

**Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2016**

1. Call to order.

Chair Kolk called the April 21, 2016 meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the McFarland Municipal Center.

Members Present: Chair Dan Kolk, Kate Barrett, Judy Sauer, Jacob Schkirkie, Greg Smith, Clair Utter (arrived at 8:00 p.m.) and Darrel Waldera

Members Absent: John Feldner, Chuck Rolfsmeyer and Rick Ruecking

Staff Present: Pauline Boness, Allan Coville and Linda Dieckhoff

Others Present: Tom TeBeest (Town & Country), Jim Amrhein (6410 Fox Run), Austin Gannon (4719 Farwell Street), Tom Gannon (4719 Farwell Street), Sam Martino (6407 Fox Run), Mark Shubak (Strand Associates Inc.) and Judy Taritas (6407 Fox Run)

2. Public Comments.

Sam Martino of 6407 Fox Run – Concerned about the proposed Grandview Conservancy path. Martino had comments about environmental disruption. Would like to have a Public Hearing date set.

Jim Amrhein of 6410 Fox Run – Residents feel they were caught off guard as to what was going on at last weeks meeting. Felt this info should be put online. He is not for or against the trail; it is part of the parks plan.

Coville indicated that the Clerk was gone last week and there was the inability to get the agenda on the website.

Coville indicated that the park grant money can only be used for this project. This grant was approved several years ago when Steve Hoeft was here and approved by the Village Board. He thought this had already been through the public hearing process. We are not hiding anything from the public...

Judy Taritas of 6407 Fox Run – In the bid proposal does it say that the path has to be an asphalt path?

Coville indicated that the type of finish was not specified. It was specified that this was to be a bike/pedestrian path.

Kolk indicated that the Village is currently short staffed and that Linda was gone last week. Normally all notices are on the website in advance of the meeting.

3. Review and possible approval of draft Minutes of the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee meeting of March 17, 2016.

Motion by Kolk, second by Smith, to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2016 meeting as amended. Barrett abstained. Motion carried 5-0-1.

4. **Discussion and possible recommendation regarding Prairie Place Subdivision.**

Tom Gannon indicated that the plat was previously approved but because of economic times, the project was placed on hold and the permits have run out. Gannon is now starting the project over. Due to new updated DNR wetland map regulations, the development area now has seven acres of wetland delineated. This area has been farmed in the past.

Mark Shubak presented a preliminary stormwater plan. The stormwater area still receives run off from the developed lots. The overall plan is to create a prairie and wetland restoration of natural grasses and wildflowers, because the land is currently being farmed.

Tom Gannon is looking for a CARPC variance to the 75 foot set back to the impervious surface. There will be a shared bike/pedestrian path along the west side of the wetland. A petition that is filed does require support from the Village.

Kolk supports the water retention presented.

Barrett asked if they had any feedback or guidance from the DNR on what type of seed bank could exist now. Gannon said no. Barrett likes the idea of a wetland but would like to see what the current seed bank is.

Schirkie likes the idea of restoring the wetland. Is this area on the map dedicated as parkland? Gannon said yes.

Sauer is also in favor of wetland restoration.

The plan is to continue the Eco Park into this development and incorporate the path and park area by the wetland.

5. **Discussion and possible recommendation to Village Board to accept bids for 2016 street tree plantings.**

Coville presented the bid results. We are focusing on replanting in areas where the ash trees were removed. Last year we had some money left in the budget and used those funds for larger trees by play ground structures. This was not included in the street plantings. Tree maintenance and tree removal are a budget item.

Motion by Kolk, second by Barrett, to recommend to Village Board to accept the bid for 2016 street plantings from McKay in the amount of \$24,712. Motion carried 7-0 by acclamation.

Utter would like us to see if McKay would add 10 more trees at that same cost for the shade tree replacements. In the developer's agreement for Juniper Ridge it was at the option of the Village to plant trees. There are no trees in the terrace area yet for Veridian.

Moved to agenda item 8

6. **Review and possible recommendation to the Village Board regarding changes to Village Ordinances – Natural Lawns, Trees and Shrubs, Oak Tree Cutting and Noxious Weeds.**
7. **Discussion on procedure by which we name the new shelter, potentially, and/or the new park space at Juniper Ridge.**
8. **Discussion and possible recommendation to Village Board regarding the Grandview Conservancy Path Project.**

The neighborhood has concerns of the path. The meeting last week was well attended. Public is concerned about environmental impact. The Village should have a public hearing so there is comprehensive discussion on this.

Tom TeBeest received an initial letter from DNR requesting that we add six more culverts for a total add of 9 culverts. The design currently has 3 culverts.

An archeological study will have to be done because there is an Indian burial ground in that area mainly on the Schneider property. Berquist indicated the cost would be approximately \$1,400 and could be completed in approximately seven days. Committee felt this needed to be done.

The current bid contract is good for 60 days and we are now at 48 days. The contractor would be willing to go over 60 days. The Village should look into the possibility of an extension for the grant due to the problems we have encountered.

The board walk was more costly and disturbs more ground and requires different permits. The Committee needs to have a clear understanding before we have a public hearing. We need to obtain more info from the DNR of why more culverts are required.

Items we need to address:

- Do we want the path paved and will it be maintained in the winter.
- What do we want this path to accomplish (bike, pedestrian)
- Need DNR and Army Corp of Engineers approval

This agenda item will need to be revised when we receive the required info.

Items 6 and 7 will be postponed tonight.

9. **Discussion regarding May work day activities.**

Kate indicated that she is already pulling garlic mustard. It was determined to have a work day on Sunday afternoon, May 1, at 1:00 p.m. and meet at the Yahara Trail Head. Publish this and try to get some support.

Waldera recommended a project of seed collecting.

We should work on creating a calendar with some work day projects.

10. **Update on Bird Festival event.**

Kate indicated it was a big success except for the cold weather.

11. **Public Works Director update.**

The Lower Yahara Trail project is underway. Our end of the path should be completed by the end of this year. The trail connection to Siggelkow Road, new water main and paving should be completed by Memorial Day.

The Lewis Park old shelter has been torn down and we salvaged the old rock and have them stored. The area at Lewis has been fenced off and contractor is in the process of moving a job trailer in. The old flag pole and monument will be re-used and two other poles have been salvaged.

The Broadhead/MN project will start mobilizing next week. Alben Avenue will be gutted from Broadhead to Marsh. The project is slated to be completed by September 15. The Holscher Road project will not take place this year.

John Feldner indicated that some roofs are being installed over the dugouts at Lewis Park baseball diamond with the help of volunteers.

After discussion it was decided that porta potties will be installed at Lewis Park and at the Dog Park. If there is vandalism at the Dog Park, the porta potty will be removed and put at the Falling Leaves Park.

Utter felt we need to follow ADA act and have porta potties that are ADA accessible.

12. **Adjournment. Motion** by Utter, second by Barrett, to adjourn at 9:23 p.m. Motion carried 7-0 by acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda L. Dieckhoff
Public Works/Utilities Clerk