



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, September 10, 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, and Woodman

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Sutter

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

<u>Others Present:</u>	Chuck Flynn	Citizen (attended in person and on Zoom)
	Sheila Williams	Citizen (Zoom)
	Carl Lange	Friends of Rock County Parks
	David Winke	Gibbs Lake Rental House Tenant
	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 Pennycook moved approval of the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Approval of Minutes Dated August 13, 2024: Supervisor Woodman moved approval of the minutes from August 13, 2024, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: A public comment regarding the Gibbs Lake rental house, submitted by Linda Winke, was read aloud.

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Mr. Lange shared that construction of the arch has started on the Peace Trail.

Mr. Jorgenson discussed a recent partnership with the Milton School District for students to explore career opportunities. He will be giving a presentation in the classroom on Thursday (9/12). The Department is also trying to do something similar for Parker High School students.

Parks Advisory Board Communications: Mr. Finney estimated that the Gibbs Lake Labor Day Weekend camping event had 25 trailers and 50 horses present on Sunday night.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion and Possible Action – Issue Paper – Gibbs Lake House Rent: Mr. Traynor informed the Committee that he asked Corporation Counsel about including termination language in the lease if something major happens during the rental year and was told that it couldn't be done due to renter's rights. He recommended the rent increase originally proposed in his Issue Paper at the July meeting to make it uniform with the airport's rental.

Mr. Presny added that there is a good long-term renter who takes care of the property, but he looks forward to the opportunity to use areas that are privately rented for public purposes in the future.

Supervisor Woodman noted that he was comfortable with another year and Supervisor Pennycook added that it is income producing.

Supervisor Woodman moved Option #2 (raising the rent 2.50% to \$950/month) on the Issue Paper, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. ADOPTED.

Parks Report – See Attached: Mr. Traynor and Ms. Friend shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting items in their report and answered questions from the Committee. Mr. Traynor also introduced current "Craftsmen with Character" Milton High School student JJ to the Committee.

Parks General

- Maintenance Update – Mowing, Side-Mount Mowing- ongoing, widening trails and eliminating invasive species
- Staffing Update – FTE and Seasonals- one seasonal remains until the end of the month, an offer was made to fill the Parks Maintenance Worker position but have not heard back from Human Resources yet
- Work Schedule Update – 4-10's- final week, resume 5-8's on Monday
- Budget Meeting – August 27- County Administrator didn't have many questions
- Rental Update – 200 and Counting- 217 so far, first year we have passed 200
- Craftsmen with Character Program- teamed up with Milton High School to expose students to different careers/companies

Beckman Mill

- Welty Environmental Center Field Trip – August 12- fun day catching fish
- Friends of Beckman Mill Heritage Sunday – September 8- estimated over 500 people attended for tours, demonstrations, re-enactments, live music, a car show, kids activities, and a pig roast
- Forever 34 Foundation Fishing Poles Donation- children and adult poles, tackle box
- Boardwalk Addition Status- reached out to Friends of Beckman Mill to see if they want to donate any funds towards the addition of an ADA ramp

Carver-Roehl

- Pavilion - Roof Repair Update- Friends of Carver-Roehl paid for a steel roof replacement on the shelter due to leaking

Gibbs Lake

- The Gathering Place Fishing Club – Fishing Day – August 12- enjoyed a fish fry with the days catch
- MUTG – Fundraiser- Labor Day Camping event is a fundraiser for the Multi-Use Trail Group, the group is trying to find leaders to keep it going

Lee Park

- Needed Shelter Repairs- same contractor that did the steel roof for Carver-Roehl is also putting a new roof on the Lee Park pavilion

Magnolia Bluff Park

- Lower Bathroom Vandalism- reported and covered on 8/23
- Shelter – Access Paving- still lime rock, will be paving soon to make it ADA accessible

Murwin Park

- Bathroom Vandalism- door doesn't close, ordering new hinges to repair it

Royce Dallman Park

- Parking Lot Repair Update- crews fixed roadway and potholes

Rock River Heritage Park

- Friends of Rock County Parks Trail Workday – August 14- rented and paid for a stump grinder to remove roughly 150 trail surface hazards
- LET'S GO on a HIKE Storywalk® - August 21 - September 4- placed around the Pine Pavilion playground
- Popsicles at the Park - August 29- also had yard games, bubbles, and a scavenger hunt
- United Way Day of Caring – September 11- hosting approximately 30 volunteers who will be painting, staining, and cleaning up the trails

- Pumping Permit Status- low water mark has been established, posted as a Class 1 Notice in the Janesville Gazette and 4 letters were sent Certified Mail to landowners, currently in a 30-day public comment period before lifetime permit can be issued

Sportsman Park

- Shelter Design Status Update – Plans- will share plans after meeting
- Playground – ADA Path Installation- construction crew paved a path from the parking lot to the playground to be ADA compliant, looking to make a path at Beckman Mill next

Sweet-Allyn Park

- Welty Environmental Center Field Trip – August 21- water science and critter discovery
- LET'S GO on a HIKE Storywalk® - September 5-18- first Storywalk® at Sweet-Allyn

Upcoming Events

- WPRA Fall Conference – September 19-20- John and Amy will be attending
- Rock County Parks Fall Fun Challenge – September 22 – October 31- visit a park and submit a photo to win a prize
- Rock County Employee Benefits Fair – October 1- Amy will have Parks booth there
- Rock River Heritage Park Friends Fall into Fall Event – October 5
- Friends of Carver-Roehl Fall Fest – October 6
- Rock County ADRC Wednesday Walk – Gibbs Lake Park – October 9
- Rock River Heritage Park Friends Night Hike – November 16
- FORCP Candlelight Hike – Magnolia Bluff – February 15
- RRHPF Candlelight Hike – February 22

Next Meeting Date and Time:

Highway Meeting: Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

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

Adjournment: Supervisor Pennycook moved adjournment at 8:41 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda McElroy, Administrative Professional II