

WAUPACA COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION
Annual Meeting Minutes – November 1st, 2017
Waupaca County Courthouse

President Phair called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Roll Call: President Pat Phair, Vice President Dan Sambs, Treasurer Mark Sether, Ben Durfee, Joe McClone, Al Wichmann, Larry Dieck, and Robert Besaw. Others present: John Francis and Aaron Jenson.

Review and Approve Agenda: Motion by Wichmann, seconded by Dieck to approve the agenda. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by Dieck, seconded by McClone to approve the May 30th, 2017 minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Correspondence: There was none.

Treasurer Report: Sether handed out and reviewed the Treasurer's report. Motion by Besaw, seconded by Sambs to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried without a negative vote.

There was a general discussion about what happens to dormant funds. It was stated that some foundations charge a small annual fee (i.e. 0.7%) to encourage groups to keep going on projects. Durfee suggested that a letter be sent out on a regular basis to the groups telling them their balance and asking what they would like to do with the funding. Phair suggested that the dormant accounts should be identified and letters sent to those groups. If the groups want the money returned to them, they will need a letter from the group requesting it. It was suggested that they could be given options such as donating the remaining funds to another fund.

Board Member Terms: Phair reported that the 3 year terms were up for renewal for Sether, Besaw, Strum, and Durfee.

Motion was made by Sambs, seconded by McClone to suspend the rules and authorize the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the reappointment of all board members whose terms were up. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers and Committees:

Motion was made by McClone, seconded by Durfee to suspend the rules and authorize the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the reappointment of all officers and committees as they currently stand. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Finance: No report.

Projects: These will be discussed later on the agenda

Public Relations: No report.

Project Updates:

- 1. Waupaca Area Eco Park:** Phair gave a brief introduction on what the park is and who operates it then introduced Aaron Jenson with the City of Waupaca Parks to talk about it. The park is a collaboration between the City and CAP Services. CAP Services raised about \$250,000 in matching labor and other funds for the project. The City is in the process of wrapping up the project as the funding has run out for CAP Services on the project. The City is exploring options on how the park and building can be used by the community. They recently had a successful youth program at the park with about 24 participants. Everything is “Off the Grid”, generating their own electricity. There were other “green” efforts involved in developing the park including recycled materials and building supplies. The building has a room that may be available for groups to hold meetings or rent for small gatherings.
- 2. Transfer of OZ Property:** Jenson gave a background on the 21 acre Oz property that was donated to the City in 1996. He explained some of the issues with the property and stated that it is in the process of being returned to the people that donated it. An issue with the return is that Stewardship grant monies were used on the Oz property so the State has to approve any changes in ownership or use. The solution to the State issue is discussed further in #4 below.
- 3. Golding Park Property:** Phair gave a background on what the project is and what the group intends to do with the site. He also explained that the Foundation involvement in the project is just a financial one – accepting donations they receive in their fund raising efforts. Francis explained that the Waupaca County Parks Department is not involved with the project in any way. The group has presented their ideas to the Parks Committee but there is no agreement with the group that the County would take over the park if they were to purchase and develop it. Sether talked about the group’s fund raising efforts and where they were in relation to their fundraising goals. There was discussion about what happens to the donations if the project were to fail to get established. It was stated that it would be up to the group to decide what happens to the funds.
- 4. Foundation Property near the Eco Park:** Phair talked about the 18.05 acre parcel the foundation owns, Francis handed out a map showing the property. Phair explained how the property came to be owned by the Foundation. The land was part of a City purchase to develop the industrial park but the low area was split off and donated to the Foundation. Since then, several portions of this land has been donated back to the City for various grant matching projects including the Eco Park. This property comes into play with the Oz property return. The City is proposing to use the 18 acre parcel as a replacement for the Stewardship land they are giving back to the donor. This is likely to happen within the next year or so. This would relieve the Foundation of the liability of owning land and provide room for the Eco Park to have more trails and various environmental education opportunities.
- 5. More updates:** Besaw gave a brief update on the Veteran’s Park in New London. There was some discussion on the Sturgeon Park fund as there is money left and nobody is sure who is in charge anymore as several people have died since that project was active.
- 6. The Waupaca Way:** Phair explained that the group was possibly looking to use the Foundation for money handling so it would qualify for grant funding. Jenson explained what the project is about and that they are looking at hiring a farm market coordinator through grant funding. The City is willing to supply an office for the new person. There was much discussion on if that project meets the mission of the Foundation and how diverse of projects should be allowed under the various funds the Foundation is responsible for. It was decided that the group should officially apply to the Foundation so that the board can make a fully informed decision on if it fits the Foundation mission. There was discussion on if it should go under the Waupaca Friends of the Parks fund or not. Phair stated that however it works out, he would like the group to present at the next Foundation meeting.

Vacant Board Member Seat Update: It was recommended that a letter be sent to Mr. Pohl with a listing of all the meeting dates for 2018.

Meeting Dates: All meetings are at 3:30 pm at the Waupaca County Courthouse unless otherwise noted. The following dates were set for the 2018 meetings:

- March 27th
- May 22nd
- August 28th
- October 23rd (Annual Meeting)

Adjourn: Motion by Durfee, seconded by Sambs to adjourn. Motion carried without a negative vote.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Submitted by,

John D. Francis
Parks/Solid Waste Director