



ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highways & Parks

3715 Newville Road, Janesville, WI 53545
Phone: (608)757-5450 Fax: (608)757-5470
www.co.rock.wi.us

Public Works Committee Meeting – Parks
Tuesday, February 14, 2023 – 8:00 a.m.
Public Works Department – Committee Room
3715 Newville Road
Janesville, WI 53545

Call to Order: Chair Richard called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 8:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Richard, Mawhinney, Pennycook, Rashkin and Woodman.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Members:

John Traynor	Parks Manager
Amy Friend	Community Coordinator
Terri Carlson	Risk Manager
Amanda McElroy	Secretary II
Bob Buchanan	DPW
Mike Landis	DPW
Henry Bunts	DPW
Tim Jass	DPW
Jason Niemeier	DPW
Carl Homan	DPW
Scott Nimz	DPW
Chris Keller	DPW
Mark Swinehart	DPW

Others Present:

Floyd Finney	Parks Advisory Board
Dean Paynter	Parks Advisory Board
Tom Presny	Parks Advisory Board
Carolyn Brandeen	League of Women Voters

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Mawhinney moved approval of the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Woodman. ADOPTED.

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Approval of Minutes Dated February 7, 2023: Supervisor Mawhinney moved approval of the minutes from February 7, 2023, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Woodman. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Mr. Buchanan of the Department of Public Works spoke about his disappointment with the wage study and salary proposal.

Supervisor Mawhinney congratulated Ms. Friend on her 16 years of service milestone to Rock County.

Parks Advisory Board Communications: Mr. Paynter shared that the Friends of Rock County Parks (FORCP) held a Candlelight Hike on January 21, 2023, at Rock River Heritage Park. The hike was attended by an estimated 400-500 people and raised over \$1,000 for the Green Fund. Mr. Paynter said there is interest in forming a new friends group, Friends of Rock River Heritage Park. A meeting will be held on February 28, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Allen Hall in Rock River Heritage Park to get started.

Mr. Presney highlighted the work done by The Gathering Place Fishing Club at Gibbs Lake. The club members have been building fishing cribs to create fish habitat, which increases the fish population and ultimately brings more people to the park. Five fish cribs, approximately 8'x 8' x 6' were built on 2/13/2023 out of black walnut trees, which can last 75-100 years. With the new additions, there are now 15 fish cribs at Gibbs Lake. Mr. Presney shared a map with locations and GPS coordinates of the fish cribs at Gibbs Lake (see attachment). Supervisors Richard and Mawhinney invited Mr. Presney to share this information at a future Rock County Board Meeting.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion and Possible Action – Approving Shelter Design Contract with Parkitecture: Supervisor Mawhinney moved the shelter design contract, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. Mr. Traynor expressed that he wanted the Public Works Committee to be involved in the process, even though the cost was less than \$25,000. Mr. Traynor explained that this is for a new shelter design to upgrade Sportsman's Park, which is one of our highest used county parks due to its central location. ADOPTED.

Discussion – Update to Park Ordinances: Mr. Traynor explained that the county ordinances need to be updated to address electric bikes (e bikes) and drones. Mr. Traynor noted that some e bikes can go 30mph, which could present a hazard to others using the county parks. Mr. Traynor explained that bikes should not be allowed on trails unless specified.

Mr. Traynor also noted that a member of the public was using a drone at Rock River Heritage Park and stated that there wasn't an ordinance when asked to stop. Discussion was had about looking at other county ordinances as well as working with the cities of Beloit and Janesville to come up with solutions. Mr. Traynor said he would bring any changes back to the committee for approval.

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Parks Manager Report – See Attached: Mr. Traynor provided information on the items listed in his report and answered questions from the Committee.

