



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, July 22, 2020

5:30 PM

Pheasant Branch Conservancy - Former Acker
Homestead
5000 Pheasant Branch Road
Middleton, WI 53562

5000 Pheasant Branch Road, Middleton, WI 53562

A. Call To Order

Present: 5 - NANCY BOGUE, STEFANIE BROUWER, ANALIESE EICHER, DAVE RIPP and
GRACE MORAN

Excused: 1 - TOM THORESEN

Staff Present: Chris James, Lars Higdon, Bert Schwab, Jonathan Ernst, Darren Marsh

Others Present:

City of Middleton - Mark Wegner

*Friends of Pheasant Branch - Pam Shannon, Lloyd Egan, John Daly, Jim Loving, Gary
Sater, Lois Sater, Deb Weitzel*

*Meeting called to order by Chair RIPP at 5:30 pm. The commission and the public in
attendance all wore masks and maintained social distancing during the meeting.*

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2020](#)
[MIN-090](#)

PC MINUTES_6-24-20

Attachments: [2020 MIN-090](#)

A motion was made by BOGUE, seconded by EICHER, that the Minutes of June 24,
2020 be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote: 5/0

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 Pheasant Branch**

Pam Shannon, Co-President of the Friends of Pheasant Conservancy provided an overview of the Friends organization that began in 1995 and has grown to annual membership of 500-600 people. The Friends have three staff to support the organization including a Restoration Specialist, Administrative Assistant, and an Educational Assistant. They have committees that cover all of the major organizational programs including Executive, Governance, and Finance, with other working committees. Shannon introduced the board members that were present and asked them to provide an update on their work. Jim Loving and Gary Sater - Restoration and Management, Deb Weitzel - Education, Lois Sater - Development and Marketing, John Daly - Accessibility and Use, and Stefanie Brouwer – Watershed.

2. 160 Acre Pheasant Branch Conservancy Restoration

Higdon provided an update on the restoration plan for the former Acker Property, first covering the timing for the concrete removal and earth moving work. He discussed the reasons for a phased restoration plan that will see approximately 40 acres of land restored each year over a four year period. In the drainage area that comes through the property there will be wetlands created to slow runoff and collect nutrients before they reach Pheasant Branch Creek and Lake Mendota. Field access roads and berms through the wetland will also serve as a public trail system through the property. The goal is to maintain large interior blocks of habitat. Public access will be around the outside of these blocks. Chris James stated that long term plans for this property include a regional bike/pedestrian trail linking to Governor Nelson State Park and the North Mendota Trail.

3. Restoration Forestry

Higdon provided an update on the timber removal at Indian Lake restoration and next steps. He identified the recent large article that was in the Wisconsin State Journal covering the restoration project. Higdon then covered three other timber removal projects that he is hoping to work towards for this fall. The sites include: Mud Lake WA, Scheidegger Forest, and Silverwood Park.

4. Parks COVID-19 Update

No changes at this time.

H. Announcements - None**I. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

Virtual Meeting August 12th

Proposed Outdoor Meeting and Tour at Babcock County Park on August 26th

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 EICHER, seconded by BOGUE, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote: 5/0

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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

Park Commission members toured the following locations in individual vehicles or walking. No official business was conducted.

Acker Homestead

Pheasant Branch Spring and new Interpretive Sign

Pheasant Branch Overlook