

Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes – DRAFT
September 15, 2016

1. Call to Order.

Chair Kolk called the September 15, 2016 meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the McFarland Municipal Center.

Members Present: Dan Kolk, Clair Utter, Judy Sauer, Jacob Schkirkie, Greg Smith, Darrel Waldera, Kate Barrett, Rick Ruecking, and John Feldner.

Members Absent: Chuck Rolfsmeyer, Jacob Tisue

Staff Present: Public Works Director Allan Coville and Community Development Director Pauline Bonness

Others Present: George Keeler, Jim Kubicek, and Steve Schoenberger

2. Public Comments

None

3. Review and possible approval of draft minutes of the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee meeting of August 18, 2016.

Motion by Kate Barrett, second by Greg Smith, to approve the draft minutes of the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee meeting of August 18, 2016. Motion carries 9-0 by acclamation.

4. Discussion and possible approval of upgrades to McDaniel Park pier and installation of a recognition plaque.

Representative: George Keeler

George Keeler, representative of the McFarland Sailing club, discuss concerns and request upgrades in regard to the McDaniel Park pier. Mr. Keeler reported the pier was originally approved to have 14 lifts; however, the current pier cannot accommodate that many lifts. He proposed the following recommendations:

1. Purchase additional fingers for the pier – four 10 foot fingers (three on the north side and one on the south side).
2. Limit the length of the boats allowed to use the pier to 23 feet.
3. Make a lift a requirement for boats over 16 feet.
4. Put bumpers at the end of the pier.
5. Addition of 3 or 4 cleats.
6. Explore additional lighting to prevent vandalism.
7. Creation of a policy regarding the use of the pier (George will provide a draft policy for discussion at a later date)

The expenditures would need to be considered as part of the 2017 budget. Director Coville estimated the cost of the upgrades at approximately \$4,000.

The Committee discussed the desire to detail out the arrangement between the Village and the sailing club. The club current has special access and special responsibilities that should be identified.

Mr. Keeler additionally requested the pier be dedicated to longtime resident John Gaffney. John Gaffney was a big contributor to the sailing club and the club would like to recognize his contribution.

Motion by Dan Kolk, second by Kate Barrett, to authorize Director Coville to move forward with the evaluation and budgeting quotes for the improvements requested for potential exclusion in the 2017 capital budget. Motion carries 9-0 by acclamation.

The Committee directed Public Works Director Coville to work with the organization on the requested dedication plaque.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the outfield lights and field alignment at Brandt Park

Representatives: Jim Kubicek, McFarland Softball Association and Steve Schoenberger, Matt Splinter tournament

Jim Kubicek appeared to discuss the challenges and safety concerns with both the deterioration of the lights at Brandt Park and the field alignment. A recent inspection of the lights yielded the assessment that the lights need to be replaced immediately. It is a looming safety issue that must be addressed. Additionally, the McFarland Softball Association has been exploring the concept of changing the field alignment. With the current field alignment balls from the lower diamonds are hit into the upper diamond. One proposal is a small shift of the diamonds and the other proposal is a complete reconfiguration to put the diamonds back to back.

Public Works Director Coville noted the life of the lights is already on borrowed time, and the lights should be replaced in the spring of 2017.

Jim explained the immediate need to replace the deteriorating lights creates a time crunch to make a decision on the field alignment.

The Committee discussed reconfiguration of the diamonds would be an enormous undertaking both financially and logistically. Reconfiguration of the diamonds would almost certainly close Brandt Park for at least one full season if not more.

Jim conceded the immediate need to replace the lights may eliminate the ability to reconfigure the diamonds. He agreed the need to replace the lights is a necessity for 2017. The McFarland Softball Association will get an updated quote on replacing the lights.

The Committee recognized and thanked the McFarland Softball Association for their hard work. The McFarland Softball Association's upkeep and maintenance of Brandt Park provide large financial savings to the Village.

Motion by Clair Utter, second by John Feldner, recommend to the VB include in the 2017 capital budget up to 350,000 for electrical improvements including lighting at Brandt Park. Motion carries 9-0 by acclamation.

Jim Kubicek also reported the association is looking into the additional projects for Brandt Park:

1. Installation of a Plexiglas display case for posting of schedules and league information.
2. Installation of a vending machine. They no longer do concessions during league play, and are looking for an alternative.
3. New playground equipment – this would be brought back to the committee at a later date for consideration and discussion
4. Upgrading the back stops.

6. Review and discussion regarding the parks funding expenditure policy.

The Committee reviewed the parks capital fund account and the policy for the disbursement of those funds. The parks fund is comprised of both fee in lieu of parkland dedication and park improvement impact fees. Funds must be expended within 7 years of acquisition and tied to the project in which the funds were donated. If the funds are not expended within the required timeline, they are returned to the developer.

The Committee noted they should conduct a review of the policy and fund before the end of the year to assess if any funds must be expended by the end of 2016. Additionally, the committee directed staff to explore creation of a schedule to keep the committee informed of the timeline of funds that must be spent. The schedule should include a breakdown of projects in the fund, pools of money available, and a timeline of required disbursement of the funds.

7. Discussion and possible action on prioritization of 2017 budget projects.

The committee reviewed the list of 2017 budget projects, and provided the following comments/changes:

Brandt Park – remove Reconfigure diamonds and change new lights to \$350,000

Discovery Garden – upgrade to \$5000 for plan creation. The actual construction would be planned for 2018.

Grand View Conservancy – the \$160,000 does not include the PARC grant. The Village is still waiting for a determination from Dane County on extension of the grant.

Indian Mound Conservancy - Be more aggressive with the Oak Wilt near Indian Mound. Allan will look into additional eradication measures. The committee discussed other

concerns with invasive species in the Village. Also noted a new sign may be necessary. The committee increased the budget by \$4000.

Lewis Park - Additional furnishing needed outside, as well as additional side walk, wall and plantings. The committee increased the budget by \$15,000.

Wm McFarland Park – The 2017 re-paving should be left in the budget. Any future upgrades to Williams McFarland park will be dependent on the School Districts discussion on the future of the park.

Juniper Ridge – New bathrooms will be postponed until the water lines and sewer can be run to the area.

Director Coville discussed staffing requests for 2017 include a full time park employee and possibly a summer intern.

8. Public Works Director update.

Public Works Director Coville provided an update. The full update is included in the packet.

9. Adjournment.

Motion by, Second by Judy Sauer, to adjourn at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Cassandra Suettinger, Village Clerk/Deputy Treasurer