

Public Works Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, November 16, 2010 – 8:30 a.m.  
Department of Public Works Committee Room  
3715 Newville Road - Janesville, WI

Call to Order. Chair Yankee called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Bussie, Diestler, Fox and Yankee

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Arnold

Parks Advisory Committee Members: Floyd Finney and Tom Presny

Parks Advisory Committee Members Absent: Gina Cook

Staff Members Present: Ben Coopman, Public Works Director  
Deb Lawton, Secretary  
Joleen Stinson, Parks Community Coordinator  
Lori Williams, Parks Director

Others Present: Randy Hoffman, Wisconsin DNR  
Nancy Pope, Friends of Carver-Roehl Park  
Donald Moore, Interested Citizen  
Phyllis Anderson, Interested Citizen  
Suzie Smith, Interested Citizen  
Angel Kubly, Interested Citizen  
Kevin Kawula, Interested Citizen  
Rob Baller, Interested Citizen  
Tim Malzhan, Ice Age Trail Alliance  
Jaime Kurten, MSA Professional Services  
Mike Statz, MSA Professional Services

Approval of Agenda. Supervisors Bussie and Fox moved the agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Minutes of October 19, 2010. Supervisors Fox and Diestler moved the minutes. MOTION CARRIED.

Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements. None.

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## **PARKS BUSINESS**

Approve Resolution: Acceptance of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Memorandums of Understanding and Management Plans for Designating Sections of Carver-Roehl Park and Magnolia Bluff Park as State Natural Areas. Supervisors Bussie and Diestler moved the resolution. Parks Director Williams discussed the two parks and areas being designated as State Natural Areas and introduced Randy Hoffman from the DNR. Mr. Hoffman stated the DNR is not looking to take over our parks. He distributed the State Natural Areas brochure to the Committee and the visitors. He explained the State Natural Areas program has no regulatory authority whatsoever.

Angel Kubly asked how this impacts the horse trails. Mr. Hoffman stated if there is going to be any change or re-routing of horse trails, the DNR would like to be involved. There would be no prohibition of horses with this Memo of Understanding. Angel Kubly asked about new trails. Mr. Hoffman stated it would be the same – where they are situated. Take into consideration those rare plants.

Nancy Pope asked if there would be any money exchange. Mr. Hoffman stated no. The DNR can provide funds to assist with management or guides or training to help out volunteer groups to eradicate garlic mustard, etc. We want to have flexibility to address management concerns cooperatively and have an annual meeting with SNA staff and Rock County Parks to see what management is needed for the upcoming year.

Nancy Pope stated the Friends of Carver-Roehl have a bad taste in their mouth after the DNR failed to notify the neighbors of the CWD hunt at Carver-Roehl Park.

Mr. Hoffman stated that is part of the regulatory section of DNR. They have the authority to do things like that. The SNA Program does not have any regulatory authority. If we do anything at Carver-Roehl, it would have to be a cooperative effort. We have to let the people know what we are doing. SNA is for research and educational work.

Nancy Pope stated the DNR said they would let us know when they would be hunting and they did not.

Mr. Hoffman talked about his working relationship with other counties, like Racine, since 1956 with no problems whatsoever. We are not regulatory and work cooperatively.

Mr. Baller stated there is only one person working in the field. There is a very small chance that the DNR would have staff working in the parks.

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Mr. Hoffman stated there is a lag time between establishment and funding of programs to help in the State Natural Areas. Very little public revenue goes into the State Natural Areas. There is a four-person crew.

Mr. Baller compared the DNR regulatory section with the SNA. You are blamed for what other departments did.

Mr. Hoffman stated it is fair to say that. We have to treat people with respect or the MOUs will go away.

Mr. Kawula stated he is the main restorer volunteer at Magnolia Bluff. Regarding equestrians, the main problem is erosion caused by people or horses and cutting trees down that should not have been. What can the SNA provide for educational signage? You cannot put the trail here because of flowers – you need signage at Magnolia Bluff educating people of rare plants.

