

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date & Time of Meeting: Monday, January 18, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Present: Tom Konetzke, Steve Binder, Larry Lautenschlager, Mike Norton, Don Nussbam

Also Present: Vicky Redlin, Rick Helms, Tom McInnis, Justin DeJager, Mark Lyons (City of Oshkosh Planning Services Manager), Jim Erdman (Town of Oshkosh Chairman), David Kane - Citizen

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Konetzke called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Steve Binder moved to approve the agenda and Don Nussbam seconded. Motion carried 5-0

3. Approval of December 21st, 2020 Minutes:

Steve Binder moved to approve the minutes and Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 5-0

4. Public Comment:

David Kane -Stated his interest in the Grundman boat launch proposal. Questioning name of current Grundman boat launch (Osh-O-Nee). Gave history of Grundman boat launch. First settled by August Grundman. John Grundman sold property in 1962 for \$1. Proposing name of John S. Grundman Boat Launch. Chairman Konetzke agreed to put this on the next meeting agenda. Later in the meeting it was suggested by Steve Binder to do the name change during the grand opening.

5. Presentation of Jackson Street Corridor Plan (Murdock to Interstate 41) – Mark Lyons, City of Oshkosh Planning Services Manager:

City of Oshkosh has been working on a development plan for the Jackson corridor. Mark Lyons gave an overview of the project, which will potentially have a large impact on the economics of the city and the area around the Sunnyview Expo and Community Park. The development could bring hotels, restaurants, housing and other business to the area. The plan is 5 to 10 years out and the city is still doing studies. Issues with noise levels during events at the stadium, such as Lifest or other concerts, were discussed, as well as possible shared use path access through the expo and park.

6. Lake Butte des Morts East Shore Access – Jim Erdman, Town of Oshkosh Chairman:

Jim Erdman discussed issues with Edgewood Lane boat ramp, specifically people parking on the street for ice access (up to 40 cars are parked on the street at times). He is encouraging the Parks Department to help fund a parking area for year-round, public access to the east side of Lake Butte des Morts. He also mentioned possible grants from the DNR. The lot just south of Castle Pierce was suggested for a parking lot and currently has a realtor's sign up on it.

Steve Binder and Larry Lautenschlager brought up the possibility of getting grants. Steve Binder went on to say that in the best interest and safety of the people currently living on Edgewood Lane, parking should not be allowed on the street. This is not a project we can do right away and would be a few years out.

The committee asked Jim to get a list of land parcels and/or map of possible spots for a parking lot. Mr. Erdman will get this list/maps to Vicky as soon as possible.

7. Grundman Landing Survey Results – Justin DeJager, Admin. Asst.:

Justin reviewed the survey results. 96 people participated in the survey, which was available from Dec. 3 to Jan. 8. Results showed that people using the Grundman boat landing want more room. Numerous boat launch users have found the parking lot full when they arrive which forces them to park in undesignated areas around the parking lot and on the road. Not enough parking spaces, insufficient number of launch lanes/ramps, inadequate staging area and lack of room to maneuver on land and water were the main concerns of Grundman boat launch users.

Vicky mention the DNR said extending the breakwall is a likely possibility. We have a good understanding of what people are wanting by looking at the survey. A virtual, public input meeting is scheduled for Jan. 25.

Dave Kane asked what some of the other reasons were for people using the boat launch. On the survey, almost 50% of the participants mentioned they use it for reasons other than launching a boat. A few respondents mention ice access, lunch breaks, and a quiet place to look at the water. Tom said he notices people using the boat launch a lot for relaxing or eating lunch, walking dogs, and ice access.

8. Grundman Landing Public Input Virtual Mtg. January 25, 2021 6:00 p.m. – overview of agenda

Vicky said we will have a virtual, public input meeting on the Grundman boat landing on Monday, Jan. 25 at 6 p.m. The meeting will consist of a presentation of the concept design by Ayres and an overview of the survey results. The rest of the meeting will consist of public comment.

9. Approval of 5-year Winnebago County Fair Association Contract:

Vicky said the contract is much the same as it has been for previous years. However, the Fair Board has to provide a Covid plan for this upcoming year before the fair can take place. They might move music acts into stadium. Right now, planning is to have the fair in 2021. Details are still being worked out for this year and as of right now, the fair is going to happen. The fair is keeping the same dates as previous years to avoid conflicts with other large events in Oshkosh. Mike Norton requested a copy of the contract be emailed to all committee members.

Larry Lautenschlager mentioned that the fair could use the stadium for free if they can find an act to fill it; however, it was brought up that the fair struggles to find big bands to bring to the stadium at a reasonable price.

Larry Lautenschlager made a motion to approve the 5-year rental agreement with the Winnebago County Fair Association. It was seconded by Mike Norton. The motion carried 5-0.

