

May 17, 2022

CITY OF WASHBURN PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5:30 PM

Washburn City Hall and virtually

Members Present:

Jennifer Maziasz (Council rep), Angel Croll, Jeremy Oswald, Erika Lang

Municipal Personnel Present:

Asst. City Administrator Tony Janisch, Director of Public Works Gerry Schuette

Absent:

Jamie Cook

Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm. Quorum met.

Approval of the March 22, 2022 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the March 22, 2022 Minutes of the Parks Committee made by Croll, seconded by Maziasz. Minutes approved unanimously.

Selection of Committee Chair

Croll nominated Jen Maziasz to serve as Committee Chair. Maziasz accepted the nomination. Oswald moved to close nominations, seconded Maziasz. Motion carried unanimously to close nominations and appoint Jen Maziasz as Committee Chair.

Selection of Recording Secretary

Maziasz nominated Angel Croll to serve as Recording Secretary. Croll declined. Oswald moved to table selection of Recording Secretary until June, seconded by Maziasz. Motion carried unanimously.

Updates from Public Works Department

Public Works Director Gerry Schuette and Janisch gave the following updates:

- Both campgrounds are open. A campground attendant is still needed for Memorial Park. The woman's bathroom at Memorial Park has been retiled, a water service line has been replaced at Memorial, camping pads have been regraded in both campgrounds, and most sites have 50A/30A electricity.
- West End boat docks have been installed.
- Work and grading along the Walking Trail has begun.
- Budget planning for 2023 will start soon and we'll discuss this at the next parks meeting.
- Grant proposals have been submitted, including proposals to improve and expand the tennis courts at Hillside Park.
- City staff meeting with Cooper Engineering the week prior for the addition of camping at Thompson's West End Park along the walking trail or at the overflow camping area. They have provided some initial drawings that do show some tent camping and RV camping which is the main focus. They are looking at RV camping with utility hook-ups as one aspect. The city is open to more tent camping but there are probably better sites in the city for this, that can be included in the next outdoor recreation plan and comprehensive plan. Jen recalls that the city council asked the engineering firm to look at both types of camping for this site – more glamping type of camping as well as RV camping.
- City will be resurfacing Highway 13/Bayfield Street. As part of this, Holman Lakeview Drive will be paved. We will have to reroute the intersection at 8th. This will give us a better opportunity to direct traffic, etc. We may also have to reroute the recreation trail a bit too. More to come on that.

Update on Implementation of the Walking Trail Land Management Plan & Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant

- City signed a new agreement with Bay Area Environmental Consulting. The contractors did more work on buckthorn and honeysuckle removal/treatment, particular behind the overflow camping area as well as a follow-up treatment along the walking trail. It will take a couple of treatment seasons to get the invasives under control before any native plants should be planted as there was quite a bit of honeysuckle in the understory. Invasive shrubs were piled as they were cut and volunteers can be recruited to help the City haul the piles to the compost site.
- Parks Committee will need to update the management plan sooner than later and determine desired future conditions particularly in the swampy area behind the overflow camping area and near the artesian well.

- Janisch reported there were a few negative comments about the use of herbicide when the City posted info on Facebook despite that it is a state recognized best management practice.
- The City hasn't heard from coastal management about the new grant that we applied for.
- The welcome signage at the beginning of the walking trail still needs to be completed.

Discussion & Action of Outdoor Recreation Plan

- Jen, Angel and Tony recently met and reviewed draft plan thus far. They made quite a few edits so there is consistency.
- Tony gave a reminder as to why we are doing this plan – city was updating comprehensive plan and having an outdoor rec plan makes it more comprehensive.
- Do we need to prioritize a few things? Short-term vs. long-term? Would this be helpful to communicate to the city council? Eric Howell pointed out that there are pros and cons to this. A small subset of the Parks Committee members could go through the document and suggest priorities and then discuss together. And public works should be involved in projects that are imminent.
- Regarding prioritization, we would need to decide the basis for prioritization, i.e. do we do easy projects first? Small projects? Or start moving on projects that are tougher to make incremental steps?
- The plan doesn't include a description of assets. An asset could be a resource that Washburn is strong in – social capital, human capital. The city does have assets though. An evaluation of assets would help us prioritize. And affirm the direction that the city wants to go on various projects. We should keep in mind that we might not have all assets at our fingertips but we can obtain assets, such as grants, to do a project.
- Since we started discussion of this document last fall, we have moved forward with some projects. City council hasn't seen this outdoor rec plan yet. Janisch pointed out that it would be helpful to know what the timeline is for the comprehensive plan and the plan commission's timeframe to work on it.
- A few edits were discussed:
- Memorial Park – there is a nice path that people access in the winter. If it isn't in the plan, we should put it in there. The path is already in pretty good condition but we may want to improve it.
- The beach by the Coal Dock is also used by people to access the ice in winter. We should further define winter opportunities.
- It would also be nice to include the possibility of a disk golf course.

Adjournment

Oswald moved to adjourn, seconded by Croll. Motion carried unanimously; meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.
Date and time of next meeting will be June 21, 2022 at 5:30 pm.

Erika Lang
Secretary, Parks Committee

Tony Janisch
Assistant City Administrator