

## **Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date & Time of Meeting: Monday, July 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

JP Coughlin Center – Meeting Room B

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

Also Present: Adam Breest, Vicky Redlin, Tom McInnis, Rick Helms, Justin DeJager, Vicky Fitzgerald (Winnebago County Finance Director), Dave Kane (Citizen), Other Winnebago County Residents

1. Call to order:

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

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of May 17th, 2021 Minutes:

Don Nussbaum moved to approve and Steve Binder seconded.  
Motion carried 5-0.

4. Public Comment:

Dave Kane said he represents seven county residents who got together in 2019 to discuss concerns about the Grundman boat launch. They are concerned about funding requests for the boat launch program, and think the buoys should not be paid by the Parks Department. The received from the boat launch permit program should only be used for boat launches. Dave Kane read from the Winnebago County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023. He emphasized that more priority should be put toward water recreation resources within the county, specifically boat landings. Some of the major concerns from the group about the Grundman boat launch is safety and parking.

Debby (Citizen) was concerned about the safety issue at Grundman boat landing. The main reason the group go together is to make sure the boat landing is safer and has better parking. Gary (Citizen) said his boat trail has been hit three times in last 10 years at Grundman. Large tournaments put pressure on Lake Winnebago and more docks and with handicap accessibility are needed.

Judith (Citizen) said Grundman boat landing needs improvements. There are numerous new boat owners and not enough parking or docking for boats. Many of the new boat owners struggle with backing up trailers creating safety issues.

Greg (Citizen) said boat launch permit funds should only be used for boat launches, not buoys. More launches and access points are needed throughout the county. Too many fees are being assessed to boaters.

Don Nussbaum reaffirmed to the group that the parks committee is dedicated to improving boat launches and the group should also bring this concern to the County Board.

Vicky Fitzgerald said the Grundman boat launch project will be coming up in the CIP plan in December, which will then be reviewed by the County Board.

Adam Breest said the Parks Department's goal is to receive feedback from residents. The department and committee have numerous meetings about how the funds are allocated and the public is always invited to give their opinions.

Mike Norton asked how the emergency generator funding is? Adam said there is \$80,000 budgeted to work out the design. The project is probably eligible for the Covid funds. Vicky Fitzgerald believes it will be eligible; however, she is still waiting to speak with County Executive to know where the funds can go for sure.

5. **Presentation – Expo Phase 1 Draft Site Plans:**

Adam Breest gave an overview of where the Expo plan stands at this time. Lot 2 is not much different. There will be a pond going to south of lots 2 and 3. Adding more electric/camping pedestals around parking lot. Drainage issues are addressed. Main goal is more parking and better storm water retention/drainage, which will also help drainage in the Community Park. Providing access into the Netzer property. Makes the Expo area more flexible and set us up for phase two, which includes redoing the main parking lot. Construction is projected to start this fall and finish by Memorial Day next year. This will allow Sunnyview/Expo to still have events during construction and bring in revenue.

6. **Discussion – 2022-2026 DRAFT CIP Framework:**

Adam said he wants to start review process early to make sure our plans are comprehensive and well thought out for the future. We need to look five years and beyond. For all upcoming projects, we want to do engineering, grant writing, permits, fundraising the first year and then construction the second year.

2022: Proposing to start Grundman boat launch engineering, shelter 3 and splash pad, covered arena improvements. Covered arena is important to horse shows, which generate a lot of revenue for the department. Construction of a splash pad rather than playground equipment is recommended as it provides an attraction that will draw citizens to the park. There has been a lot more use in the shelter 3 area in the last few years and the Parks Dept. is proposing that it should be built more like the soccer shelter area. There are not a lot of grants available for these types of projects, but we will try to apply for some.

2023: Construction of Grundman and expo phase 2 engineering.

2024-2025: Butte des Morts boat landing, shelter 4 and playground.

2025-2026: Expo phase 3.

2026-2027: Waukau Dam – The dam is currently at risk of breaching, which would allow carp to go upstream and have devastating effects on other water ways and natural areas. This project might have to be moved up due to current state of bridge. Steve Binder said we need to be proactive on this issue before it's too late.

Mike Norton would like to put on an agenda item to discuss where Covid funds can be allocated throughout the parks. He asked if local towns where these projects are occurring help fund them?

Steve Binder said the Parks Dept. needs to search for sponsorships/donors who could help fund some of these projects, especially the shelters.

