



# ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

## *Highways & Parks*

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Public Works Committee Meeting – Parks  
Tuesday, June 10, 2025 – 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> | Nick Elmer     | Assistant Director Public Works |
|                       | John Traynor   | Park Services Supervisor        |
|                       | Amy Friend     | Parks Community Coordinator     |
|                       | Amanda McElroy | Administrative Professional III |

|                        |                  |                                          |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <u>Others Present:</u> | Kris Ellis       | Citizen                                  |
|                        | Chuck Flynn      | Citizen (attended in person and on Zoom) |
|                        | Terri Carlson    | Corporation Counsel                      |
|                        | Carl Lange       | Friends of Rock County Parks             |
|                        | Carolyn Brandeen | League of Women Voters                   |
|                        | Floyd Finney     | Parks Advisory Board                     |
|                        | Dean Paynter     | Parks Advisory Board                     |
|                        | Tom Presny       | Parks Advisory Board                     |
|                        | Cathy Schneider  | Rock River Heritage Park Friends         |

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

Approval of Minutes Dated May 13, 2025: Supervisor Woodman moved approval of the minutes from May 13, 2025, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Carolyn Brandeen announced that she is attending her final Public Works Committee – Parks Meeting on behalf of the League of Women Voters. She expressed her support for the five-year plan and Parks Community Coordinator Position and thanked the Committee and staff for their work.

Parks Advisory Board Communications: Mr. Finney shared that a new wooden well house was placed over the pump at Gibbs Lake.

## **REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

Discussion and Possible Action – Rock River Heritage Park Pond Update: Mr. Traynor shared that he reached out to two consulting firms (CGC Consulting and Merjent) to obtain cost estimates to identify the cause of the water loss from the pond. Estimated costs range between \$10,000 - \$20,000 to conduct the study, and if specialized lab testing or soil borings are needed, it could be an additional \$10,000 - \$20,000. Discussion was had about the recreational value of having the pond full and budgetary constraints. The pond is holding water at its current level, which is estimated to be 18 feet deep, however, it is not suitable for fish habitat. The county has invested approximately \$40,000 into filling the pond, which includes \$22,000 for a pump that can be used by any county department for other projects. The Committee recommended looking into alternative funding options and grants to obtain the funds to complete the study.

Discussion – Recognition of Parks Advisory Committee Members Floyd Finney and Tom Presny: Mr. Traynor recognized Mr. Presny (27 years) and Mr. Finney (25 years) for their years of service on the Parks Advisory Committee and presented each with a plaque and card. The Committee thanked both for their dedication and hard work over the years.

Parks Report – See Attached: Mr. Traynor and Ms. Friend discussed items in their report and answered questions from the Committee.

### **Parks General**

- Maintenance Update – Mowing, Park Prep – Rentals, Tree Removal- had nine rentals last Saturday, including the first three-day rental at Heritage Hall (\$3,500)
- Seasonal Employees – Started May 27- Karlie, Zach, Cal, and Jax are doing well
- Trail Maintenance – Mowing, Repairs- behind on mowing and trying to catch up this week, need to repair potholes on trails due to animals burrowing underneath them
- 2026 Budget – Joint Committee Presentation – July 31- DPW Conference Room
- Maintenance/Repairs on StoryWalk® Signs- looking into the cost to replace the damaged signs after five years of use

### **Beckman Mill Park**

- Celebrating 35<sup>th</sup> Season- Friends of Beckman Mill

- Mill Tours – May to October, every Saturday and Sunday from 1-4pm- gift shop and museum are also open during the tours
- Wednesday Walk – May 14- partnered with ADRC and led by Jim Hessenauer
- Ice Cream Social & Artists in the Park – July 20- First Brigade Band Performance from 3 – 4:30pm to celebrate 35 years

#### **Carver-Roehl Park**

- Tree Identification Sign Frames- Friends of Carver-Roehl purchased 10 new frames
- FOCR - Playground Equipment Addition- reviewing playground equipment options
- Mapping Trails- Ms. Friend is working on creating a new map with Ms. Roscoe from Land Conservation

#### **Gibbs Lake Park**

- FORCP Annual Bike Ride – May 17- raised \$855 despite the cold and windy day
- MUTG Workday – May 18 – Well Building- installed new pump house and cleaned trails

#### **Happy Hollow Park**

- Dumping Issues- people are using the recycling dumpster to dump trash, vendor is unable to pick up as a result, may remove recycling option with next contract

#### **Ice Age Trail**

- Walk Across Rock County Wednesday Hikes – Rock County Chapter- there are 64 miles of Ice Age Trail in Rock County

#### **Magnolia Bluff Park**

- Traffic Incident – May 22- may need to revisit park ordinances after three kids were involved in an accident after park hours and received one citation
- Trail Work Update- hoping to address trails now that department is fully staffed

#### **Rock River Heritage Park**

- Paving and Construction Work- not completed yet due to construction on CTH X and CTH T, maybe by the end of the week weather permitting
- Repairs and Additions- mulch spread on playground, gravel cleaned up, still need to install the Memorial Bench and finish the Randy Reilly Memorial Shelter
- Eagle Scout Project Update- projects by Jadon Upham and Jacob Jorgenson are complete
- Rentals Update- picking up, had a three-day rental 6/6-6/8/2025 for a wedding
- Volunteer Workday – May 30 and 31- spread mulch, filled holes and dips on trails
- The Solar System Trail – May 5 – Present- was taken down yesterday (6/9/2025)
- Green-Rock Audubon Society Birding Field Trip – May 31- led by Josh Erdman
- Night Nature Hike – June 27- led by Dave Bendlin and limited to 30 people

**Sportsman's Park**

- Bathroom Repairs- replaced second toilet this year
- Roof Deterioration- inside rot of boards on roof
- Deer Shelter Replacement – Complete- replaced fire damaged shelter, still need to run electricity

**Sweet – Allyn Park**

- Shopiere Days – June 20-22- fun family event, set-up starts the Tuesday before the event

**POROS Plan Update**

- Draft #1- just received and starting to review it
- What's Next?- will make available to Parks Advisory Committee and Public Works Committee, will also have a Public Open House

**Events**

- Facebook Update – 6,000 Followers- one post per day, never paid for anything
- July is Park and Recreation Month – Build Together, Play Together- celebrates staff and volunteers who maintain the parks
- July Photo Challenge- encourages people to share summer adventures
- Rock County 4-H Fair Booth – July 22-27- booth is located under the grandstand

**Next Meeting Date and Time:**

Highway Meeting: Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Parks Meeting: Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Adjournment: Supervisor Pennycook moved adjournment at 8:54 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Sutter. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amanda McElroy, Administrative Professional III