

August 17, 2021

CITY OF WASHBURN PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM

Thompson's West End Park boat launch

Members Present:

Jamie Cook, Angel Croll (late), Erika Lang, Jennifer Maziasz (Council rep)

Municipal Personnel:

Asst City Administrator Tony Janisch, Public Works Director Gerry Schuette

Absent:

Kyleleen Bartnick

Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm. Quorum met.

Approval of the August 11, 2021 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes were not available.

Updates from Public Works Department

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

- Parks budget has been expended, due to unforeseen events like broken water lines and electrical issues
- Gerry has submitted the budget for the 2022 season
- Lots of aesthetic improvements were made this past year
- The walking trail was re-graded and view corridors were maintained as prescribed in the management plan
- The bridge on the walking trail by the marina entrance will be removed and the stairs too. The trail will be relocated slightly so it is less steep. A boardwalk over the small wet drainage may be needed in the future as it has been a dry year.
- The bridge by the condos will be removed and extended in a slightly different location to lessen the steep approach. The stairs shouldn't be needed after that.
- Public works staff will be replacing the picnic table boards, and additional picnic tables will be placed on walking trail
- City Council approved the goose control measures along the shoreline at Thompson's West End Park. This will occur starting September 1 and may continue through October. Campsite managers have been notified. It will take place in early morning by the police department, and they will abide by DNR rules to take up a maximum of 5 per day
- The invasive plant moneywort was found in one of the ravines along the walking trail. Treatment will occur in a test plot.
- There is a partially sunk sailboat just off the city's beach along the walking trail. It is located within the state of Wisconsin's jurisdiction and the owner has been given 30 days to remove it.
- Janisch has been in contact with Wisconsin Coastal Management Program about its upcoming grant program about grant proposals for additional work along the walking trail and erosion at Memorial Park.
- Janisch has also been in contact with DNR about re-grading the trail near Memorial Park.

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

- Additional contract work will be done to remove/control invasive plants this fall, and we'll be organizing a volunteer day to help as part of match for the grant. Maziasz mentioned that high school students may be able to volunteer, and a Wednesday might be a good date. Lang will coordinate with her.
- Lang continues to work on the interpretive sign for the trail's entrance and will coordinate with Janisch
- Members discussed the location for the future interpretive sign. Members agreed that the walking trail could be extended from 6th Street to the artesian well area via the edge of the overflow camping area.

Discussion & Action of Artesian Well and Overflow Camping Area Management & Desired Conditions

- Discussion first focused on the overflow camping area. A few years ago, some trees and shrubs were cleared due to their poor condition and to make more room in the overflow camping area. Overall, there is a desire to keep this area open so it can be utilized. However, woody vegetation is starting to grow back, and maintenance needs to be done so this area can be kept open. Public Works Director Schuette recommends mowing it, till it, power rake it, and seed it with an annual rye for now. It will be kept the same size. The City will be discussing the future condition and use of this area as part of its comprehensive plan update. Some ideas have been a camping area or pavilion.
- For the overflow slope, discussion centered around keeping the vegetation short on the majority of the slope, and creating a management plan for trimming, planting native plants as needed, etc. Goals should be focused on keeping some view corridors, fostering safety at the road intersections/corners, providing some access through the slope to the road and dock below, and providing wildlife habitat and slope stability. Croll and Lang will assess the slope and work on a plan with public works staff by end of October.
- For the artesian well, we need to define our desired future condition before doing any on-the-ground work. If the goal is to remove some of the current species, city staff first needs to understand what technique should be used to do this. For example, trimming/mowing some of the vegetation will just encourage it to grow back. Lang mentioned that conifers could be more aesthetic year-round and also help slow the flow of water across the landscape. Committee members will continue to think about this area related to goals and desired future condition before any work occurs.

Discussion & Action of Inventorying City Parks and Check List Walkthrough

- All individual committee members need to look through the City of Washburn Parks & Recreation Inventory Review and provide input if they haven't already
- The committee will continue to do park inventories as they work on the Outdoor Recreation Plan

Follow-up Discussion of Outdoor Recreation Plan

This will be discussed at the next Parks Committee meeting in September.

Future Topics

- Outdoor recreation plan work
- Overflow camping area slope regarding management and desired future conditions
- Additional project work on walking trail and coastal management grant opportunity

Adjournment

Date and time of next meeting will be September 21, 2021. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Erika Lang
Secretary, Parks Committee