



ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highways & Parks

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Public Works Committee Meeting – Parks
Tuesday, June 13, 2023 – 8:00 a.m.
Beckman Mill County Park – Park Shelter
11450 S CTH H
Beloit, WI 53511

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.

<u>Staff Members:</u>	John Traynor	Parks Manager
	Amanda McElroy	Secretary II

<u>Others Present:</u>	Chuck Flynn	Citizen
	Marty Densch	Friends of Beckman Mill
	Jim Disrud	Friends of Beckman Mill
	Sheri Disrud	Friends of Beckman Mill
	Dave Erickson	Friends of Beckman Mill
	Crystal Sheehan	Friends of Beckman Mill
	Carolyn Brandeen	League of Women Voters
	Floyd Finney	Parks Advisory Board
	Dean Paynter	Parks Advisory Board
	Tom Presny	Parks Advisory Board

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

Approval of Minutes Dated May 9, 2023: Supervisor Mawhinney moved approval of the minutes from May 9, 2023, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Woodman. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Mary Mawhinney thanked the Parks Staff for their work with the ribbon cutting event at Rock River Heritage County Park.

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Mr. Traynor announced that there will be two openings on the Parks Advisory Board on July 1, 2023. The public has been notified and applications are being accepted until June 21, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. Mr. Presny and Mr. Finney both plan to re-apply, Mr. Presny has served for 25 years!

Parks Advisory Board Communications: Mr. Presny shared that the volunteers at Rock River Heritage County Park have had three productive workdays.

Mr. Finney noted that Gibbs Lake County Park has been very busy with foot and horse traffic. The mounting blocks have been installed in the equestrian parking lot.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion and Possible Action – Issue Paper – Gibbs Lake House Lease: Supervisor Woodman moved Option #2 on the Issue Paper, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. Mr. Traynor explained that recently retired employee, David Winke, has leased the house since 1981. Option #2 would increase the current rent by 3% to \$927.00/month, totaling \$11,124.00/year. ADOPTED.

Discussion and Possible Action – Lee Park DOT Land Acquisition: Supervisor Mawhinney moved the DOT Land Acquisition, seconded by Supervisor Woodman. Mr. Traynor explained that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) will be installing a roundabout at the intersection of USH 67/USH 140, south of Lee Park. The land acquisition affects 1.131 acres of the park that is primarily in the right-of-way. WisDOT has offered to compensate Rock County \$34,100 for the piece of land. ADOPTED.

Discussion and Possible Action – Burning Permit: Supervisor Woodman moved the Burning Permit, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. Mr. Traynor explained that Gibbs Lake, Magnolia Bluff, and Rock River Heritage County Parks all have fire rings. Mr. Traynor noted that the liability would be on the permit holder instead of the county, and the Rock County Sheriff's Office would have the authority to enforce the Burning Permit once it becomes a Rock County Ordinance. 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 is Slowing Down- may pick back up with recent rain
- Staffing Update – Seasonals- Kree Peck just started on 6/12/2023, now fully staffed
- Trail Work – Carver, Mag Bluff, Gibbs- cleaning up downed trees, trying to break up horse manure
- Boat Launch Update- currently at \$16,214 for the year
- 2024 Budget Season – Joint Committee Meeting - July 20th- 6pm at the Department of Public Works Conference Room

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Rock River Heritage Park

- Official Ribbon Cutting – June 10th- attended by approximately 150-200 people
- DNR Meeting Update- met last month, looking promising for permit to pump water from the Rock River into the man-made lake
- 2nd Auction Status- removing walk-in freezer, will have a few other items
- Friends Group and Volunteers- have had three workdays and a bake sale, attracting lots of volunteers

Lee Park

- Ballfield Volunteers- youth baseball team has been maintaining and rehabbing the field in exchange for using the facility for practices
- Well Closure- South well has stopped pumping and will likely be capped, Bloyer Well will inspect the other Lee Park well to see if it can be saved

Turtle Creek Parkway

- Bridge Memorial Landscaping- Ethan Lee (City of Janesville) will be planting native flowers
- Memorial Tree- Ethan Lee will also be planting a sycamore tree

Sweet Allyn Park

- Shopiere Days – June 23-25- includes carnival, ball tournament, music, fireworks, truck/tractor pulls, and a parade
- Memorial Tree Donation- has been installed

Capital Improvement Projects Update

- Magnolia Bluff – Shelter- builder to be there 6/14/2023
- Carver Roehl – Lights- installed, new light bulbs are ordered that have three settings for brightness and color
- Rock River Heritage – Playground- prep work will be starting for the new playgrounds, they are expected to be delivered the week of July 10th
- W.L. Sportsmans – Shelter Design- meeting next week with Parkitecture

Community Coordinator Report: Mr. Traynor went over items in Ms. Friend's report, highlighting her work promoting the Rock River Heritage County Park Ribbon Cutting Celebration. Mr. Traynor also noted Ms. Friend's efforts with the Trout, Trout, Trout! StoryWalk®, snowmobile grant, and Friends of Rock County Parks Bike Ride at Turtle Creek Parkway. The committee reviewed her report and did not have any questions.

Next Meeting Date and Time: Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. at Turtle Creek Parkway.

Supervisor Rashkin left the committee meeting at 8:46 a.m. when the Zoom option was turned off to start the Beckman Mill Park Tour.

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Beckman Mill Park Tour: Friends of Beckman Mill members Marty Densch, Sheri Disrud, Jim Disrud, Dave Erickson, and Crystal Sheehan provided an interactive and highly informative tour of the Beckman Mill which included a corn grinding demonstration.

Supervisor Mawhinney left the committee meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Adjournment: Supervisor Woodman moved adjournment at 9:54 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Richard. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda McElroy, Secretary II