

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date & Time of Meeting: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 10 a.m.

Location: J.P. Coughlin Center

Present: Jim Ponzer, Karen Powers, Rachael Dowling, Josh Belville (via video)

Also Present: Adam Breest, Justin DeJager, Rick Helms, Kyle Vergin

1. Call to order:

Karen Powers called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda:

James Ponzer moved to approve the agenda and Rachael Dowling seconded.
Motion carried 3-0.

3. Approval of January 16, 2024 Minutes:

James Ponzer moved to approve the minutes and Rachael Dowling seconded.
Motion carried 3-0.

4. Public Comment – Pertaining to Items Listed on Today's Agenda:

No comment.

5. Public Comment – Items Not Listed on Today's Agenda:

No comment.

6. **Discussion/Action** – Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Emily Soderberg, from MSA, gave an overview of the CORP.

The Winnebago County Parks Department has been working with MSA, engaging the public, and drafting the 2024-2028 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) since June of 2023. The CORP is a plan that allows the department to plan for the next five years of improvements in the park system. To qualify for many Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grants we need to have an updated five-year CORP on file and adopted by the County Board.

Rachael Dowling made a motion to recommend to the County Board to approve the Winnebago County Parks Department 2024-2028 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Jim Ponzer seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

7. **Presentation** – Parks Department Spirit Fund Request

Adam Breest gave an overview of the Spirit Fund Request. Major goals include increasing resiliency and providing more opportunities for the users of the Winnebago County Parks

System. Project list includes Waukau Dam Nature Preserve, WIOUWASH Trail Paving, Boat Landing self-service kayak launches, Winnebago County Community Park improvements.

Committee members concerned about some of the projects in the Spirit Fund and how it can/cannot be change in the future once it's approved by the Spirit Fund Committee.

8. **Discussion** – 4th of July Event at Sunnyview Exposition Center

Adam Breest reviewed the proposed event. The Parks Department is partnering with Lifest Promotions and Wisconsin Entertainment Group LLC to offer a 4th of July event at the Sunnyview exposition Center on July 3rd, 2024. Lifest is already on the grounds setting up during this time. This would be a free, community event; no cost to the County.

9. Park Director Updates:

- Personnel and Finance Items (Grundman and Disc Golf) – on March agenda.
- Sunnyview Expo Sign Lease Update – will reach out to see if variance has been completed.
- Capital Project Updates – contract out for expo room dividers, expo floor request for bids going out soon, meeting with engineers this week for park shelter improvements, received proposals back for next phase of expo campus improvements.

10. Committee Comments:

Josh Belville – No comment.

Rachael Dowling – Put two-minute time limit on agenda items 4 and 5.

Jim Ponzer – No comment.

Karen Powers – No comment.

11. Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 10 a.m.

12. Future Agenda Items:

County-wide boat launch permits

13. Adjournment

Rachael Dowling made the motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Jim Ponzer. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin DeJager