

**Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
May 28, 2020**

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom by Village Trustee and Chair Carolyn Clow. Roll call: Clow, Clair Utter, John Feldner, Sarah Kuba, David Wilson, Darrell Waldera, Katharine Pease, Andy Jakubowski. Absent: Rick Ruecking, Chuck Rolfsmeyer.

Staff present: Matt Schuenke, Village Administrator; Jim Hessling, Public Works Director; Sayer Larson, Parks Superintendent; and Phil McDade, Public Works staff.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES. None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

a. Discussion and action regarding the minutes from the meeting held on April 16, 2020. Felder motioned, Pease seconded, to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2020 meeting. Motion passed 7-0-1 with Clow abstaining.

4. BUSINESS

a. Presentation and discussion regarding adding a bird spotting scope to the observation deck within Lewis Park. Shawn Miller of the McFarland Bird Festival presented a proposal on behalf of the festival to add a bird spotting scope to the observation deck of Lewis Park. The scope would be a permanent addition to the deck and would allow for enhanced viewing of waterfowl across Lower Mud Lake. Lower Mud Lake is a birding “hot spot” particularly in the winter because it maintains open water due to the current of the Yahara River, according to Miller. The scope’s estimated cost is \$7,700, and the Bird Festival would be willing to offset part of that with a \$500 donation, Miller said. Schuenke said the village annually budgets money for park enhancements, and that fund could be tapped for the project. Larson said some modifications to the observation deck would likely be needed to accommodate the viewing scope. The committee did not take action on the agenda item.

b. Presentation and discussion regarding planning for pickleball court improvement project. The committee discussed a proposed six-court pickleball court project, located at Lewis Park at the existing site of the park’s seasonal hockey rink. The committee discussed whether the proposed courts would be better suited for Lewis Park or Siggelkow Road Park. Discussion focused on the number of courts for the project and whether restrooms and parking should be included as part of the project. The committee also discussed phasing in improvements such as restrooms and parking if the project was located at Siggelkow Road Park. The estimated timeline for the project would be to construct it in the spring of 2021. The committee did not take action on the agenda item.

c. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding the creation of a Vegetation Management Use Policy as Chapter 34 of the Park System Policy Manual. The committee discussed the use of pesticides and fertilizers in village parks, in particular sections of the Vegetation Management Use Policy that describe the tolerance for weeds in various parks. Clow said the proposed policy described what the village is currently doing in practice, not necessarily what village residents may want it to be. Felder said certain parts of parks such as Lewis Park and William McFarland Park likely

need different applications of treatment due to their recreational use in some parts of the park. The committee did not take action on the agenda item.

d. Presentation of the Parks Superintendent monthly report. Larson presented information regarding a hazardous tree that was removed on South Court, playground closures due to coronavirus restrictions, and the village dog park expansion project.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. (one week early)

6. ADJOURNMENT Utter moved, Feldner seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 8-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.