

**Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2016**

1. **Call to order.**

Chair Kolk called the May 19, 2016 meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Committee to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Community Room of the McFarland Municipal Center.

Members Present: Chair Dan Kolk, Kate Barrett, Rick Ruecking, Chuck Rolfsmeyer, Judy Sauer, Jacob Schkirkie, Jacob Tissue, Clair Utter and Darrel Waldera

Members Absent: John Feldner and Greg Smith

Staff Present: Pauline Boness, Allan Coville and Linda Dieckhoff

Others Present: None

2. **Public Comments.** None

3. **Review and possible approval of draft Minutes of the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee meeting of April 21, 2016.**

Motion by Barrett, second by Schirkie, to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2016 meeting as amended. Utter abstained. Motion carried 7-0-1.

4. **Public Works Director update.**

County Executive Parisi held a news conference on May 11 to update the progress of the County's Lower Yahara Trail project. Our part of the trail is complete but we still have to do some restoration along the path and install the fence along the railroad tracks. The whole project should be completed by June of 2017. There will be large bridge segments for the Lower Yahara Trail that will be brought in through McFarland. The goal is to have the McFarland side of the project completed by the end of the year.

The restrooms at Brandt Park are open and the outfield netting has been reinstalled.

The Matt Splinter Tournament will be held June 3, 4 and 5.

Indian Mound Park volunteers met and pulled garlic mustard weeds. The top of the mounds were in good shape. Removal of the Phase III trees is scheduled to take place this coming winter.

Arnold Larson Park has been opened and is being maintained. Plans are being made with the Lions Club to remove the old hand rails and install new hand rails and spindles followed by re-staining.

McKay has completed the planting of the ninety plus terrace trees.

Lewis Park shelter has been removed and the footings and foundations have been installed for the new shelter along with under ground utilities.

The Fire Department has burnt various conservancy areas.

In reference to the Grandview Conservancy, the Village received the permit from the State Historical Society which will allow a consultant to do an archeological evaluation of the area where portions of the path will be installed.

Kolk indicated that the said permit application called out Town of Dunn rather than the Village of McFarland. We need to be sure this is corrected because they are not allowed to go onto the Mahunt property.

Staff has directed Veridian to address erosion issues on the Juniper Ridge Addition. Staff also requested Veridian address plantings that were damaged over the winter months... The new shelter and play structures should be completed by the end of summer.

In regard to having restrooms at the Holscher Tower, this would not be done until the final phases of the Juniper Ridge development. Sanitary sewer needs to be stubbed in. The two buildings that are currently vacant are owned by the Water utility.

The porta potty at the dog park has not been a problem. Water has been turned on at the bocce ball courts and tarps have been put up. A damaged piece of concrete at the Bocce Courts has also been replaced.

Kolk asked if the Indian Mound phase II project has been completed. Coville indicated the project was completed in late January. The mounds will be weed wacked to keep the saplings down.

It was asked if the McDaniel Trail is going to be striped. Coville indicated it will only be signed as a trail. The appropriate stop signs and trail signage will be installed.

The lights at Brandt Park are not in good shape. The tops of the poles are brittle and need to be fixed. We have a 2017 budgeted amount of \$250,000 for light replacement.

5. **Development of parks project priorities and timeline for next three years (Committee members please review Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan and be prepared to discuss at meeting).**

Kolk indicated that we need to have a structured plan of what we want to do. We need to have five to ten years of work budgeted. There is a need to prioritize projects and what we want to accomplish. We also need to determine how development fits into our recreational plan.

The school may have a school referendum on the fall ballot. Everyone should look at their proposed plan. We should coordinate our planning with the School District whenever possible. We need a plan to determine how land dedication and fees are allocated.

The Comprehensive Plan consultants will come to our June meeting. The Comprehensive Plan is a ten year plan.

The following is a list of items we need to consider:

- Should we have a School run Recreational Department or Village run Recreational Department.
- The Transportation Ad Hoc Committee came up with a bike/ped map. We need to determine where we want trails to connect. Marsh Road is not a good connector to Madison because of the street width. On Marsh Road, Broadhead to Siggelkow is both an off street route and also an on street route.
- Way finding signage for our bike routes should be considered.

Page 32 of the rec plan has budgeted items.

The following is a list of priorities discussed:

- McDaniel Park should have an additional shelter placed at the north end of the park. We also need to budget to expand the parking lot, newer-model the restrooms, install a water bottle refill station and install bike racks by the restrooms. This should be a landing spot for people coming into McFarland – a main hub. This would help promote business and the Chamber of Commerce should be involved.
- Committee should be referring to the rec plan more than we do and be sure the capital improvement plan is updated each year.
- We should have a goal and plan to improve biking capacity in village.
- We should look at better access to parks and improved signage.
- Expanding the dog park should be considered.
- Update the Master Plan for the Urso Schuetz properties.
- Create more basketball courts.
- Relocate the skate park.
- Build a community center.
- Replace the lights at Brandt Park
- Work with County and high school to create a mowed path for the cross country team.
- Consider building a new shelter at Wm. McFarland Park.
- Continue to install/connect bike paths throughout McFarland.
- Continue to add sidewalks through out the Village.
- Look for low hanging fruit, like water fountains, benches, etc.

- The Committee needs to know what park funds are available and when those funds need to be spent so we can plan projects accordingly.
 - Better lake access for the public.
 - Work with school and curling club to meet the needs of both.
 - Work with Volunteer Committee and Friends of the Parks to help with the Village's Parks and Conservancies.
 - Consider adding additional soccer fields.
 - Consider adding a park and ride program for Village residents.
 - Identify a sledding hill for residents.
 - Evaluate current boundary agreements and assess those with the need for future agreements.
 - Create one recreational complex/area.
 - Consider the need for an Aquatic Center/Splash Pad
6. **Adjournment. Motion** by Kolk, second by Utter, to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried 7-0 by acclamation.

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