



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee Park Commission

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

5:45 PM

Lyman Anderson Agriculture Center
5201 Fen Oak Drive - Rm 121
Madison WI 53718

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A. Call To Order

Present: 6 - DAVE RIPP, WILLIAM LUNNEY, CHRISTINE HAAG, MARY SCHLAEFER, TOM THORESEN and GEORGE GILLIS
Excused: 1 - DANIEL WISNIEWSKI

Staff Present: Laura Hicklin, Chris James, Darren Marsh, Sara Rigelman, Jan Zimmermann

*Others Present:
Friends of Silverwood - Emily Halapatz, Cheri Trick, Katie Whitten*

Dr. Erin Silva, UW-Madison Organic Agriculture

Mark Doudlah, Silverwood and Lower Mud Lake Property Farmer

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 pm by Chair LUNNEY

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2016](#)
[MIN-575](#) 2-22-17 PC MINUTES

Attachments: [2016 MIN-575 2-22-17 PC Minutes](#)

A motion was made by GILLIS, seconded by HAAG, that the minutes of February 22, 2017 be approved. The motion carried by the following vote: 6/0

Ayes: 6 - Vice Chair RIPP, LUNNEY, HAAG, SCHLAEFER, THORESEN and Supervisor GILLIS

Excused: 1 - WISNIEWSKI

C. Fund Transfers - None

Chair LUNNEY asked for change in order of agenda to allow Friends of Silverwood Farm presentation next. There were no objections.

F. Presentations

Friends of Silverwood County Park - Mark Doudlah

Katie Whitten introduced everyone in attendance for the Friends of Silverwood Park. Emily Halapatz explained a letter that was sent from the Friends of Silverwood to the Park Commission earlier in the day. Halapatz stated that the intent of the letter was to express the Friends' desires to see that all of the agricultural lands at Silverwood be transitioned to organic agriculture. She stated that it takes three years for lands to become certified as organic.

Mark Doudlah, Farmrite Organics, stated he was a regular farmer that has changed over time to accommodate the requests of the new educated consumer. "I currently manage ~1,500 acres in organic agriculture. In 2017, I will be transitioning 24 acres into organics at Silverwood. I also use other county lands including the Lower Mud Lake Natural Resource Area. My family began moving towards organic agriculture in 2008 when my dad came down with cancer. We converted 40 acres over to organics in his name. Since then we have grown to about 1500 acres and solely manage for organics. We are taking wornout land, lands that have very little organic matter remaining, and rebuilding the soils to improve them. We broke free from our dependency on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides to raise our crops. Organics can be the solution to improving our environment. Organic agriculture has come a long way in its research to keep valuable soil in place by keeping green crops on the land. Our yields may not be as high as the genetically modified grains that accommodate herbicide treatments, but our crops are better for the environment and not adding to the growing amounts of pesticides in our food supply. I am pleased to be working with the Friends of Silverwood County Park and believe the park could be a top educational facility showcasing and promote organic agriculture."

[2016 COM-012](#) FOSP REQUEST ORGANIC CONVERSION_3-8-17

Attachments: [2016 COM-012 FOSP Request for Organic Conversion 3-8-17](#)

D. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments)

[2016 RES-561](#) Authorizing the Purchase of Land AT CAM-ROCK COUNTY PARK

Sponsors: DOWNING, ERICKSON, JONES, SALOV, VELDRAN, WILLIAMS and ZWEIFEL

Attachments: [2016 RES-561](#)
[2016 RES-561 Fiscal Note](#)
[2016 RES-561 Map](#)

A motion was made by GILLIS, seconded by THORESEN, that this Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by the following vote: 6/0

Ayes: 6 - Vice Chair RIPP, LUNNEY, HAAG, SCHLAEFER, THORESEN and Supervisor GILLIS

Excused: 1 - WISNIEWSKI

[2016 RES-565](#) AMENDING THE 2017 BUDGET FOR COST-SHARE GRANT REVENUE

Sponsors: BOLLIG, GILLIS, KOLAR and RIPP

Attachments: [2016 RES-565](#)
[2016 RES-565 Fiscal Note](#)

A motion was made by RIPP, seconded by SCHLAEFER, that this Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by the following vote: 6/0

Ayes: 6 - Vice Chair RIPP, LUNNEY, HAAG, SCHLAEFER, THORESEN and Supervisor GILLIS

Excused: 1 - WISNIEWSKI

E. Items Requiring Committee Action - None

G. Reports to Committee - None

H. Announcements

- 3/17/17 Chainsaw Work Party Walking Iron - DC Parks*
- 3/18/17 Friends of Donald Volunteer Appreciation 5:30-9 - Friends of Donald*
- 3/25/17 Annual Dog Park Cleanup*
- 3/28/17 Volunteer Education Training Series - Pesticide Applicator Training -DC Parks*
- 4/12/17 Volunteer Education Training Series - Tree Planting/Pruning - DC Parks Staff*

I. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next Meeting Date: March 22, 2017 (tentative)

This commission may meet on on March 30th or April 5th prior to the Park and Open Space Kickoff Meetings instead of March 22nd.

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 GILLIS, seconded by HAAG, that this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote: 6/0

Ayes: 6 - Vice Chair RIPP, LUNNEY, HAAG, SCHLAEFER, THORESEN and Supervisor GILLIS

Excused: 1 - WISNIEWSKI

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm

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