

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Park Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 14, 2020
Walworth County Government Center Room 114
100 West Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

Chair Nancy Russell called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Roll call was conducted and the following members were present either in person or by remote attendance: Chair Nancy Russell, Vice Chair Dan Kilkenny, Supervisor Brian Holt, and Citizen Members Merilee Holst and Mariette Nowak (was present but inaudible until 2:56 p.m.) A quorum was declared.

Others in Attendance

County Staff: County Administrator Mark W. Luberda; Director-Public Works Richard Hough; Deputy Director-Asset Management (PW) Matt Mortwedt; and Corporation Counsel/Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter

Members of the Public: Robby Robinson and Joel Dietl of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC)

On motion by Supervisor Holt, second by Vice Chair Kilkenny, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.

On motion by Citizen Member Holst, second by Supervisor Holt, the June 15, 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

Public comment – There was none.

Consent Items

7a. Reports

- 1) Park Summary Report – September 2020

Chair Russell requested Item 7a1 Park Summary Report be considered separately.

Chair Russell noted that in this report, the budget shows a remaining balance of \$341,370. She stated she would like to see that money used in an area that needs it. Russell asked for updates on various repairs needed on the barn. Director-Public Works Richard Hough and Deputy Director-Asset Management (PW) Matt Mortwedt commented on all issues stating that any needed repairs have been fixed and funds have been allocated for remaining replacements, which are addressed in the report. Hough commented that he believed the core of what Russell was getting at was that the budget is underspent. He states that they have an ambitious fall plan that will include a highway and parks collaboration project. Due to COVID-19, there has been a lot of delayed work and loss of work because of its connection to volunteer work. Russell feels that although it may not be practical right now, she would like to see the barn renovated so that it can be well used for things like community activities and 4H studies. Mortwedt stated the Park Summary Report addresses the development of a 5 year park plan, which includes proposals for the barn. Hough states they will go park by park and figure out a consolidated parks project strategy. Since the barn could potentially be an expensive endeavor, they envision putting certain components of the plan to a vote, which will drive funding and strategy for parks overall.

Russell asked about the Oak Savannah seeding taking place this fall and if there was a certain amount of time that that needed to grow before donated trees could be planted. Mortwedt said pending approval by the Public Works Committee, they will be able to put that out for bid opening October 8th and then they will seed phase 5 this fall/winter. Mortwedt said trees can be planted right away, which is their intent. Mortwedt mentioned the Park Summary Report includes several Geneva Lake Conservancy donated tree planting events scheduled for October 17th and November 7th to plant donated trees.

Citizen Member Holst asked what size the donated trees will be by the conservancy and if the proper procedure will be followed regarding tree size and planting location. Mortwedt said it will be a range of sizes and Hough confirmed that they will be verifying that any donations are in accordance to the tree policy.

Finally, Mortwedt pointed out that the remaining funds in the budget are a combination of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and operations. There may be some funds remaining due to the impacts of COVID, but an effort will be made to utilize these funds. Vice Chair Kilkenny asked if allocation can be made with finance to allow these funds to be spent elsewhere. Mortwedt stated they intend to spend operational funds before CIP because CIP funds have more flexibility.

Supervisor Holt offered a motion, second by Vice Chair Kilkenny to approve the Park Summary Report. Motion carried 4-0. (Citizen Member Nowak was inaudible)

- 2) White River County Park Prairie Seeding
- 3) Administrative Procedure 2-112 on Parks, Grounds and Green Space Management

Supervisor Holt offered a motion, second by Vice Chair Kilkenny, to accept the White River County Park Prairie Seeding Report and the Administrative Procedure 2-112 on Parks, Grounds, and Green Space Management Report. Motion carried 4-0. (Citizen Member Nowak was inaudible)

Unfinished Business

8a. Update on the SEWRPC Park and Open Space Plan

Joel Dietl and Robby Robinson of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) provided an overview of Chapter 4 of the Park and Open Space Plan. Chapter 4 covers the objectives, standards, and principals that guide recommendations for the plan. Dietl and Robinson went into detail on how they determined the various parks and open space needs for existing and future populations in the county. The committee discussed the findings, suggested changes to this report, and made recommendations for the next chapter. Robinson asked the committee for any additional recommendations, specifically recreational facilities so those can be incorporated when moving into Chapter 5.

Citizen Member Mariette Nowak became audible at 2:56 p.m.

Reports/announcements by Chairperson

Chair Russell commented on the Department of Transportation's instructions to only mow along road ways once a year. She remarked on how apprehensive she was on that decision initially, but now that she saw the results she feels that it was a really great idea. She believes that this has allowed the native species to dominate now that they have the chance to. Richard Hough also expressed his full support of this stating that the Public Works Department has been experimenting with no mow zones throughout the county in areas

with no safety risk or line of sight issues. Currently, on county roads of approximately 200 linear lane miles about 20% of those are identified for no mow policies.

Confirmation of next meeting: The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, November 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Citizen Member Marilee Holst asked the status of the two Citizen Member's appointments, as their commissions expired June 30th. County Administrator Mark W. Luberda said both Citizen Members will remain in their current positions and he expects their appointments will be resolved in the next round of committees.

Adjournment

On motion by Citizen Member Holst, and Supervisor Holt, Chair Russell adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.