

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date & Time of Meeting: Monday, August 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

JP Coughlin Center – Meeting Room B

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

Also Present: Adam Breest, Vicky Redlin, Tom McInnis, Rick Helms, Justin DeJager, Sidney Opperman (Winnebago County Citizen), Jim Erdman (Town of Oshkosh Chairman)

1. Call to order:

Chairman Konetzke called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of May 17th, 2021 Minutes:

Mike Norton moved to approve and Larry Lautenschlager seconded.
Don Nussbaum had a few corrections.
Motion carried 5-0.

4. Public Comment:

Sidney Opperman: Former Winnebago County employee. Spoke about hiring issues the County is having. Gave impassioned comments about how Winnebago County should take better care of its employees and hire from within.

Jim Erdman: Chairman from town of Oshkosh. Has attended previous parks committee meeting to discuss parking on Edgewood Lane for people to access Lake Butte des Morts during the winter. No parking signs will be put up on Edgewood. Erdman would still like to have ice access somewhere along the east end of Lake Butte des Morts. Discussed a couple options for parking and would like this issue put on future agenda.

5. **Update** – Expo Phase 1 Site Plans

The expo project went out to bid August 4. Bids are due back by September 8. The Netzer entrance will require more permitting so the Parks Department will keep things moving forward in the meantime. Construction prices have gone up and the Parks Department is looking at alternatives. Construction is scheduled to start by October and end around mid-May so as not to disrupt the summer event season.

6. **Discussion/Action** – Resolution to accept WI DNR grant for snowmobile trail maintenance.

The money received from the grant is used to reimburse the snowmobile clubs and can only be used on the snowmobile trails. Steve Binder would like information about how much of the

funding was spent over the last five years. Wants to reduce funding by one mile so ATVs can have access to the trail. DNR will not fund the trail if ATVs are using it.

Mike Norton made the motion to approve and it was seconded by Larry Lautenschlager. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Discussion/Action – Fox Crossing Dog Park Naming

The ribbon cutting for the dog park will be at the end of September or early October and a name is needed to create signs. Part of the property is leased through Fox Crossing and within that lease it said the dog park should be called the Northern Winnebago County Dog Park. A few other name options were provided and discussed. The name chosen will have to go in front of the county board in September.

The committee members want to have Jerry Finch's name in the dog park because he spent a lot of time getting this project going. The name Jerry Finch Winnebago County Dog Park was agreed upon.

Mike Norton made a motion to name the dog park the Jerry Finch Winnebago County Dog Park and it was seconded by Steve Norton. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Discussion – Fees for Events, Programs, and Clubs

The Parks Department will be meeting with local soccer clubs about future collaborations and putting in more funds to the soccer fields.

OYSC paint fields, purchase goals, fertilizes fields, donated toward drain tiles, and does some mowing. Rugby club paint fields and help maintain area. Oshkosh Rec Dept. maintain baseball fields, paint lines and pay for lights. The Parks Department mows the grass for all areas and does regular maintenance. Other events pay for shelter rentals. There is no soccer rental fee or special event fee. All clubs and events are responsible for their own insurance.

There was discussion about a general event fee. The Parks Department should be profiting off the events happening at the park. It is important to have revenue to maintain the park. Not all events are equal, and we need to look at the whole, not just one group.

People can have an event at park anytime without paying anything. It's a public park and anyone can use it, whereas the expo is a for profit facility and use needs authorization to use it.

9. Discussion – September Park Tour

It was agreed upon to split the tour into two, half days in September and October. Meet for committee meeting at 10 a.m., have lunch, and then do the tour. Dates will be Sept. 20 and Oct. 18.

10. Parks Director's Updates:

- a. Expo Phase 1 Engineering – Out to bid, about four weeks from deadline.
- b. Asylum Point Bridge Replacement Project – Will be done toward end of Sept. or early Oct.
- c. Bahling Arbor – Working on planting for fall/spring
- d. North County Dog Park – Fence is on track to be completed in time for ribbon cutting, getting quotes for signs.

- e. WIOUWASH/City of Oshkosh trail swap – County and City staff are meeting to discuss soon.
- f. Grundman Boat Launch – Working on grant application for this project.

11. Committee Chairman's Update:

Waukau Dam should be a top priority. Parks is working with MSA to identify issues and solutions. Waiting on proposal. Need to know cost and timeline. Will look into grants and partners for the projects.

Sponsorships and naming rights should be looked into for park funding.

Grundman turnaround is in budget this year, but may not be best use of funds since project is scheduled to start soon.

12. Committee Member's Updates:

Mike Norton – We need to draft a formal letter to let the County know how Covid funds can be spent in the parks system.

Steve Binder – We need to make sure we are not paying for Ken Robl maintenance until the final phases are completed by Solid Waste Department.

Larry Lautenschlager – A ribbon cutting should be scheduled once the Asylum Bridge project is complete. Shelter 3 will potentially be replaced next year and will include a concession area.

Don Nussbaum – Boat landing sign is down by Grundman and needs to be put up. Had some edits for last month's committee meeting minutes. Would like to minimize our minutes in the future.

13. Staff Updates:

Vicky Redlin – The expo is down to one seasonal worker. Pam Markert is working out well and the new part-timer, Sean Kennedy, is doing well. Parks will use the left-over fill from the Monster Truck Show for areas around expo. The Bahling Arbor dedication went well as did the Netzer bench dedication. The new Rotary contract will provide numerous volunteer hours next year. The UWO geography department would like to do classes at the Netzer property. WI State Futurity show is at the expo in Sept. Vaccination clinic would like to stay through October.

Tom McInnis – July storm did significant damage to Mascoutin and extremely significant damage at Waukau Dam. It will take a long time to get things cleaned up. Minor water issues in park with sitting water are being resolved.

Rick Helms – Not present.

The Parks Department is still in talks with venue management service and have received an updated proposal. There will be a meeting with the County Executive to discuss the proposal soon.

14. Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items:

Monday, September, 2021 at 10 a.m. with the fall tour to follow.

15. Adjournment
Motioned by Steve Binder and seconded by Mike Norton. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin DeJager
Admin. Asst.