

**Minutes
Sustainability & Natural Resources
Committee Meeting
September 12, 2022**

Members Present: Mike Flaherty, Angela Freedman, Bruce Fischer, Judy Taber, Darrel Waldera

Members Absent: Ed Wreh, Kitty Brussock, David Wilson

Staff Present: Kong Thao, Sayer Larson, Phil McDade, Matt Schuenke

1. CALL TO ORDER

Flaherty called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- a. Fischer motioned to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2022, Sustainability & Natural Resource Committee meeting. Seconded by Freedman. Motion carried 5-0.

4. BUSINESS.

- a. Introductions from Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition, WLGCC

Dan Ebert, Consultant to the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition, provided a background on the activity and achievements of WLGCC. Ebert's discussion covered how local communities can leverage a collective approach on matters related to renewable energy, electric vehicles, and technical assistance as it relates to state level policies.

Flaherty affirmed the efforts of WLGCC and its sustainable initiatives. Further discussion and questions followed Ebert's discussion. Fischer raised the question if Ebert knows of any groups dedicated to the inclusion of biodiversity as it relates to sustainability. Ebert affirms this is a crucial factor to also consider when approaching sustainability. Freedman asked for additional examples. Ebert provided the details for WE Energies as the example. From collaboration of local leaders and government staff to bringing in experts to support implementation. The shared results were later presented and adopted by the utility company.

- b. Update and discussion regarding Lewis Park Lake Access plan

Larson provided the introduction for the agenda item related to the proposed improvements of a canoe launch and discovery dock at Lewis Park. Blake Theisen, Lead Architect and Planner from Parkitecture, provided a detailed walkthrough of Option 1 and Option 2 for the Lewis Park Lake Access Plan.

Option 1 includes a more direct route along a proposed 130' boardwalk to the Yahara River. Review of Lewis Park's entrance along Highland Drive could support additional parking. Grading out of the existing slope is included in Option 1. Option 2 looks at an underutilized location of the park's southeast corner, extending a pathway for additional parking coming off the corner of Lewis Lane and Marsh Woods Drive. A boardwalk, approximately 250' will continue southwest toward the Yahara River. This location makes use of the sand volleyball court and baseball field.

Both options will include an observation platform for educational purposes. Both options incorporated ADA accessibility from parking space to the proposed boardwalk. Theisen emphasized the parking space is a conceptual design, not exactly to scale. Flaherty commented on distance of commuting with a canoe. Larson commented on potential canoe/kayak storage areas that would mediate that concern. Flaherty raised the comparison of a similar launch point at Jaeger Park. Larson emphasized the educational component as an attractive benefit to the location along with the access point.

Waldera concurred with Option 2's approach of utilizing the location to increase activity. Fischer concurred and included this as an opportunity for birdwatchers. Freedman raised concern over increased paved surfaces Option 2 will include as well as runoff. Waldera affirmed the concern and the trade-off between more parking space for more activity but less greenspace. Continuing, Waldera added that the existing parking space at times experiences capacity issues. Matt Schuenke, Village Administrator, provided comments on the expected costs associated with the project.

- c. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding amendments to the amplified sound ordinance.

Larson provided background and detail on the agenda item. Flaherty asked for further clarification and details concerning the action the committee will be taking. Larson added that this is a structuring of who manages the amplified noise requests on conservancy lands. Previously, requests for noise amplifications within conservancies was prohibited unless approved by the Parks and Recreational and Natural Resources Committee, a committee which no longer exists due to Village restructuring of committees.

Fischer motioned to recommend to the Village Board approval of changes to Chapter 20 and 44 regarding amendments to the Village Code ordinance on the use of amplified sound within conservancies. Seconded by Waldera. Motion carried 5-0.

- d. Discussion regarding McDaniel Park beach improvements and goose abatement methods.

Schuenke provided summary on the existing features of McDaniel Park covering the partnership with Dane County, the park's improvement, efforts to maintain cleanliness, and overall use of the park. The improvements will include a filtration system and underground piping to increase water quality. Schuenke commented the 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan include funds to improve McDaniel Park. Cost projections will be at \$250,000 for the Village and \$75,000 to \$100,000 for Dane County.

Flaherty affirmed the project's direction and initiative. Fischer raised the question about parking capacity of the existing site and how success of the project will lead to additional parking concerns. Taber concurred with similar concerns. Schuenke commented on the recent update to McDaniel

Park which includes additional parking spaces. The park's Master Plan includes options for expansion, which may or may not include adjacent lots. Flaherty asked if other communities have done something similar and if they were successful. Schuenke referenced Goodland County Park, a county park across the lake near Christy's Landing, as a similar and successful project. Larson commented that overtime, through success of the systems, minimal testing at the site was needed due to how clean it made the area. Larson commented on the shallow depth of water to be approximately 2.5 feet until the drop-off several feet past the pier. Waldera affirmed the depth and commented on activities associated with shallow depths.

Flaherty asked about geese management. Taber asked about the dog silhouettes. Larson commented they lost one dog silhouette (Willy) in a previous storm. Larson provided a detailed summary of the Canada Goose Abatement Review. The review covered average number of geese on site in 2021 (about 140-150) and 2022 (about 80-90), the effect of Avian Migrate Treatment and its application process, and recommendations. Larson concluded the avian migrate treatment was ineffective, more activity in the park will lead to less geese, an auditory warning call was effective but may impact adjacent property owners.

- e. Update regarding conservancy management plan

Larson provided a summary of the agenda item. They completed a field tour at Grandview and Marshwood August 30th and September 6th. Each tour had about 6-7 attendees.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

- a. Monday, October 10, 2022, at 6:30 PM

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Freedman motioned to adjourn; Fischer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM.