



ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highways & Parks

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Public Works Committee Meeting – Parks
Tuesday, October 10, 2023 – 8:00 a.m.
Public Works Department – Small Conference Room
3715 Newville Road
Janesville, WI 53545

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

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

Committee Members Absent: None.

<u>Staff Members:</u>	John Traynor	Park Services Supervisor
	Amanda McElroy	Administrative Professional II

<u>Others Present:</u>	Chuck Flynn	Citizen (Zoom)
	Richard Bostwick	County Board Supervisor (Zoom)
	Carl Lange	Friends of Rock County Parks
	Floyd Finney	Parks Advisory Board
	Dean Paynter	Parks Advisory Board
	Cathy Schneider	Rock River Heritage Park Friends

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

Approval of Minutes Dated September 12, 2023: Supervisor Woodman moved approval of the minutes from September 12, 2023, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Carl Lange introduced himself as the new President of Friends of Rock County Parks (FORCP).

Cathy Schneider, President of Rock River Heritage Park Friends (RRHP Friends), shared that they are hosting a fundraiser on October 21, 2023, from 11am-2pm at Rock River Heritage Park. The

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event will feature a chili cook-off, silent auction, Treats and Trail Walk for kids, among other activities.

Mr. Traynor announced that the Parks Department may receive free Gilsonite from the Highway Department, which is a polymer overlay used to seal pavement. The Gilsonite would be applied to the Glacier River Trail. The trail will be closed for a day for application and drying.

Supervisor Mawhinney shared that she attended the Carver-Roehl Harvest Fest and noted it was a beautiful day, but attendance was down this year.

Parks Advisory Board Communications: Mr. Paynter announced Carl Lange as the President, Tom Presney as the Vice-President, and Barb Stankus as the treasurer of FORCP. Mr. Paynter will remain the Secretary. Mr. Paynter also provided an update about the Rock River Heritage Park perimeter trail, noting that stumps still need to be pulled and signs installed.

Mr. Finney shared that the Multi-Use Trail Group (MUTG) raised \$1,000 from their Gibbs Lake Labor Day Camping Fundraiser.

Mr. Traynor explained that camping is not normally allowed in Rock County Parks, but there are a couple of exceptions that are made for the MUTG fundraiser and Beckman Mill Civil War Reenactment on Heritage Days.

Supervisor Rashkin joined the meeting on Zoom at 8:09 a.m.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion and Possible Action – Alcohol Sales – Rock River Heritage Park Friends Fundraiser: Mr. Traynor explained that alcohol is allowed to be consumed at county parks with rentals, but alcohol is not allowed to be sold, apart from Shopiere Days. Mr. Traynor suggested that the committee adopt a permitting process to put the responsibility on the permit-holder if alcohol is allowed to be sold in county parks to reduce county liability.

The RRHP Friends initially wanted to sell beer at their fundraiser on October 21, but has opted to keep the event family friendly. The RRHP Friends want to host a Mixology Class in December as another fundraiser.

Supervisor Homan noted his concerns with young children being around alcohol. Mr. Traynor stated that the Mixology Class would have an age requirement (21+). Cathy Schneider noted that they were not selling the alcohol, they were selling the class, and it would be contained within Heritage Hall. Supervisor Homan shared his support for the Mixology Class.

Mr. Traynor stated that other parks departments in the state host their own “beer gardens”. Mr. Traynor answered questions from the committee and noted that the permit holder would need to have their own licensed bartenders and event insurance, along with a site plan. Supervisor Rashkin expressed that a Mixology class is reasonable. Mr. Traynor explained that the funds raised would be kept by the RRHP Friends, but they make financial contributions and improvements to the park. Mr. Traynor said that Corporation Counsel would have to add the hard alcohol aspect in the permit.

Supervisor Woodman moved to approve the Mixology Class Fundraiser on the condition of Corporation Counsel’s approval of changes to the alcohol permit (hard alcohol), seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Parks Manager Report – See Attached: Mr. Traynor provided information on the items listed in his report and answered questions from the Committee. Mr. Traynor also announced that his title has been changed to Park Services Supervisor.

Parks General

- Maintenance Update- mowing again due to all the rain
- Dogs On A Leash Reminder- incident at RRHP were civilian allowed dogs off leash multiple times despite reminders from staff, ongoing issue at other parks as well
- 2024 Budget Season – Budget Roll Out – October 12th – new shelter at Sportsman’s Park as a Capital Improvement Project
- CPSI Training – October 17-19- Mr. Traynor is attending Certified Playground Safety Inspector training in Illinois

Rock River Heritage Park

- Maintenance Update- one playground is installed and open by the Pine Pavilion, working on cleaning up the kitchen
- United Way - Day of Caring – Wed. September 13th- approximately 50 volunteers worked on trail, spread mulch, painted, and stained
- Eagle Scout Projects- multiple Eagle Scouts looking for projects, can work on building/trail signage and rehabbing shelters at RRHP

Beckman Mill Park

- Mill Tours – End of October- Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4pm
- Playground Donation- Friends of Beckman Mill making a donation for the addition of musical panels to the playground

Gibbs Lake Park

- Trail Signing Project – Eagle Scout- approximately 30 posts/signs were installed

Carver Roehl Park

- Fall Fest – October 1st- great event, beautiful day, attendance down this year

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Sweet Allyn Park

- Ball Field Rehab- spraying outfield this week, trying to fix where the old base path was and level it

Magnolia Bluff Park

- Donation – Baker Manufacturing- donating a brand-new pump and installation to celebrate their 150th anniversary

Capital Improvement Projects Update

- Magnolia Bluff – Shelter- grass is growing, will bring in picnic tables soon
- Carver Roehl – Lights- tree trimming to complete around the lights
- Rock River Heritage – Playground- hoping to install second playground and memorial shelter yet this year- weather permitting
- W.L. Sportsman’s – Shelter Design- working on utility locations

Community Coordinator Report: Mr. Traynor shared that Ms. Friend is attending her GIS class at UW-Whitewater on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and her last class is on December 8. The Oak Leaf Storywalk® is at Carver-Roehl until October 12, and then it will be moved to Rock River Heritage Park. The Fall Fun Challenge runs from September 23 – October 31, and features 30 different challenges that can be completed at Rock County Parks for the chance to win a prize.

Ms. Friend coordinated the Eagle Scout project at Gibbs Lake with Matthew Blohm and assisted in the final design of the Gibbs Lake Map. Ms. Friend is also working with the Friends of Beckman Mill and Friends of Carver-Roehl to purchase new playground equipment, and Cami on the Rock County Tourism Guide. Ms. Friend attended and helped at the Carver-Roehl Fall Fest on October 1, and set up a booth at the Rock County Benefits Fair on October 3.

Ms. Friend wishes to remind everyone that boat launch fees are in effect until October 31 and horse trails are currently open. Parks Crew Leader Jim Hessenauer is partnering with ADRC to lead a nature walk on October 11 at Carver-Roehl (10am). The RRHP Friends are hosting their fall fundraiser on October 21. The dates for the 2024 Candlelight Hikes are January 20 (FORCP at Beckman Mill) and February 24 (RRHP Friends at Rock River Heritage Park).

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

Adjournment: Supervisor Woodman moved adjournment at 9:01 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda McElroy, Administrative Professional II

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