



ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highways & Parks

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Public Works Committee Meeting – Parks
Tuesday, June 11, 2024 – 8:00 a.m.
Public Works Department – Committee 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, Sutter, and Woodman

Committee Members Absent: None

<u>Staff Members:</u>	Duane Jorgenson	Public Works Director
	Nick Elmer	Assistant Director Public Works Director
	John Traynor	Park Services Supervisor
	Amy Friend	Parks Community Coordinator
	Amanda McElroy	Administrative Professional II

<u>Others Present:</u>	Sue Ryan	Citizen (Zoom)
	Sheila Williams	Citizen (Zoom)
	Michelle DeRubeis	Department of Public Works (Zoom)
	Pete Koch	Department of Public Works
	Bud Strunz	Department of Public Works
	Carl Lange	Friends of Rock County Parks
	Carolyn Brandeen	League of Women Voters
	Dean Paynter	Parks Advisory Board
	Tom Presney	Parks Advisory Board

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

Approval of Minutes Dated May 14, 2024: Supervisor Homan moved approval of the minutes from May 14, 2024, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Sutter. ADOPTED.

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Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Parks Advisory Board Communications: None.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion and Possible Action – Contract Amendment – Rock Trail Coalition: Supervisor Homan moved the Contract Amendment, seconded by Supervisor Woodman. Mr. Traynor explained that this amendment to the partnership agreement with the Rock Trail Coalition would allow them to complete light brush cutting on the Peace Trail. ADOPTED.

Discussion and Possible Action – Hendricks Lease Agreement – Peace Trail: Supervisor Woodman moved the Lease Agreement, seconded by Supervisor Homan. Mr. Traynor noted that the Peace Trail crosses part of the Hendricks property, and the lease agreement signed in 2016 expires at the end of 2025. The new lease agreement would expire in ten years and meet the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) requirements necessary to complete the two Peace Trail Grants to obtain reimbursement of \$90,000. ADOPTED.

Discussion – Staffing Update: Mr. Jorgenson and Mr. Traynor provided an update, noting that there are currently 12 vacancies (eight highway positions, two park positions, and two accounting positions) at the Department of Public Works. Interviews were held last week for the accounting positions and two candidates are currently being evaluated. Seventeen applications were received for the highway positions and eight interviews were initially scheduled this week, but two candidates have backed out. Of the 17 applications received, six applicants did not possess the required CDL (Commercial Driver's License). The park positions were posted to the public and closed this past Friday.

Discussion ensued about the benefits and concerns to re-posting the highway positions with the removal of the CDL requirement.

Parks Report – See Attached: Mr. Traynor and Ms. Friend shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting items in their report and answered questions from the Committee.

Parks General

- Maintenance Update – Mowing- trying to keep up despite being short-staffed
- Storm Damage – Mag Bluff, Gibbs, Beckman, Carvers, PTNT- lots of tree damage
- Rental Season is in Full Swing- high amount, including 7 rentals for this Saturday
- Seasonal Hiring- 4 seasonals were hired and are doing a great job

Beckman Mill

- Playground Addition- music panels were donated by the Friends of Beckman Mill
- Opening Day Celebration – May 4
- Mill Tours – May thru October- Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4pm

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June 11, 2024

- FORCP – Annual Bike Ride – May 18- 44 bikers participated and raised over \$1,000
- FORCP – Boardwalk Rehab – June 5- work day fixing the boardwalk
- Forever 34 Foundation Donation- held 2nd Annual Fishing Derby and are donating kids fishing poles
- Mothers’ Garden- started in 2015 by 3 sisters in memory of their mother, looking for volunteers to help

Carver-Roehl

- Bear Finds Eggs StoryWalk® – March 18 – 31- prize basket donated by Friends of Carver-Roehl
- Egg Hunt & Eggs-ercise – March 18 -31- replaced the egg hunt, received over 25 entries despite the bad weather, everyone received a prize courtesy of the Friends of Carver-Roehl
- Wednesday Walk – May 8- partnered with Rock County ADRC Mobility Management and led by Dave Bendlin

Gibbs Lake Park

- Earth Day Guided Nature Walk – April 22- led by Crew Leader Jim Hessenauer
- Well Issues – Hand Pump- have had issues with bacteria in the well, not currently useable and may have to be permanently closed

Indianford Park

- Donation – Line Canister – Gathering Place Fishing Club- used to recycle fishing line
- Dam Repair Update- holding up despite large amounts of water going through
- Well Abandonment- the proximity of the new pit toilets forced the closure

Rock River Heritage Park

- Playground Install- second playground installed but not open yet, still need to pour the concrete boardwalk to contain mulch and hang the swings
- Pumping Permit Status- still working with the DNR
- Eclipse Watch in the Park – April 8- glasses were provided to watch solar eclipse
- Workdays – May 22 & 23- mowed the perimeter trail and spread mulch
- Tree & Wildflower Walk – June 1- led by Mary Ann and Brian Bunezow despite the rain
- Cicada Celebration – June 6- PJ Liesch from UW- Madison spoke about the cicadas and over 70 people attended

Sweet Allyn Park

- Ballfield Project Update- grass is growing nicely
- Shopiere Days – June 21-23- event featuring bands, tractor pulls, carnival, and fireworks

- Complaint- met with 3 homeowners regarding people using park property on the other side of the creek and playing in it

Multi Use Trail Group

- Sign Donation- will be posted at Gibbs Lake, Magnolia Bluff, Happy Hollow, Ice Age Trail, and Pelishek-Tiffany to remind park users to yield to horses and communicate on the trails
- Volunteer Tree Removal and Cleanup- Gibbs Lake- cleared 4.5 miles of trails and rehabbed obstacles on March 5, 11, and 12

Grant Update

- Peace Trail Grant- finalizing paperwork for total reimbursement of \$90,000
- Snowmobile Grant- \$11,068.78 remains, applied for 2024-2025
- CCA Grant- received reimbursement of \$5,000 from 2023, awarded \$3,500 for 2024 and work is in progress

Other Events

- Earth Day Trash Pick-Up Challenge – April 13 – 27- over 15 participants
- Leprechauns on the Loose – March 3 – 17- over 300 entries and 5 prize winners
- Rock County Parks July Photo Challenge – July 1-31- share memories during National Park and Recreation Month

Notes

- Sportsman's Restrooms – Open- closed in winter
- Sugar River Park – Open- closed in winter due to dumping issues
- Magnolia Bluff Park – Upper Gate & Upper Restrooms – Open- closed in winter
- Horse Trails – Open- have had some muddy conditions due to rain
- Rock River Heritage Park Restrooms – Closed- will be opened for rentals only due to ongoing damage and vandalism issues
- Piers installed at Happy Hollow & Royce Dallman- Royce Dallman pier has been displaced due to high water, will reset once the water recedes
- Boat Launch Fees – April 15 – October 31
- FOBM – Ice Cream Social & Artists in the Park – July 21
- Rock County Parks July Photo Challenge – July 1-31
- Pedal the Peace Trail – Rock Trail Coalition – July 27
- Wednesday Walk – Lee Park – July 31
- Wednesday Walk – Rock River Heritage Park – August 7

Next Meeting Date and Time:

Highway Meeting: Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Parks Meeting: Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Adjournment: Supervisor Pennycook moved adjournment at 8:48 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda McElroy, Administrative Professional II