

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND
Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 - 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

Trustee Jerke called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee to order at 6:30 PM in the Community Room of the Municipal Center. The meeting was also held via Zoom webinar.

Members present: TJ Jerke, Luke Fessler, Sarah Kuba, Tanya Lancaster, Justin Rupert, Lori Wisnicky, Jessica Tokar

Members not present:

Staff Present: Village Administrator Matt Schuenke, Parks Superintendent Sayer Larson, Assistant to the Public Works Director Aimee Irwin

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

- a. *This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Parks and Recreation Committee for items that are not on the agenda. Please remember this is a hybrid meeting conducted in person and through the Zoom online meeting platform. Meeting attendees wishing to address the Committee about items not on the agenda may do so at this time. Zoom attendees should type their name and address in the Question and Answer feature within the Zoom online meeting platform at this time. Members of the public who are present in person and wish to address the Committee should fill out a public comment form and turn into the meeting chairperson. When you are called upon to speak, state your name, address, and provide your comments to the Committee for their consideration. Please adhere to the 3-minute time limit. Additionally, you may send your public comments to public.works@mcfarland.wi.us to be included as part of the meeting.*

Members of the public may also speak during their selected agenda item as they designate on the public comment form or in the Question and Answer feature on Zoom.

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- a. *Motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2023 Parks & Recreation Committee meeting.*

Motion by Trustee Jerke, seconded by Rupert, to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2023 Parks & Recreation Committee meeting. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0.

4. BUSINESS.

- a. *Discussion regarding the overview of the committee's roles and responsibilities*
Schuenke provided an overview of the committee's roles and responsibilities as detailed within village ordinances.

- Lancaster asked if there would be an annual review of the fees related to parks.

Schuenke responded that this could be done and suggested this occurs during the summer prior to the budget season.

b. Discussion regarding the park tour scheduled for May 11, 2023

Larson provided an overview of the park tour scheduled for May 11, 2023. The tour will begin at 6:00 p.m. beginning at Orchard Hill Park. Transportation will be provided for the tour.

c. Update regarding McDaniel Park beach improvement project

Larson provided an overview of the McDaniel Park beach improvement project. Larson explained about recent discussions that have occurred regarding rocks located in the water from the DNR. Larson explained there are three options available for the project, which are (1) proceed as planned (2) proceed with a dredging permit and not take on the project in 2023 or (3) proceed with no project.

- Trustee Fessler asked for clarification about the dredging up to 2 cubic yards per year. Larson stated that state statute does allow for dredging up to 2 cubic yards per year and would not require a dredging permit.
- Trustee Fessler asked what the depth is in the swim area. Larson responded that the depth is about 2 1/2 feet.
- Lancaster asked if the DNR provided why this was quality habitat and why they would not permit the dredging permit. Larson stated they did provide an explanation of why the habitat is good and why it could not be moved.
- Trustee Fessler asked if the DNR has evidence that walleye spawning is occurring in this area. Larson stated that evidence was not provided but it appears to be quality habitat.
- Lancaster asked if any other similar projects experienced dredging for their project. Larson explained that most of the similar projects were existing beaches or on the leeward side of the lake, which typically doesn't have this structure.
- Rupert asked if we continued with the dredging permit with explanation would they continue to deny the request. Larson explained that the DNR stated they would want the habitat to stay in its current location.
- Kuba asked how far into the project purchases of items had occurred. Larson explained that all actions were halted when the DNR expressed their concerns.

Schuenke explained the objective this evening was to notify the committee that the project would not be completed by June 1st. The county remains committed but understands if the project does not proceed or adjusts. If the option is chosen to pursue a dredging permit, the project extends into next year as the village will need to scientifically refute the DNR's argument that the area is quality fish spawning habitat. Schuenke added that the project would be brought back to another committee meeting for committee recommendation on how to proceed.

d. Update regarding various parks projects

Larson provided an overview regarding the Brandt Park ball diamond sanitary line break, an updated Skate Park construction timeline, and the Community Park project.

- Kuba asked when the Brandt Park outfield would be open for use. Larson explained approximately a month down the road.
- Trustee Fessler asked if the power issue at Community Park was in connection with the utility. Larson stated that the control panel was causing the delay.
- Jerke asked for an update about the Lions efforts related to the Skate Park. Schuenke stated he has not received an update recently but would follow-up.
- Trustee Fessler asked if project updates and expense changes would be brought to committee regarding Community Park. Larson stated that an update could be brought back to committee.

e. Discussion regarding the McFarland Bird Festival event scheduled for May 13, 2023

Larson notified the committee of the Bird Festival event that will be held at Lewis Park shelter on May 13, 2023.

f. Discussion regarding a committee work plan

Trustee Jerke explained about recent updates to the village board handbook which added language about a possible annual committee work plan.

Schuenke explained that the Village Board has a similar work plan created that is utilized to guide certain items to scheduled meetings.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Rupert, seconded by Trustee Fessler, to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.

Pursuant to law, written notice of this meeting was given to the public and posted on the public bulletin board in accordance with Open Meetings Law.

Respectfully submitted,
Aimee Irwin
Assistant to the Public Works Director