



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, September 29, 2021

5:30 PM

Badger Prairie County Park
4654 Maple Grove Dr
Verona, WI 53593

A. Call To Order

Chair Ripp called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Youth Governance Member Present: Emily Cai.

Staff present: Joleen Stinson, Sharene Smith, Chris James, Chad Haanen.

Others present: Supervisor Mike Bare, Jim Welsh, Mike Foy, Rich Henderson, Kevin Thusius, Melissa Pierick, Deborah Vaughan, John Wedberg, Chris Lay, Tom Mathies.

Present: 5 - STEFANIE BROUWER, ANALIESE EICHER, DAVE RIPP, GRACE MORAN and
KRISTIE GOFORTH

Excused: 2 - NANCY BOGUE and TOM THORESEN

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021
MIN-311](#)

Minutes of the September 15, 2021 Park Commission Meeting

Attachments: [2021 PC MINUTES 9-15-21](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by EICHER, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0, YGP 1-0.

C. Fund Transfers - None

D. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments)

[2021 RES-187](#) DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO
GROUNDWELL CONSERVANCY (BLACK EARTH VALLEY FARMS,
LLC)

Sponsors: RIPP, DOOLAN, GRAY and RITT

Attachments: [2021 RES-187](#)
[2021 RES-187 Fiscal Note](#)
[2021 RES-187 MAP BECVF projectArea](#)
[2021 RES-187 MAP BECVF subject](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by MORAN, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0, YPG 1-0..

[2021 RES-188](#) AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE OF LAND FOR SCHUMACHER FARM
PARK

Sponsors: RIPP, KIEFER, JOERS, HATCHER, GRAY and RITT

Attachments: [2021 RES-188](#)
[2021 RES-188 Fiscal Note](#)
[2021 RES-188 MAP McKellar Area](#)
[2021 RES-188 MAP McKellar Subject](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by MORAN, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0, YPG 1-0.

[2021 RES-190](#) AUTHORIZING AN UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC EASEMENT TO
WISCONSIN POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

Sponsors: RIPP

Attachments: [2021 RES-190](#)
[2021 RES-190 Fiscal Note](#)
[2021 RES-190 MAP WPL Easement Hwy69](#)
[2021 RES-190 MAP WPL Exhibit](#)

A motion was made by MORAN, seconded by BROUWER, that the Resolution Requiring 2/3rds Vote be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0, YGP 1-0.

E. Items Requiring Committee Action - None

F. Presentations

1. Groundswell Conservancy, Conservation Fund Grant Application - Cooper parcel, Black Earth Creek NRA

Jim Welsh presented a Conservation Fund Grant project in the Black Earth Creek NRA. This is a one-acre parcel in the Village of Black Earth along the Black Earth Creek adjacent to state owned land. Once purchased, the property will be developed by the Village of Black Earth to include a parking lot, canoe/kayak launch and a small park. This item will be brought back for formal consideration at the next meeting.

2. The Prairie Enthusiasts, Conservation Fund Grant Application - Goplin parcel, Southwest Grasslands/Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area

Rich Henderson presented a Conservation Fund Grant project in the Southwest Grasslands/Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area in the Town of Blue Mounds. This parcel is already being managed by The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) and is adjacent to other TPE property. This item will be brought back for formal consideration at the next meeting.

G. Reports to Committee

1. Ice Age Trail Alliance

Kevin Thusius and Melissa Pierick shared an overview of the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) and the Ice Age Trail. The IATA is a private, non-profit organization with a headquarters in Cross Plains. There are 19 local volunteer chapters throughout the state. The trail is 11,000 miles, with about 675 of those miles off-road. The Ice Age Trail saw an incredible increase of use during COVID. In Dane County specifically, there are 69 miles, 47 of which are off-road. Locally, the IATA is working to reroute the trail off-road, enhance the trail vegetation, and to build a long-distance trail experience with dispersed camping areas and parking facilities.

2. Badger Prairie Community Garden

Deborah Vaughan and John Wedberg, Badger Prairie Community Garden founders and board members, provided an overview of the garden. The garden is located adjacent to the Military Ridge Trail and along Badger Mill Creek. The group is a volunteer, non-profit organization that was established in 2013 and opened to gardeners in 2014. They started with 90 20'x20' plots, but reduced down to 70 plots due to flooding. In addition to the plots, the garden includes a storage shed, pickle garden, butterfly garden, children's garden and a teaching garden.

3. Reddan Soccer Park / Madison Area Youth Soccer Association (MAYSA)

Chris Lay shared the history of Reddan Soccer Complex and outlined improvements made throughout the years. Reddan was built in collaboration with Dane County Parks and opened in 1997. It is a 60-acre, year round soccer facility. Two fields have synthetic turf and one is the home field for Edgewood. They host tournaments, games, practices and special events. Teams from all over the Midwest come for tournaments and there is a significant economic impact for the community.

4. Badger Prairie Park History and Overview

Chris James shared the history of the Badger Prairie Park property, the oldest health care facility in Dane County. It was opened in the 1850s and functioned as a place for Civil War widows and their children, as well as immigrants to live in exchange for working on an active dairy farm. The park was created in the 1970's in conjunction with the closure of a landfill site that was located immediately east of what is now the Badger Prairie Health Care Center. The park was created in the 1970's in conjunction with the closure of a landfill site that was located immediately east of the Health Care Center. The park has a shelter, mountain bike trails, a playground, two dog parks (separate small and large dog park), and an aeromodeling field. The park serves as a confluence of regional trails, providing access to the Military Ridge State Trail and the Ice Age Trail.

H. Future Meeting Items and Dates

October 13, 2021 Virtual

October 27, 2021 Indian Lake County Park, weather dependant

I. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

Tom Mathies, Town of Verona Supervisor and a member of the Wisconsin Towns Association, respectfully requested that towns be notified of park acquisitions. He noted the impacts of the purchases on the towns.

J. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law - None

K. Adjourn

A motion was made by MORAN, seconded by GOFORTH, that the Meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0, YGP 1-0.

Meeting adjourned 6:50 PM.

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