

WAUPACA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – February 13th, 2018
Waupaca County Courthouse

Vice-Chair Sorensen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and gave the open meeting statement.

Roll Call: Chair Joe McClone was absent; Vice-Chair Gene Sorensen; Supervisors Lee Much, Dona Gabert and Fred Zaug. County Staff present: John Francis. Others present: John Miller, John Penney, Bob Van Epps, Rhonda Bubolz, Nancy Hamm, Kay Ellis, Bob Ellis, Jeff Barlow, Carol Elvery, Pat Hollenbeck, Jane Haasch, Sue Golding, and Brenda Bubolz-Purdy.

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

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by Much, seconded by Gabert to approve the January 9th, 2018 minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Public Comment/Correspondence: Sorensen opened the meeting for public comment. Notes are below:

- Bob Van Epps: Spoke in favor of the Golding Park Project. Chance to capture a piece of history. Should be a County Park. Only chance we will have to do this. Property would make a good kayak access point.
- Jane Haasch: Thanked the Committee for considering adding the project to the 5 year plan. Reminded that this was a once in a lifetime opportunity.
- Ronda Bubolz: Enjoys visiting the Red Mill area and would like to see the park added to the system.
- Brenda Bubolz-Purdy: Works in real estate business. Stated that people want parks in their neighborhoods as it increases property values. The park would also help tourism. The property would allow for improved walking and biking paths through the area.
- Carol Elvery: Supported the park project. Near-by residents don't have any parks near the proposed park, they have to drive to Waupaca's Swan Park.
- Bob Ellis: Waterfront property is precious, this is a good opportunity
- Nancy Hamm: Respected the efforts of those pushing for the park but was concerned about traffic in the area and safety of visitors.
- John Miller: Spoke on behalf of the Town of Dayton Board – they do not want to be involved with the park financially. Said there was a letter sent to the Chair of the Dayton Town Board from Dave Armstrong stating that the Little Hope Pond people do not want a park established.
- Jeff Barlow: Town of Dayton Supervisor – pointed out the many other recreational opportunities available to local residents including Hartman Creek State Park, several County parks, as well as Town Parks and some local trails. Quoted NRPA standards for park acreage based on population and said the area available far exceeded that number. Also was concerned about the location on the curve of Cty K. Compared this project to the Wheelhouse Parking Lot issue.
- John Penney: County Board Supervisor – Gave credit for the efforts expended on the project so far. Concerned about safety with the location of the park and driveway. Said several people who would be neighbors of the park are against it. Stated that Nelson Park can provide for the people in the area.

There were no others that wanted to comment at that time so the session was closed by Sorensen.

Golding Park Project – Sorensen summarized the request before the Committee to add the Golding Park Project to the 5-Year Plan. He called for a motion on the subject so it could be discussed by the Committee.

Motion was made by Zaug, seconded by Much to oppose adding the Golding Park Project the Waupaca County's 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan. There was much discussion about the project:

- Sorensen spelled out many reasons to oppose the addition and explained how over-extended the County Parks Department is already with many of the existing parks wanting for improvements. He was also concerned about the traffic on Cty K and park visitor's safety.
- Zaug expressed concern about safety with Cty K between the proposed and Nelson Parks.

- Much stated that if the Town of Dayton was against it, why should the County push it on them? He also stated that the County is developing a park less than ¾ mile west of this site.
- Gabert was concerned about the County's ability to maintain what they already had.

The motion passed without a negative vote.

Sorensen thanked the group for their efforts in attempting to establish the park.

Camp Vic-To-Rae Management Options: Francis reported that he heard back from the DNR regarding using the site for a campground even though the grant used to purchase the land said it would be a day-use park. He was informed that the County would just have to file a plan for the alternative use with the DNR for approval and if a campground were suggested, that would be a compatible use. There was then discussion on the other restrictions and MOUs associated with the property. Francis stated that he would continue to work with Corporation Council to determine what those restrictions mean for any future plans for the site.

Crystal River Canoe and Kayak Access – Restroom Project: Francis reported that he has grant funding to put in a permanent restroom on the property and that it will be bid out soon. He also said that depending on how much money is left after the restroom is purchased, they may be able to pave some or all of the park road and parking area.

White Lake Dock: Francis stated that there was just over \$8,000.00 left in the funds used to replace the White Lake Boat Launch in 2017. He is intending to replace the dock on the site as it is old and difficult to install. This dock purchase will be bid out soon.

Keller Lake Stocking Update: Francis reported that he contacted the DNR about stocking trout in Keller Lake as requested. He handed out their response. They will not stock the lake anymore as there is a naturally reproducing population of trout in the stream that feeds the Keller pond. They do not want to disrupt this population with stocked fish.

Director Report

- **Department Activities:** Francis reported that the Keller Dam Failure Analysis report was complete and is now awaiting DNR approval. Once the DNR approves the report, REL engineering will do the emergency action plan and that project will be complete. He also reported on the snowmobile trail GIS mapping project.

Upcoming Meetings: The next meeting was scheduled for 9:00 am Tuesday, March 6th, 2018 at the Waupaca County Courthouse.

Adjourn: Motion was made by Zaug, seconded by Gabert to adjourn. Motion carried without a negative vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Submitted by,

John D. Francis
Parks and Solid Waste Director