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2023](#)
[MIN-599](#)

Minutes of the March 27, 2024 Park Commission

Attachments: [2023 MIN-599 PC Minutes 03-27-24](#)

A motion was made by **BROUWER**, seconded by **GOFORTH**, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0, YGP 1-0.

C. Presentations

1. Lower Mud Lake NRA Certified Land Steward Volunteer Update

Certified Land Steward Kathy Pease is the lead volunteer at the Lower Mud Lake Natural Resource Area. She introduced other very active and dedicated volunteers in attendance at the meeting. The volunteers started in 2019 by reopening grassland and savanna habitat leading down to sedge meadow along Mud Lake. Volunteers have since expanded efforts to oak woodland restoration in the "upper woodland," which also contains a linear mound. Alex DeSmidt reported that because of the volunteer work to sensitively remove invasive vegetation growing on the mound, Dane County Parks has been able to survey the mound and request that it be catalogued with the Wisconsin Historical Society. This area of Dane County is rich with cultural features; the Lower Mud Lake Archaeological Complex includes the Skare Site, Dyreson fish weir, Douglas Dam and sawmill, and numerous mounds on both public and private property.

2. Potential Movement of Certain Memorial Gifts to the Foundation for Dane County Parks

Aaron Mullins shared the Foundation for Dane County Parks' mission and the vision of transferring all fundraising and donation acceptance responsibilities to the Foundation, starting with memorial benches and trees. There was consensus from Commissioners to pursue this transition. Aaron Mullins and Joleen Stinson will come back to Park Commission with a draft workflow and agreement for approval at an upcoming meeting.

D. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments)

1. [2024 RES-008](#) AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION, EARTHWORK & DREDGING FOR THE DOOR CREEK STREAM RESTORATION, TOWN OF DUNN

Sponsors: ENGELBERGER

Attachments: [2024 RES-008](#)
[2024 RES-008 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2024 RES-008 CONTRACT #15474](#)

A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by BOGUE, that the Resolution Requiring 2/3rds Vote be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0, YGP 1-0.

2. [2024 RES-017](#) AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR STATE OF WISCONSIN DNR URBAN FORESTRY GRANT

Sponsors: CHAWLA, POSTLER, ENGELBERGER and ROSE

Attachments: [2024 RES-017](#)
[2024 RES-017 Fiscal Note](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by EICHER, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0, YGP 1-0.

3. [2024 RES-020](#) AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF USDA FOREST SERVICE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY INFLATION REDUCTION ACT GRANT FUNDING FOR EQUITABLE FORESTRY STABILIZATION MANAGEMENT AND FORESTRY CAREER PATHWAYS PROGRAM

Sponsors: CHAWLA, ROSE, POSTLER and ENGELBERGER

Attachments: [2024 RES-020](#)
[2024 RES-020 FISCAL NOTE](#)

A motion was made by GOFORTH, seconded by BROUWER, that the Resolution Requiring 2/3rds Vote be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0, YGP 1-0.

- 4. [2024 RES-023](#) AWARD OF AGREEMENT FOR THE ASPHALT PAVING OF WAUCHEETA TRAIL

Sponsors: ENGELBERGER

Attachments: [2024 RES-023](#)
[2024 RES-023 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2024 RES-023 CONTRACT #15493](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by MORAN, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0, YGP 1-0.

E. Items Requiring Committee Action

- 1. Conservation Fund Grant Application from Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance for the Southwest Grasslands in the Town of Christiana

A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by BROUWER, to direct staff to prepare the resolution to approve grant money for this Conservation Fund grant request. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0, YGP 1-0.

- 2. Foundation for Dane County Parks Collaborative Grant Awards

Joleen Stinson provided an overview of the collaborative grant program. The Foundation for Dane County Parks and Dane County Parks staff recommended approval of all grant awards as presented.

[2024 ACT-034](#) 2024 Spring Collaborative Friends Grant Application Summary

Attachments: [2024 Spring Grant Application Summary](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by MORAN, that the grants be awarded as presented. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0, YGP 1-0.

F. Reports to Committee

- 1. POSP Planning Update

Dane County Parks is wrapping up the initial public outreach efforts on the 2025-2030 update to the Park and Open Space Plan. To date, outreach efforts include hosting three public meetings, invitations sent to all local units of governments to solicit their input, and an online public input survey. Almost 2,000 people completed the survey, summary results were reviewed. The next step will be sending letters to stakeholders groups to solicit their input.

[2024](#)
[RPT-086](#) Park and Open Space Plan Survey Highlights and Schedule

Attachments: [POSP Survey Highlights](#)
[POSP Schedule](#)

2. McCarthy Youth and Conservation County Park Playground RFP Update

Dane County Parks has solicited proposals for a new playground at McCarthy Youth and Conservation County Park in the Town of Sun Prairie. Proposals were due earlier this week and will be graded by a review committee, which includes one Park Commissioner.

[2024](#)
[RPT-087](#) McCarthy Playground RFP Components

Attachments: [McCarthy Playground RFP Components](#)

3. LWRD's comment on Epic System Corporation's proposed wetland fill for the West River Road project and restoration of the Upper Sugar River

Epic has submitted DNR permit applications to build a road/bridge, fill wetland and restore a portion of the Sugar River. The property is north of the Sugar River Wildlife Area. The Land & Water Resources Department submitted the enclosed letter to the DNR as part of the permit application comment process.

[2024](#)
[RPT-088](#) LWRD Comments_Epic W River Rd Proposal

Attachments: [LWRD Comments_Epic W River Rd Proposal](#)

G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. Wednesday, June 26, 2024
Pheasant Branch Conservancy
5000 Pheasant Branch Rd, Middleton
2. Wednesday, July 24, 2024
Ice Age Junction Natural Resource Area
Park and Ride, 2585 Old PB, Verona
3. Wednesday, August 28, 2024
Fish Camp County Park
Net House, 3359 Fish Camp Rd, McFarland
4. Dane County Park Commission Orientation and Policy Book: requesting input, prioritizing and clarifying policy decisions with input from staff, commission and public. Timeline.

Tom Thoresen reported that he is working on an update to the Park Commission Orientation and Policy Book.

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

I. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law - None

J. Closed Session

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by GOFORTH, that the Meeting enter into closed session. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 - BOGUE, Vice Chair BROUWER, Supervisor EICHER, Chair THORESEN, MORAN and Second Vice Chair GOFORTH

Aye: Youth Governance Member Steve Hoang

The Commission (or Committee) met in closed session for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing or acquiring of property where open discussion of bargaining positions and strategies would discourage bargaining and harm the public's interest in obtaining properties. The authority for this possible closed session is Wis.Stat.19.85(1) (e).

K. Return to Open Session

A motion was made by MORAN, seconded by BROUWER, that the Meeting exit out of closed session. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 - BOGUE, Vice Chair BROUWER, Supervisor EICHER, Chair THORESEN, MORAN and Second Vice Chair GOFORTH

Aye: Youth Governance Member Steve Hoang

L. Adjourn

A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by MORAN, that the be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0, YGP 1-0.

Meeting adjourned 7:40 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joleen Stinson, pending Park Commission approval.