

# **Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes March 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, Katharine Pease, Chuck Rolfsmeyer, Clair Utter, Darrell Waldera, 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.

**2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.** Gina Newell, 6027 Overlook Dr., raised concerns about the muddy conditions of the McFarland Dog Park and urged the village to consider making improvements to the park to make it available year-round to residents.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

**a. Discussion and action regarding the minutes from the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee meeting held on February 25, 2021.** Clow motioned, Feldner seconded, to approve the minutes of the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee meeting held on February 25, 2021. Motion approved 10-0-0.

### **4. BUSINESS.**

**a. Discussion regarding master plan development at McFarland Park.** Theisen of Parkitecture + Planning detailed plans for reconfiguring William McFarland Park. Under his plans, youth soccer programs would move from the park entirely to another park in in the village. Both the Madison Curling Club and the McFarland Community Ice Arena plan to add ice surfaces to their existing buildings in the park. Other items Theisen said could be located in the park: a six-lane outdoor pool with a bathhouse; a youth baseball field with infield, and two smaller baseball fields with backstops that could also be used for T-ball; an eight-court pickleball facility; a playground; a refurbished and expanded skate park; an expanded bocce ball court; an outdoor ice sheet; recreational walking trails; and increased parking. Committee members discussed the proximity of some amenities to others, suggesting moving the baseball field and playground further apart, and making sure recreational paths don't come into conflict with foul balls from the baseball field. Committee members also discussed possible lighting of the ice sheet on the southernmost portion of the park, and shielding light from the park from adjacent residential streets. The committee took no action on the agenda item.

**b. Discussion and action to make a recommendation regarding the pilot program with BCycle for 2021.** Larson discussed a proposal from BCycle, a bike-sharing company based in Waterloo, WI, to install a bike sharing station at McDaniel Park near the Lower Yahara River Trail. Riders would use a credit card to access the bicycles and purchase time on the electrical bicycles for riding. The pilot project would run for 2021 at no cost to the village; if the village continues with the program after that, BCycle would require a one-time set-up fee of \$1,635 per bike-docking station installed, and would also require the village to pay \$5,000 annually for the program. Committee discussion focused on whether the village should continue with the pilot program once it is required to pay for it in 2022. The committee also requested that BCycle provide data to the village on use of the program in 2021. Kolk motioned, Rolfsmeyer

seconded, that the committee recommend to the village board to accept the pilot program with BCycle for the period of 2021, to be re-evaluated after a single season, for continuation of the contract, with village staff to determine the location of the docking station in McDaniel Park. Motion passed 10-0-0.

**c. Discussion and action regarding the tree planting process for 2021.** Larson presented information on the village's tree-planting program, which in 2020 cost \$23,230 and resulted in 87 trees planted throughout the village. The village spent \$39,000 for both tree-planting and tree-trimming efforts in 2020, easily meeting the financial requirements for eligibility in the Tree City USA program run by the Arbor Day Foundation. Assessment of areas of the village needing tree plantings would begin in June, with planting done in the fall months. Clow motioned, Utter seconded, to approve the village's tree planting process for 2021. Motion approved 10-0-0.

**d. Discussion regarding small project planning within the park system.** Larson discussed potential small project improvements in the village's parks. Items identified by village staff included: picnic tables and larger grills at McDaniel Park, and installation of standardized park signs through the village. Lewis Park may also need new grills, Larson said. The committee took no action on the agenda item.

**d. Presentation of the Parks Superintendent's monthly report.** Larson said the dog park shelter would be opening up sometime in the spring, but is dependent on contractors' schedules. Prescribed burns throughout the village would be taking place in late March or early April, he said.

## **5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.**

**a. Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

**6. ADJOURNMENT.** Rolfsmeyer motioned, Utter seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:41 p.m.