Mr. Hoffman stated the DNR could help by creating a site description and put it on the site and level of management going out there. We have created interpretive signing for an area like this for education.

Mr. Kawula stated budgets are tight. Parks usually have trails – that is our biggest user – would SNA have trails specifically allocated to it.

Mr. Hoffman stated the agreement between Rock County and the DNR states Rock County would be responsible for the trails and the DNR could be a consultant.

Mr. Kawula stated trail 32 needs a major rebuild up and down on the north and south side. We will need some help out there.

Phyllis Anderson asked if there is paperwork required if we want to build new trails.

Mr. Hoffman stated there is no approval needed. Lori Williams would contact the friends group and the DNR would check on how it would affect the endangered plants.

Suzie Smith asked if there would be signs put up in the park.

Mr. Hoffman stated the DNR could if it fits in the long-range plan. Usually in parks, it is not a concern.

Suzie Smith asked if there is a plan.

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Mr. Hoffman stated yes, there is a draft.

Nancy Pope stated she heard the DNR wanted to take out pine trees at Carver-Roehl Park.

Mr. Hoffman said the proposal is to thin them out. If the County wanted, they could use them to build a building or for educational purposes. That would be the decision of the County. We are not going to be telling you those have to be removed.

Tom Presny feels the DNR is like a consultant.

Mr. Hoffman stated that is how we have operated throughout our existence.

Tom Presny stated Rock County has something special in these two parks and they should be protected.

Supervisor Bussie stated the DNR has worked hard for their reputation.

Lori Williams stated we have tried to be transparent with the friends groups during this process. We see this as a win-win situation. We need to separate different arms of the DNR. The SNA program is not regulatory.

Mr. Hoffman stated Wisconsin has the oldest SNA program in the country started by Aldo Leopold.

Hearing no more questions, the vote on the resolution was recorded: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approve Resolution: Authorizing Application with the Alliant Energy Foundation's Community Grant Program to Purchase Outdoor Recreation Program Supplies. Supervisors Diestler and Bussie moved the resolution. Parks Director Williams stated this grant for \$2,046 would allow us to purchase snowshoes. We would be able to rent them out to the friends' group, school groups, and individuals. MOTION CARRIED.

Approve Resolution: Authorizing Application with the Captain Planet Foundation to Purchase Outdoor Recreational Program Supplies. Supervisors Diestler and Bussie moved the resolution. Parks Director Williams explained this grant for \$735 would allow us to erect a low ropes course. This course would be portable and could be moved to different parks as demand dictates. MOTION CARRIED.

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Discussion and Possible Action on Process for Renaming Boys and Girls Club Property. Parks Director Williams discussed ideas for the naming of this property. She suggests accepting names from the public until February 15 and establishing a top 10 list that the Public Works Committee could vote on at their March meeting.

Supervisors Bussie and Fox moved approval of the process as stated. MOTION CARRIED.

Project Report. Lori Williams reported the Carver-Roehl entrance project has been completed and passed around photos. Discussion on De Long property took place. Supervisor Diestler asked about the Kerry Hull restoration project on the Ice Age Trail. Lori reported it is ongoing.

Ben Coopman arrived.

Parks Advisory Committee Remarks. Floyd Finney did not have any comments today. Tom Presny reported a mini-fund raiser had raised about \$150 for the Green Fund.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 14

## **HIGHWAY BUSINESS**

Consider Options for Intersection Improvements on CTH M at County Line Road. Mike Statz and Jaime Kurten of MSA Professional Services displayed two drawings, one changing the corner on CTH M to a 55 MPH curve and the other keeping it at 45 MPH. Discussion on the cost and safety of both options ensued.

Supervisors Diestler and Fox moved the 45 MPH option, requiring less right-of-way and keeping the drainage pattern the same and including the culvert on the south end of the project. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjournment. Supervisors Fox and Diestler moved to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Lawton  
Secretary II

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