

Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2021

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, John Feldner, Andy Jakubowski, Dan Kolk, Sarah Kuba, Chuck Rolfsmeyer, Clair Utter, Darrell Waldera. Absent: Katharine Pease, David Wilson.

Staff present: Matt Schuenke, village administrator; Sayer Larson, Parks Superintendent; Jim Hessling, Public Works Director; and Phil McDade, public works staff. Also, Blake Theisen of Parkitecture + Planning consultants; Brian Conger of BCycle bike share.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES. None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

a. Discussion and action regarding the minutes from the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources meeting held on January 28, 2021. Clow motioned, Feldner seconded, to approve the minutes of the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources meeting held on January 28, 2021. Motion approved 7-0-1 with Utter abstaining.

4. BUSINESS.

a. Presentation and discussion on bike sharing platform BCycle locating within park system. Brian Conger of BCycle, a bike-sharing company based in Waterloo, WI, provided information on a potential bike-sharing station in McFarland. Riders use a credit card to access bicycles at stations, and purchase time on the bicycle for rides. Conger said McDaniel Park would make for an ideal location for a BCycle station due to its proximity to the Lower Yahara River Trail. BCycle would incur all the set-up costs but would need a small parcel of land to put up docking stations for the bicycles. The company would also supply the McFarland bike station with electric-motorized bicycles, and initially provide 10 bicycles at the station. The committee discussed the potential bike station but took no action on the agenda item.

b. Discussion regarding master plan development at McFarland Park. Theisen of Parkitecture + Planning led a planning session on how William McFarland Park adjacent to Marsh Road could be re-developed. The village is considering several park and recreational improvements, and William McFarland Park is a potential location for some of them. Theisen said committee members should assume that youth soccer programs will move from the park to another area of the village. Both the Madison Curling Club and the McFarland Community Ice Arena want to add ice surfaces to their existing buildings in the park. Other items the committee discussed adding to the park included: an aquatics center or feature; a pickle-ball court complex; an outdoor ice sheet; a refurbished skateboard park; a bocce ball court expansion; recreational walking trails; and increased parking. The committee took no action on the agenda item.

c. Discussion regarding small project planning within the park system. Larson discussed potential small project improvements in the village's parks, noting the recent addition of bird-sighting scopes at Lewis Park. Items could include refurbishing or replacing gazebos at Larson and Cedar Ridge parks, adding or replacing playground equipment at Cedar Ridge Park, adding outdoor grills to McDaniel Park, resealing basketball courts at Egner, Autumn Grove, and Woodland Estates parks, and replacing or rebuilding

canoe and kayak racks at McDaniel Park. Work also continues on park signage improvements throughout the village.

d. Presentation of the Parks Superintendent's monthly report. Larson reported that forestry operations, outdoor ice rink maintenance, and snow removal at parks were department priorities. Due to recent warming, hockey rink boards were taken down Feb. 25 at one of the outdoor ice rinks. The department is also working on Tree City and Bird City applications.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

b. Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

c. Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT. Utter motioned, Rolfsmeyer seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:40 p.m.