Parks General

- Working on Brushing Items and Pile Burning- at Gibbs Lake, Beckman Mill, Rock River Heritage Park
- Picnic Table and Sign Rehab- FORCP to install a new sign board for the boat launches
- Mower Maintenance- ongoing
- Snow Removal- parks are not plowed until the next regular workday, exceptions will be made for any weekend reservations
- Staffing- currently at full staff, Dan Eckert started on 2/6/2023, will solicit for the newly created position in March to fill in April, still accepting seasonal worker applications
- CIP Equipment Purchase Update – Parks- working with Doda Pumps to get a pump to fill the lake, purchased an enclosed trailer, will have a new John Deere mower this summer after the Kubota Mower that was approved was discontinued

Rock River Heritage Park

- Lake Planning – What’s Next – Options- trying to address why the lake is losing water, have a permit to pump water from the Rock River to fill the lake and see what happens
- DPW – Fill Work- approximately 30 loads of fill material have been hauled in from the Orfordville Salt Shed building site when staff return to the shop at the end of the day
- CCA Grant Work – Forestry Mower- Ms. Friend applied for a grant to keep the costs down
- DPW - Roadside Clean Up- crews trimmed trees back using a backhoe and will need to finish the clean-up
- Candlelight Hike – January 21- over 500 people attended, parking was an issue
- Evansville School District – Day Class- teaches kids how to build a fire and other outdoor skills, looking to get other school districts involved

Beckman Mill

- Contract – May 31st, 2023- expiring, currently under review with Corporation Counsel to renew for another 10 years

Gibbs Lake Park

- Rental House Work – Well- the well replacement was just under \$2,000, will need to address the future of this property when the lease is up due to continuing costs
- Ice Fishing and Fish Crib Update- 15 total fish cribs have turned Gibbs Lake into a fishing hotspot

CIP Project Update

- Carver Roehl – Lights- Jake’s Electric has the equipment ordered, planning on spring installation
- Magnolia Bluff – Shelter-currently wrapped in plastic for winter before spring installation
- Rock River Heritage Park – Playground- could buy the apparatus and use our own crews for installation to save money as it won’t affect the warranty and our crews end up doing majority of the work
- W.L. Sportsman – Shelter- Combs and Associates survey is complete, Parkitecture to start design process

WPRA Conference

- January 31st – February 3rd, 2023- attended by Mr. Traynor, Ms. Friend, and Mr. Hessenauer
- Conference Summary- discussed “Park Impact Fees” that allow towns and villages to collect and use to fund parks projects, counties cannot do this but could possibly find a way to work with towns and villages to benefit

Community Coordinator Report: Ms. Friend presented a PowerPoint presentation on items in her report. She welcomed Dan Eckert, Rock County Parks newest crew member, and congratulated Mr. Traynor (18), Mr. Hessenauer (28), and herself (16) for their years of service milestones to Rock County.

Ms. Friend shared that with help from Kirby Simpson, a Mill Operations Manual was created for Beckman Mill, the Gibbs Lake Segment of the Ice Age Trail is officially open (1.3 miles), and a sled shed with sleds donated by the Paynters is available for use at Rock River Heritage Park. Ms. Friend highlighted that the FORCP Candlelight Hike at Rock River Heritage Park was attended by over 500 people and raised \$1,041.89! Ms. Friend shared photographs taken during the creation of new fish cribs at Gibbs Lake and from the Hearts in the Park challenge at Carver-Roehl Park.

Ms. Friend discussed important reminders, including the upcoming application deadline for seasonal parks positions (2/17/2023), and that the snowmobile trails, Sportsman’s Park restrooms, upper gate to Magnolia Bluff, and horse trails at Gibbs Lake, Happy Hollow, and Magnolia Bluff Parks are closed. Boat launch fees will be in effect 4/15-10/31/2023 at Gibbs Lake, Happy Hollow, and Royce Dallman Parks.

Finally, Ms. Friend highlighted upcoming events, including the FORCP Meeting on 2/28/2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Allen Hall in Rock River Heritage Park, Leprechauns on the Loose in March, the Friends of Carver-Roehl Egg Hunt on 4/2/2023, the Friends of Beckman Mill Opening Day on 5/6/2023, and the FORCP Annual Bike Ride on 5/20/2023.

