

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND
Joint Parks, Recreation, & Natural Resources Commission
Minutes

Thursday, January 17, 2019 - 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

Chairperson Kolk called the regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee to order at 7:01 PM in Conference Room A of the McFarland Municipal Center.

Members present: Chuck Rolfsmeyer, Rick Ruecking, Katherine Pease, Jacob Schkirkie, Darrel Waldera, Shaun O'Hearn, Dan Kolk

Members not present: John Feldner, Jacob Tisue

Staff Present: Jim Hessling, Acting Director of Public Works, Matt Schuenke, Village Administrator, Tim Stieve, Town and Country Engineering,

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

a. Motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2018 meeting.

Motion by O'Hearn, second by Schkirkie, to Approve the Minutes of the December 20, 2018 minutes. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

4. BUSINESS.

The Committee went immediately to agenda item 4b. Agenda item 4a was moved after agenda item 4d at 8:04 pm.

a. Discussion and action to install bird nesting boxes in and adjacent to McDaniel Park.

Shawn Miller gave a presentation on placing nesting boxes along the Lower Yahara River Trail (LYRT) to attract a bird called the prothonotary warbler. Shawn has worked with the DNR on this initiative, and he brought an example of the nesting box given to him by the DNR. Miller would build the boxes and do the installation himself.

Motion by Kolk, second by Waldera, to authorize Shawn Miller to install up to 8 nesting boxes for the prothonotary warbler along the LYRT. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

b. Discussion and update regarding planned improvements within Orchard Hill Park.

In the master plan, which was completed about 1.5 years ago, enhancements to the Urso Schuetz property were outlined and included expansion of the dog park and the addition of disc golf. During 2018, the following items were completed:

- Initial design work for the disc golf course was completed.
- Major clearing work occurred in the forested area around Orchard Hill.
- A new parking lot with driveway access was added.

Future work includes the following:

- Adding a trail with boardwalk from Holscher to the center of the park, which would be either a main trail or a spur. We were planning to use a park grant to support this initiative, but we did not get the grant. This improvement is now on hold pending discussions with Dane County. We are unsure of their plans currently.
- Expanding the current dog park south into Dane County's property. There is a meeting with Dane County coming up. Dane County has not cleaned up the invasive species Japanese Knotweed on their property, which is located west of Hidden Farm Road. Committee members raised concerns that if it crosses the road, all of the clearing the Village has done up to this point would be for naught. Member Pease is going to send Hessling contact names for Dane County, so this issue can be reviewed.

O'Hearn suggested hole sponsorship for disc golf to help fund the project as a future idea.

c. Discussion and action regarding the position description for the Office Manager position within the Public Works Department.

Schuneke provided an overview on how this position has evolved after going through other committees including Personnel, Public Works and Public Utilities. After receiving and reviewing committee input, it was decided to broaden the title and job description to incorporate more duties across all Public Works departments instead of primarily supporting Public Utilities.

Motion by Kolk, second by O'Hearn to accept the position description as presented.

Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

d. Discussion and action to make a recommendation regarding the acquisition of land for the future development of an east side community park.

The Village has recognized that new growth is happening to the east of the Village. Discussions have taken place regarding the possible acquisition of land sizable enough (approximately 20-40 acres) to support multi-function events such as sport fields. Recently a large parcel of land located east of CTH AB in the Town of Cottage Grove has become available. Initial observations included the following:

- The actual cost for this parcel is significantly less than the \$2.5M set aside in the 2019 budget for this purpose.
- The area is reasonably flat and free of wetlands.
- If the land was purchased but not developed right away, it could be leased out as farmland.
- If the land was purchased, but needs/wants change in the future, the land could be sold.

Motion by O'Hearn, second by Kolk to make a recommendation regarding the acquisition of land for the future development of an east side community park. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

e. Presentation by Public Works Director regarding monthly department report.

Hessling presented the monthly departmental report.

Kolk inquired about annual work on Indian Mound, the flooded trail along Creamery, and the path in Lewis Park.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. February 21, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Rolfsmeyer, second by O'Hearn, to adjourn at 8:26 pm. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.