7. **Discussion – 2022 Operational Budget Overview:**

Adam Breest gave a quick overview of upcoming budget to gauge input. He stated that an emphasis needs to be put on increasing marketing efforts for the parks department and encouraging recreational use of county-owned parks land. More focus on transit-oriented opportunities will also be an important focus of the Parks Dept.

Recent accomplishments include: RecDeck software, Sunnyview retained numerous events and brought in new events, improvements to Sunnyview and Community Park, phase one of the Expo Center, work on perimeter trail around Community Park, Fox Crossing Dog Park, and Bahling Arbor construction completed.

Goals to complete in the upcoming year include: resurfacing areas of the Wiouwash Trail, expand programming opportunities, expand marketing, complete Wiouwash Trail swap, review CIP plan, fix shelter three and area surrounding it, LED lighting in covered arena, fix leakage problems at Expo, investigate solutions at Waukau Dam, and investigate parking solutions.

Budget highlights include: removal of ash trees and replanting new trees, repair roofs on shelters, investigate solutions for park drainage, parking lot rehabs, need to adjust budget for more maintenance, updates at Waukau Nature Preserve, resurfacing three miles of Wiouwash Trail, property survey at Mascoutin Trail, update speakers and amps at Sunnyview, purchase stalls for promoters to rent from the Parks Dept., LED lights and painting covered arena, in-house maintenance on buoys saves \$15,000, replace lights to LEDs, count cars at boat launches, directional signage at Butte des Morts boat launch, alternatives for financing buoy program, possibly install turnaround at Grundman for ~\$15,000 through Highway Dept.

Mike Norton want the buoy program added to next agenda.

8. **Parks Director's Updates:**

- a. Expo Phase 1 Engineering – Met with City of Oshkosh to review permitting. Geotechnical work is scheduled for week of July 19. Several meetings conducted with engineers.
- b. Asylum Point Bridge Replacement Project – North abutment/landing was poured
- c. Bahling Arbor – Plantings will be installed fall/spring
- d. North County Dog Park – Highway began work on the driveway and parking lot this week. Fence to be completed in fall.
- e. WIOUWASH/City of Oshkosh trail swap – Met with Ray Mauer from the City of Oshkosh. Communication will continue to move the project forward.

9. **Committee Chairman's Update:**

Chairman Konetzke said he appreciates the public comments.

10. **Committee Member's Updates:**

Mike Norton – Would like to talk with school system about funding the Community Park's fields. Wants to make formal letter for the County Board about how the Covid recovery funds should be spent and said there should be a task force to discuss it.

Steve Binder – Asked if the Parks Dept. looked into special events fees? Adam Breest said they will look into this next month after he discusses with other local clubs. Weeds need to be pulled in roundabouts, trees marked for removal, and kiosk by soccer shelter needs stain.

Larry Lautenschlager – Not present.

Don Nussbaum – Said the basketball hoop on west side by shelter 4 is in bad shape. Tom McInnis said it will be coming out when parking lot is redone. Don offered to help if the Parks Dept. needs a volunteer to help out with some projects.

11. Staff Updates:

Vicky Redlin – Lifest went great, considering the rain received before the event. Would have like to see some of the committee members at Lifest.

Tom McInnis – North dog park going well and the Hwy Dept. is almost done. The Community Park receive more than 7.5 inches in 8 days. With all that rain, the soccer fields drained very well and rugby fields were in good shape too. Six navigation buoys were recently damaged and four channel markers were stolen. The lights have been replaced, but the channel markers are still missing. There is a large event in Lake Butte des Morts this weekend and committee members are encouraged to go out the Butte des Morts boat landing to check out the parking situation during the event.

Rick Helms – The master plan and construction will help alleviate drainage issues. Someone has been hired into the full-time park's caretaker position, they started last week during Lifest. The new weekend employee is scheduled to start at end of month. Park and Expo crews have been working together as efficiently as possible. We need more staff if we want to do more. He put in more than 100 hours the week before Lifest to get things ready. Our current staff is working hard and working overtime when needed. Committee members are encouraged to contact Rick or Tom directly if they notice any problems at our parks or expo.

12. Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items:

Monday, August 16, 2021 at 10 a.m.  
Fall tour will be in September.

13. Adjournment

Motioned by Mike Norton and seconded by Don Nussbaum. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Justin DeJager  
Admin. Asst.