



ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highways & Parks

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Public Works Committee Meeting – Parks
Tuesday, May 9, 2023 – 8:00 a.m.
Rock River Heritage County Park – Heritage Hall
5801 N River 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

Others Present:

Floyd Finney	Parks Advisory Board
Dean Paynter	Parks Advisory Board
Tom Presny	Parks Advisory Board
Alan Sweeney	Rock County Board Supervisor
Carolyn Brandeen	League of Women Voters
Cathy Schneider	Friends of Rock River Heritage Park

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

Approval of Minutes Dated April 11, 2023: Supervisor Mawhinney moved approval of the minutes from April 11, 2023, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Woodman. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Supervisor Mawhinney suggested that the Friends Groups be recognized with a future Resolution for their dedication and countless volunteer hours in the county parks.

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Parks Advisory Board Communications: Mr. Paynter shared that there was a phenomenal turnout of volunteers at Rock River Heritage Park on Friday, May 5th, and Saturday, May 6th. A lot of work was completed.

Mr. Presny shared that trail work is ongoing for a perimeter trail around Rock River Heritage Park.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion and Possible Action – Friends of Beckman Mill Contract Extension: Supervisor Woodman moved the Contract Extension, seconded by Supervisor Mawhinney. Mr. Traynor explained that the current contract with the Friends of Beckman Mill (FOBM) expires at the end of the month (May 31, 2023) and recommended it be renewed for another ten years (June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2033). Both Rock County and the FOBM are in favor of the contract. If FOBM can no longer fulfill the contract, all assets and property would be turned over to Rock County except for certain items that would be transferred to the Rock County Historical Society or Wisconsin Historical Society. ADOPTED.

Discussion and Possible Action – Rock Koshkonong Lake District Payment Request: Supervisor Rashkin moved the Final Payment Request, seconded by Supervisor Mawhinney. Mr. Traynor explained that the initial estimate to repair the Indianford Park retaining wall and sinkhole was \$425,500, and the final bill came in significantly less at \$115,603.54. Rock County will not receive any further bills for the project. ADOPTED.

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

Parks General

- Mowing Season is Here- already started
- Wood-list Availability- wood is almost gone at Rock River Heritage Park, more will be available soon at other parks
- Staffing Update – Seasonal, Parks Assistant- 3 of the 4 seasonal positions are filled, Parks Assistant Shawn Laskowski started on 5/1/2023
- Horse Trails and Lots are Open- regraded parking area
- Boat Launch Piers and Fees – April 15th- piers are in, kiosks made by the Gathering Place Fishing Club have been installed
- 2024 Budget Season – CIP Due May 5th- Sportsman’s Park Pavilion and restrooms costs have significantly increased

Rock River Heritage Park

- Friends Group Update – Scheduled Meetings- 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm
- Trail Project Update- actively marking trails

- 2nd Auction Status- Wisconsin Surplus, have interested buyer for cooler but must be listed on auction
- Friends Group Workdays – May 5th and 6th- great turnout, volunteers stained fence, added mulch, rehabbed picnic tables, and painted the back of the park entrance sign
- Meeting with DNR – May 12th – trying to obtain permit from the DNR to fill the lake
- Official Ribbon Cutting – June 10th - still finalizing details, will take place from 10am-2pm, will be promoted on local radio stations

Beckman Mill

- Opening Day – May 6th - went well despite power issue
- New Roofs on Outhouse and Visitors Center- Friends of Beckman Mill paid for it

Indianford Park

- Powerhouse Project Update- 90-95% done, restoration of the park and some work to two gates in powerhouse remain, no more bills will be sent to Rock County

Sweet Allyn Park

- Rip Rap Project- permit was approved, project to occur this fall
- Memorial Tree Donation- trees in honor of loved ones are being donated to the park

Capital Improvement Projects Update

- Magnolia Bluff – Shelter- contractor said they will be out this week
- Carver Roehl – Lights- Jake's Electric starting this week
- Rock River Heritage – Playground- has been ordered, delivery is expected the week of July 10th
- W.L. Sportsman's – Shelter Design- price has increased

Community Coordinator Report: Ms. Friend presented a PowerPoint presentation on items in her report. She explained how her GPS live monitoring tracker works and welcomed Parks Assistant Shawn Laskowski to the team. Ms. Friend thanked the Clinton High School students for picking up trash, the Friends of Rock County Parks group for working on the proposed trail layout at Rock River Heritage Park, and the Friends of Rock River Heritage Park and volunteers for their two days of volunteer work on May 5th and 6th.

Ms. Friend highlighted past events, include the I-Spy Egg Hunt & Eggs-ercise (March 31-April 14, 2023) at Rock River Heritage Park, the Earth Day Trash Pick-Up Challenge (April 15-29, 2023) at all county parks and trails, the Earth Day Guided Nature Walk at Beckman Mill (April 22, 2023), Finding Inspiration in Wisconsin Parks and Trails Informational Booth (April 27, 2023), opening of Rock County Horse Trails (4/28/2023), and Friends of Beckman Mill Park - Opening Day (5/6/2023).

Ms. Friend shared reminders that the Sportsman's Park bathrooms and Rock County Horse Trails are open, boat launch fees are in effect from 4/15-10/31/2023 at Gibbs Lake, Happy Hollow, and

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Royce Dallman, all boat launch piers are installed, and Beckman Mill tours are offered Saturdays and Sundays from May-October (1-4pm or by appointment).

Ms. Friend previewed upcoming events at Rock County Parks, including the TROUT, TROUT, TROUT Storywalk® at Beckman Mill (May 12-26, 2023), Forever 34 Foundation's 1st Annual Fishing Derby at Beckman Mill (5/13/2023 from 8am-12pm), the Friends of Rock County Parks Annual Bike Ride at Turtle Creek Parkway (5/20/2023 from 7am-2pm), the ADRC-Aging Unit, Mobility Management Program Wednesday Walk at Beckman Mill (6/7/2023 at 10am), and the Rock River Heritage County Park Ribbon Cutting Celebration (6/10/2023 from 10am-2pm).

Next Meeting Date and Time: Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. at Beckman Mill Park.

Adjournment: Supervisor Woodman moved adjournment at 8:53 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Mawhinney. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda McElroy, Secretary II