



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, June 10, 2020

5:30 PM

Remote Meeting Call 1-877-568-4106

Access Code: 343-687-293

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A. Call To Order

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

Staff Present: Laura Hicklin, Sharene Smith, Chris James, Darren Marsh

Others Present: None

Chair RIPP covered housekeeping protocols for video conference meetings.

Meeting called to order by Chair RIPP at 5:32PM.

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2020](#)
[MIN-039](#)

PC MINUTES_5-13-20

Attachments: [2020 MIN-039](#)

[2020 MIN-039 Registration before Co Committee 5-13-20](#)

A motion was made by THORESEN, seconded by BROUWER, that the Minutes of May 13, 2020 be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote: 6/0

C. Fund Transfers - None

D. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments)

- 1. [2020 RES-091](#) AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS AT THE LUSSIER FAMILY HERITAGE CENTER AND LUNNEY LAKE FARM PARK

Sponsors: RATCLIFF, CHAWLA, GRAY, RIPP and RUSK

Attachments: [2020 RES-091](#)
[2020 RES-091 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2020 RES-091 CONTRACT #14036](#)

RIPP and James provided an overview of the project for W.G. Lunney Lake Farm Park. The solar project includes panels on the Lussier Heritage Center, campground restroom/shower house, and two shelter buildings where the roofs will be made out of the photovoltaic panels. Electric car chargers will also be added.

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

- 2. [2020 RES-095](#) AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A STREAMBANK AND PUBLIC RECREATIONAL TRAIL EASEMENT - WOLF

Sponsors: RIPP, MILES, CHAWLA, DOOLAN, GRAY and RITT

Attachments: [2020 RES-095](#)
[2020 RES-095 Fiscal Note](#)
[2020 RES-095 Area MAP_WolfEasement](#)
[2020 RES-095 Subject MAP_Wolf Easement](#)

Smith stated that the easement is for 10 acres and is parallel to Halfway Prairie Creek. The easement will be for restoration of the creek, development of a future multiuse trail, and public access for fishing.

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

E. Items Requiring Committee Action - None

F. Presentations - None

G. Reports to Committee

2. Parks COVID -19 / Seasonal Staff / Reservations/ Public Use - Darren Marsh

Marsh provided an update on Park Operations through the COVID-19 Pandemic. Marsh praised the Parks staff to be able to work through many challenges to support the public's use of the park system. Parks Operations developed an operational plan to be used as a guide to help staff and set priorities for the public use of county recreational facilities. Seasonal staff hiring has been a very difficult process through the pandemic. Normally a full staff would be trained and ready by Memorial Day weekend. By the end of this week we should have another eight staff hired for a total of 18 seasonal staff supporting direct customer services in our park work units. With the added staffing boost, more restrooms will be opened up in the next week.

Marsh stated that through the pandemic there will be certain limitations on some park uses such as camping, shelter use, and other services. Due to staff limitations, cleaning protocols, and social distancing protocols; we are adjusting the use of certain park facilities to make sure that we are providing safe working conditions for our staff and patrons. Campgrounds are currently restricted to self-contained camping units. Restrooms and showers are closed to regular use. Campers must do all campsite registrations online. There are no walk-in self-registrations at the campgrounds. All shelter reservations were canceled for June. We are hoping to allow for shelter uses in July and August following Public Health's Forward Dane Plan. Shelter restrooms will remain closed unless we have a paid shelter reservation. Our goal for the summer is to try to provide at least one restroom facility that's open and available to our users in each of our larger recreation parks. Public use of the parks still remains high as more businesses and amenities open up.

Marsh pointed out that due to unfortunate timing, approximately twelve road and trail counters were removed last fall for replacement. Not having these counters in place in a number of our highest use parks and trails is unfortunate, but we should still be able to get some data from the remaining counters. We don't have May numbers yet, but if the trend holds similar to April, it appears we had between 25-45% increase in park use at our various properties and trails.

1. North Mendota Trail - Chris James

James provided an update on the recently completed trail section of the North Mendota Trail. The completed section is between Woodland Drive and Governor Nelson State Park. The project was overseen by the Town of Westport. The section includes a boardwalk and bridge over Six Mile Creek. The cost for this section of trail was approximately \$1.2 million. Development of the next segment of trail through Governor Nelson State Park to the CTH M bicycle pedestrian underpass is contingent on availability of funds and anticipated to begin in the fall of 2020. Future planning for the trail section from the Dane County North Mendota Wildlife Area to the City of Middleton is anticipated to begin in 2021.

I. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Summer Location Tours

The Park Commission discussed possibly holding 2-3 socially distancing park tours this summer. RIPP asked each member if they were good with a possible outdoor meeting. Discussion included each person driving separately to the tour vs. carpooling, bringing their own chairs, maintaining 6' distance, and wearing masks when appropriate. The friends groups associated with the property would be invited. The two properties identified as possible locations were Pheasant Branch and Babcock. BROUWER volunteered to look in to a shelter and getting things setup for Pheasant Branch.

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

K. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law - None

L. Closed Session

A motion was made by THORESEN, seconded by BROUWER, that the meeting enter into closed session. The motion carried by the following vote: 6/0

Ayes: 6 - BOGUE, BROUWER, Supervisor EICHER, Chair RIPP, First Vice Chair THORESEN and MORAN

CLOSED SESSION: The Commission/Committee 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.

M. Return to Open Session

A motion was made by THORESEN, seconded by EICHER, that the meeting exit out of closed session. The motion carried by the following vote: 6/0

Ayes: 6 - BOGUE, BROUWER, Supervisor EICHER, Chair RIPP, First Vice Chair THORESEN and MORAN

N. Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

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