

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date & Time of Meeting: Monday, May 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

JP Coughlin Center – Meeting Room B

Present: Tom Konetzke, Steve Binder, Larry Lautenschlager, Mike Norton, Don Nussbaum

Also Present: Jon Doemel (Winnebago County Executive), Chase Rettler (Rettler Corp. - via Zoom), Adam Breest, Vicky Redlin, Tom McInnis, Rick Helms, Justin DeJager

1. Call to order:

Chairman Konetzke called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Larry Lautenschlager moved to approve the agenda and Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Approval of April 19th, 2021 Minutes

Mike Norton moved to approve the agenda and Steve Binder seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Public Comment

No Comments.

5. **Presentation** – Lake Butte des Morts Landing Master Plan

Chase Rettler reviewed the master plan for the Lake Butte des Morts boat landing. Main goal is to increasing parking and be as efficient as possible. The following items where discussed: New shelter and restroom building. Sidewalks are ADA accessible to restroom and boat launch. North parking lot restriped and repaved. Adding 36 boat parking spaces south of proposed building, doubles current parking. East of proposed build are 10 regular parking stalls. Adding/replacing lighting infrastructure. Electric service to sides of boat landing ramps. Automatic fee stations. Boat wash station. Kayak launch. Dredging the channel to original depth and width. Naturalizing green spaces to cut down on lawn maintenance. Adding nature trails on west side of property. Replace utility shed. Total cost of project is about \$1.5 million.

The project is sent for CIP and won't be put in until Fall. Priced out so we can do parking first. Get just as much request for Butte des Morts improvements as we do for Grundman improvements. Parks Dept. needs to do public survey for Butte des Morts project.

Funding for the Grundman boat landing was discussed. Committee wants to get Grundman going in 2022. Major safety issues with cars parking on street around Grundman. When applying for grants, the Parks Dept. should move forward with Grundman even if Butte des Morts can't be attached to it. There was discussion

about applying for both projects under the same grant to get more points and to do the projects in stages. The Committee wants the Parks Dept. to move forward and get the most possible grant money for these two projects.

DNR recommends we do it the project in phases and do Grundman and Butte des Morts together.

The boat launches should be on the County Board tour.

6. Discussion with County Executive Jon Doemel in regards to the goals of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Jon Doemel asked the Committee members what do they want the Parks Dept. to focus on? What are some goals? Also mention the surplus Covid funds the County currently has needs to go towards legacy projects that will benefit the Winnebago County residents for generations. We need to focus on collaborative projects. Consider park fees, use health and human services budget. Let Parks Dept. bring ideas to committee, and then committee can give a yes or no to the ideas/projects.

Below are the responses for each committee member.

Mike Norton – We need to find ways to increase revenue of Parks Dept. with facilities. Make it a revenue generating department. Focus on projects or things that will enhance revenue. A dedicated county or department grant writer would be good to have.

Steve Binder – The expo center could be an enterprise fund, should bring enough money in to support itself. Park facilities is hooked up to well water, needs to be hooked up to city water. Heated shelter over by Ken Robl for training facility. Make it affordable for people to rent, can be used in winter.

Larry Lautenschlager – City water at the park would be great. Heated shelter would be nice too. The pavilion would be ideal for this. Pavilion has heat inside it now, but it needs updating and insulation. Rettler is working on a Master plan for the Community Park that will address current park facilities.

Don Nussbaum – Wants to see more events happening. Likes well-water, but liability would make it an issue.

7. **Discussion/Action** – Three-year contract with "Wisconsin Pony of the Americas Association" *Document attached.*

Mike Norton made the motion to approve and it was seconded by Larry Lautenschlager. Motion carried 5-0.

8. **Discussion/Action** – Asylum Point Bridge change order request in the amount of \$36,419.20. *Document attached.*

Adam Breest discussed the recent change order request for abutments from Radtke Construction. The turbidity barrier needed changing. It is the Parks staff's opinion that we should not accept this change order request. The change order came in after it was complete. Radtke weren't originally going to put in sheet piling, but it kept collapsing on the island. There was evidence of what they would be running into

before they started the project. Radtke did not bore on the island to test soil. Contractor's responsibility in their bid to know how to build the bridge. This would use up the contingency money we have set aside for project. Abutment will be done by the end of the week. Bridge could be delivered last week in July/first week of August.

Steve Binder made the motion to reject the change order request and it was seconded by Larry Lautenschlager. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Parks Director's Updates:

- a. Meeting with Department staff members. Goal is to meet with every staff member. Meetings have been going well.
- b. Expo Phase 1 Engineering – Will meet with staff on this project.
- c. Asylum Point Bridge Replacement Project – South abutment has been installed. North abutment is under construction and should be done by the end of the week.
- d. Bahling Arbor – Contract has been signed. Arbor is currently being built.
- e. Online Shelter Rentals – Online rentals have been going very well.
- f. North County Dog Park – Site is staked out. Highway Dept. beginning work. Waiting for conditions to dry out.
- g. WIOUWASH/City of Oshkosh trail swap – At city attorney. Meeting with Parks Dept. to review this project.

10. Committee Chairman's Update:

Chairman Konezke voiced concerned about Radtke going ahead with the change order without contacting the Parks Dept. for approval.

11. Committee Member's Updates:

Mike Norton – No comment.

Steve Binder – Would like to see fresh woodchips around signs, weeds sprayed and maybe some plantings at Community Parks entrances.

Larry Lautenschlager – No comment.

Don Nussbaum – Wanted to know more about the Wiouwash/City of Oshkosh trail swap. In brief, Axel Tech has an agreement that the trail can go across their property, but they want to sell that property now. We'll vacate the property and it will go back to the city. The city will move the trail. Just waiting for City to sign off on it. They want us to do work on it, but we don't have money for it. We did a survey for about \$8,000 to figure out who owned what part of that trail. From start of Wiouwash by Wisconsin Ave. to Ecklund will become the city's responsibility.

12. Staff Updates:

Tom McInnis – Asylum Bridge project is going well. Soccer shelter is open. Taking a year off really helped the soccer fields. Some of the parks crew is helping with lawncare at the expo. Tom and Rick coordinating workers.

Rick Helms – Labor shortage. Getting some assistance from facilities, they will continue to do what they can. Two of the three permanent expo employees are leaving the department in the next two weeks. Horse shows are starting and new car show coming in June. Converted all lights to LEDs on sign by BMX track. Mike from Lifest was looking at stage last week. Said if we need staff help, they could send some people out before Lifest. A raise for seasonals is not going to fix the current employment problems. We need our overall parks budget increased.

Also mentioned, was scheduling a County Board park tour in October.

13. Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items:

Monday, June 21, 2021 at 10 a.m.

14. Adjournment

Motioned by Mike Norton. Seconded by Steve Binder. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin DeJager
Admin. Asst.