Next Meeting Date and Time: Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

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Adjournment: Supervisor Woodman moved adjournment at 9:03 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda McElroy, Secretary II

SECTION 27
 TOWNSHIP 4-N
 RANGE 11-E
 TOWN PORTER
 COUNTY ROCK

Eagle Road

EAST

Gibbs Lake County Park

Willow trees

FARM HOUSE

Farm driveway

1/4 Line

BARN

Lake Length 2,209'

Lake width 2,145'

Boat ramp to 10' water 560'

73 acres

AREA 64.85 acres
 TOTAL SHORELINE 1.15 miles
 MAX. DEPTH 23 ft.

SCALE: 1" = 200'

NORTH

LOT

Boat Ramp

Private Road

W. GIBBS LAKE ROAD

Buck Clay House

FRAME HOUSE

WATER FOWL BLIND

WEST

Casey Road

GIBBS LAKE

SOUTH

Farm driveway

DATE 1-7-54

SOURCE OF INFORMATION
 W.C.D. lakes survey grids on ice

SOUNDINGS 400' intervals

Crib Depth and location
Crib 1. 12' north
Crib 2. 13' north
Crib 3. 18' east
Crib 4. 19' east-central
Crib 5. 14' south-east
Crib 6. 17' south
Crib 7. 12' south-central
Crib 8. 15' south-west
Crib 9. 15' south-central
Crib 10. 15' north-central

Revised April 11, 2022

Gibbs Lake Fish Crib Locations:

Revised April 11, 2022

All fish cribs constructed of six to ten inch diameter black walnut logs. Cribs measure 5' tall and 12' X 12' in size. Crib interiors (8' x 8') filled with crisscrossing layered filler logs. Cribs placed on ice in March 2021 and 2022 by The Gathering Place Fishing Club of Milton, WI, with approvals from The Wisconsin DNR and The Rock County Parks Division. Locations confirmed 7/31/21 and 3/28/22 with boat and electronics.

Crib 1 (north) In 12' of water, 255 yards south of the boat landing, 275 yards east of the west shore. 20 yards away from crib #2 (built 2022)

GPS Coordinates: N42.78285 W 089.18116

Crib 2 (north) In 13' of water, 275 yards south of the boat landing, 275 yards east of the west shore. 20 yards away from crib #1 (built 2022)

GPS Coordinates: N. 42.78275 W 089.18119

Crib 3 (east) In 18' of water, 195 yards west of the east shore, out from farm house. (built 2022)

GPS Coordinates: N 42.78207 W 089.17944

Crib 4 (east-central) In 19' of water, near 23' deep hole, 290 yards north of the creek on the south shore, and 190 yards west of the east shore. In- line with west-shore "A" frame home and east shore farmhouse. (built 2021)

GPS Coordinates: N 42.78099 W 089.17959

Crib 5 (south-east) In 14' of water, 225 yards north of the creek on the south shore, 205 yards west of the east shore. (built 2022)

GPS Coordinates: N 42.78080 W 089.17995

Crib 6 (south-central) In 17' of water, 180 yards north of the creek on the south shore, 270 yards west of the east shore. (built 2022)

GPS Coordinates: N 42.78060 W 089.18082

Crib 7 (south) In 12' of water, 170 yards north of the creek on the south shore and 195 yards east of the west shore. Generally in-line with boat launch, and barn on the east shore. (built 2021)

GPS Coordinates: N 42.78039 W 089.18159

Crib 8 (south-west) In 15' of water, 230 yards north of the creek on the south shore and 170 yards from waterfowl blind on southwest shore. Generally in-line with boat launch. (built 2021)

GPS Coordinates: N 42.78109 W. 089.18175

Crib 9 (west-central) In 15' of water, 490 yards south of and in-line with the boat landing, 190 yards from west shore, can see top of redwood "A" frame house on the west shore. Crib is somewhat pulled apart. (built 2021)

GPS Coordinates: N 42.78165 W 089.18176

Crib 10 (north-central) In 15' of water, out 325 yards from boat launch and 225 yards off of west shore, in-line with northern of 2 wood duck houses. (built 2021)

GPS Coordinates: N 42.78241 W 089.18163