



ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highways & Parks

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Public Works Committee Meeting – Parks
Tuesday, February 10, 2026 – 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>	John Traynor	Parks Manager
	Amy Friend	Parks Community Coordinator
	Amanda McElroy	Administrative Professional III

<u>Others Present:</u>	Carl Lange	Friends of Rock County Parks
	Dennis James	Ice Age Trail Alliance (Rock)
	Kris Ellis	Parks Advisory Board
	Dean Paynter	Parks Advisory Board

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

Approval of Minutes Dated January 13, 2026: Supervisor Pennycook moved approval of the minutes from January 13, 2026, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Parks Advisory Board Communications: Mr. Paynter announced the upcoming candlelight hikes on February 21, 2026, at Carver-Roehl Park and February 28, 2026, at Rock River Heritage Park, from 6-8pm each night. There has been a good turnout at previous candlelight hikes this season. Mr. Traynor added that “No Parking” signs will need to be posted on one side of the road at Carver-Roehl Park to keep the park accessible in the event of an emergency.

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REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

Amending 5.02 of the Rock County Code of Ordinances (Parks Regulated): Supervisor Homan moved the Ordinance, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. Mr. Traynor highlighted the updates to the Parks Ordinance, including his recent title change and additional verbiage regulating noise and prohibiting camping. Supervisor Mawhinney asked that the word “truck”, which was previously struck from the Ordinance under “Noise Regulation”, be included. ADOPTED.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion and Possible Action – Parks Capital Improvement Fund: Mr. Traynor proposed establishing a Parks Capital Improvement Fund, which would designate an annually recurring dollar amount for park projects. The Parks Department would have the ability to plan and save for large Capital Improvement Projects while also completing smaller projects that are currently not funded. When Parks Capital Improvement Projects are not included in the budget, there is no opportunity to get smaller projects approved. Per policy, spending decisions require Committee approval. Supervisor Woodman moved to have Supervisor Mawhinney and Mr. Traynor draft a Resolution to create a Parks Capital Improvement Fund for the February 24, 2026, Public Works Committee Meeting agenda, seconded by Supervisor Sutter. ADOPTED.

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

Parks General

- Maintenance Update – Tree Work, Snow Removal, Sign Work- painting and staining picnic tables
- Kiosk Updates – POROS Plan- Jim is constructing nine kiosks to increase park information availability
- Wood List Availability- wood is available at Happy Hollow, Rock River Heritage Park, Gibbs Lake, and Beckman Mill
- CDL Training – Soergel- will be done in a couple of weeks
- Staffing Update – Seasonals- three seasonals from last year are returning, advertising to fill the fourth position
- Volunteer Waivers Update- approximately 15 volunteer waivers have been filled out
- WPRA Annual Conference – February 3-6- learned new ideas

Beckman Mill

- Brushing Project Update- a lot of tree work and brushing has been completed

Carver-Roehl

- Candlelight Hike – FORCP and FOCR – February 21- 6-8pm

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- Brushing Project- will start after the candlelight hike to tackle invasives
- Trail Work – CCA Grant- will start once the weather permits

Gibbs Lake Park

- Tree Removal- big trees were removed and made available to the wood list

Pelishkek-Tiffany Nature Trail

- Walworth County Payment Received- Rock County maintains approximately one mile of trail in Walworth County

Rock River Heritage Park

- Master Plan Update – Survey- survey was extended until March 1, 2026; the Vandewalle consultant is experiencing health issues which may change the project timeline
- Master Plan Update – RRHPF Meeting – Feb 18- may need to be rescheduled
- Trail Grooming – Hiking / Cross Country Skiing- used homemade groomer on trails
- Consolidated School Event – February 8- attended by 25 students and their families
- Candlelight Hike – RRHPF – February 28- will promote survey in Heritage Hall
- Full Moon Hike – March 3- silent hike listening for owls led by Dave Bendlin

Sportsman Park

- Water Easement – Combs – Update- hoping to have easement with the City of Janesville within the next month

Events

- Hearts in The Parks – February 2-16 – Magnolia Bluff Park- located on the lower trail
- Rock County Multi Use Trail Group Tack Swap – February 28- 9am-1pm, \$2 charge
- Leprechauns on the Loose – March 4-18- most popular event, involves six parks
- Rock County Multi Use Trail Workday – April 25 – Gibbs Lake- starting at 1pm
- Rock County 4-H Fair Parks Booth – July 28 – August 2- theme is Christmas in July
- FORCP/RRHPF Fundraiser- March 1 at Culvers on Court St from 10am-2:30pm

Next Meeting Date and Time:

Highway Meeting: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Parks Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Adjournment: Supervisor Pennycook moved adjournment at 8:32 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda McElroy, Administrative Professional III

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