10. Approval of Annual WDNR Snowmobile Grant Application Request for 2021-2022:

Vicky said this is the same grant the Parks applies for every year, no changes. Steve Binder made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Larry Lautenschlager. The motion carried 5-0.

11. Acting Parks Director's Updates – Vicky Redlin:

- a. Fresh Aire Park – Neenah did not provide funding in their budget in 2021 due to budget constraints. It is not a priority and the project has been tabled; they may look at it again when economy gets better.
- b. North Cty. Dog Park - DOT getting deeds figured out and everything is going smoothly. Need to have corp. council look at it once ready. Told Highway to put it on schedule. Tom will look at quotes for fencing. A draft has been provided to corp. counsel of lease agreement with Village of Fox Crossing for their approval. The Asylum lease with the DNR was used as a template. The survey map will be updated with the general area of ingress and egress points and fencing to attach to this lease agreement. Plans are to have the park open by fall 2021. Tom said it would take about a month for bidding process of fence. Then maybe another six weeks for fence install.
- c. Covid-19 cancellations of March/April events – Vicky spoke with health department and they are very happy with the plans the horse shows have come up with from their national organizations. We will use this format as a template for other horse shows. First horse show is Memorial Day weekend. No new news about Hmong festival. About four event cancellations in March/April, but they did reschedule for next year.
- d. Soccer events need to provide a Covid plan, but we do have the dates reserved in the Park's calendar. We'll discuss soccer tournaments more in depth at our user group meeting on February 11. The health director is most worried about policing the spectators and participants to make sure they are practicing social distancing. Tom said they will drain pond #1 and install a walk-way and peninsula this spring/summer as soon as possible. The pavilion should be usable all summer.
- e. Asylum Point Bridge Replacement Project - Everything is OK with the DNR, just need approval from county board. Carryovers are in place from the budget.
- f. Marketing/newsletter/FB - Justin will be doing more marketing. Have not heard about interview process for director position lately.
- g. Steve Binder asked about budget approval for the new mower and phase 1 of Expo redevelopment. This will be on the February agenda.

12. Committee Chairman's Update:

Chairman Konetzke requested information on improvements for shelters 3 and 4 - Waiting for 3-D portions of master plan to be completed. In budget in 2022-23, after Grundman.

Generator install for expo - Had meeting Thursday with Mike Elder and emergency management.

Whether we own or rent a generator, we need to make sure the expo can receive power from a generator, and as of right now, it can't. The current electric system is too old. Mike Elder is looking into it.

Need to get maps from Jim Erdman for Edgewood Lane.

New name of Grundman boat launch will go on next agenda for vote. It still has to go to county board for name change, just like the community gardens. Could have grand opening with name change and new landing.

Shelter rentals start Feb. 1. First come first serve, use at your own risk. Health department is willing to give advice to people wanting to have events. All reservations are via USPS.

13. Committee Member's Updates:

Mike Norton – Equity in Parks. Jenna Varner took over for Emily Dieringer at the Health Dept. as coordinator of ReThink. Safe Routes to Parks is the program that ReThink was working on. However the Health Dept. has put this program on hold due to Covid. Vicky is still Active Communities Team chair and the plans are still in place and could be launched at any time. 10-minute Walk program is NRPA driven and is more about acquisition, small parks, maybe something the city parks could look at, not much for us to do (depends on new Jackson St. corridor).

Steve Binder – Email Jim's info to the committee so they can discuss which location would be best fit. Look at grants and budget options. Get the ball rolling and bring to county board.

Larry Lautenschlager – Several compliments from community park users about being able to access more of the park this winter. Questioned breaking up into sessions during the virtual, user group meetings.

Don Nussbaum - Schedule changed at work. Requested to start all future committee meetings at 10 a.m. The committee all said that would work for them. All future meetings will now start at 10 a.m.

Staff Updates:

Tom McInnis – Coughlin Nature Center scheduled for a controlled prairie burn in spring. Buckthorn has been cleared out. The crew was able to demo the skid loader we are purchasing this year, it worked really well. Buoy repairs are started. Doing painting of buoys in house and saving a considerable amount. No issues with buoys this fall, went better than expected. Snow plowing going well. Reiterated that Parks buoys are not in the Fox River or north of Boom Bay. Dave Kane mentioned there is legislation being drafted which proposes full funding of repair, placement and maintenance of buoys by the state. Could contact senator Roth's office for info.

Rick Helms – Expo is shut down through end of April. Working on painting interior of expo. Getting quotes for covered arena for removing rust, and painting of main support beams. Upgrading electrical in the Expo to be more energy efficient. There is a possibility of a pilot inoculation program at the Expo, from Jan. 27-29. Covid testing continues at the Expo.

Next Meeting Date:

Monday, February 15, 2021 at 10 a.m.

Adjournment:

Motioned by Mike Norton. Seconded by Larry Lautenschlager. Meeting adjourned 11:30 a.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin DeJager
Admin. Asst.