



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee Park Commission

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

6:00 PM

Town of Mazomanie Town Hall
711 West Hudson St
Mazomanie WI 53560

Town of Mazomanie Hall - 711 West Hudson St, Mazomanie

A. Call To Order

Present: 5 - DAVE RIPP, WILLIAM LUNNEY, DANIEL WISNIEWSKI, TOM THORESEN and
GEORGE GILLIS
Excused: 1 - CHRISTINE HAAG

Staff Present: Lars Higdon, Darren Marsh

Others Present: Friends of Mazo Marsh: Dan Deneen, Greer Deneen, Dennis Deneen

Meeting called to order by Chair LUNNEY at 6 pm

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2017](#) 7-12-17_PC MINUTES
[MIN-181](#)

Attachments: [2017 MIN-181 7-12-17 PC Minutes](#)

A motion was made by RIPP, seconded by THORESEN, that the minutes of July 12, 2017 be approved. The motion carried by the following vote: 4/0

Ayes: 5 - Vice Chair RIPP, LUNNEY, WISNIEWSKI, THORESEN and Supervisor GILLIS

Excused: 1 - HAAG

C. Fund Transfers - None

D. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments) - None

E. Items Requiring Committee Action - None

F. Presentations - None**G. Reports to Committee**

1. Friends of Mazo Marsh

LUNNEY welcomed the Friends of Mazo Marsh and thanked them for their voluntary efforts to support the public lands and waters in Northwest Dane County. LUNNEY stated that besides the Friends of Mazo Marsh, there are 16 additional Friends Groups supporting the county parks. LUNNEY also spoke of the Friends of Dane County Parks Endowment. Dan Deneen, President of the Friend of Mazo Marsh, presented a map of state and county Lands that connected the Village of Mazomaine to the Wisconsin River and Mazo Beach. Deneen stated that the DNR's plans to open the beach again in 2018. It's a goal of the Friends to have trail connections developed between the Village and the DNR's open recreation area. Deneen stated that the Friends want to support the DNR and their efforts to create a family recreational setting at the Mazo Beach, develop a trails system and connect more people to the River. Currently they are looking at potential sites to cross Marsh Creek and Big Ditch. These two crossing are on county land. Other projects that the Friends have worked on include removing one and a half miles of barbwire fencing as well as the clearing of invasive species for about one and a half miles along Black Earth Creek. This buffer strip was planted with grasses and a strip of prairie plants adjacent to the stream. The Friends are still building their membership.

2. Walking Iron Projects

a. Sand Prairie Restoration

Higdon stated that the 5-acre Sand Prairie is a remnant prairie of very high quality. It's one of the most critical resources that he has seen within the county resource areas. This is the reason that we have been partnering with the Fish and Wildlife Service on a project to buffer this site and expand the amount of open grasslands and prairies around the site. The habitat will also expand the habitat for grassland birds that need larger open sites to be able to thrive. The project identifies the removal of pine and black locust from the project area. Weekly logging is harvesting the identified trees. Once logging is complete, there will be cleanup and some herbicide work to control root sprouts.

b. Wildlife Area Projects

Marsh stated that there was a similar ongoing project lead by Sara Rigelman. She is working with Mike Engel of the Fish and Wildlife Service on a site that was a former cattle yard. The habitat is being restored to improve wildlife habitat and water quality.

c. Stream Corridor Restoration

Marsh stated that this was the first project area that the Friends of Mazo Marsh assisted on. The Friends cleared a tremendous amount of vegetation and also created a new hiking trail along the corridor. It creates an outstanding gateway to the park and Black Earth Creek. Dan Deneen stated that the Friends hope to work on phase II this winter.

d. New Bridge - Village Park Entrance

Marsh stated that the new bridge across Black Earth Creek at the Village Park was installed this spring. Marsh said the new bridge should greatly improve the access to the park and improve stream flow. The new bridge is 48 feet with a 20 foot ramp section for a total distance of 68 feet.

e. New Property

Marsh presented a map with the new Wick/Trager property that is being added to the park on NE corner of the park. LUNNEY stated that he remembered walking the land many years ago with John Wick and Ken LePine. LUNNEY stated that is was an outstanding addition to the park.

H. Announcements

7/20/17 Jenni and Kyle Fishing Day – THORESEN recognized the high turnout for this event and efforts that partner groups and Dane County Parks put forth to create expanded opportunities for patrons with disabilities.

8/1/17 Weed & Wildflowers - Volunteer Train, CamRock #2, 9-noon - DC Parks
8/1/17 Depression Era Pottery - Schumacher Farm - Friends of Schumacher
8/2/17 Making a Memory - Healing Powers of Nature Senior & Dementia Friendly Days,
9:30-3:30 - Friends of Pheasant Branch
8/15/17 Nature Photography Schumacher - Friends of Schumacher
8/20/17 Celebration of Stewart Park Pot Luck, Live Music 4-6 - Friends of Stewart
9/10/17 25th Heritage Fest - Friends of Schumacher

I. Future Meeting Items and Dates

August 9 - Lyman Anderson Conservation Center (Fen Oak)
August 23 - Indian Lake County Park Tour

J. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None

K. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None

L. 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: 5 - Vice Chair RIPP, LUNNEY, WISNIEWSKI, THORESEN and Supervisor GILLIS

Excused: 1 - HAAG

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm

**Optional tour of Walking Iron Park and Wildlife Area was held after the meeting,
but no official business was conducted.**

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