

Richland County Parks Commission

April 7th, 2014

Meeting Minutes

The April 7th, 2014 meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Bob Bellman, at 5:30 p.m. Members present were Bob Bellman, Duane Klang, Charles Parduhn, Steve Kohlstedt, Gary Peters, Don Seep, Chris Carley, Bernie Hying and Cathy Cooper. Larry Jewel was absent.

Cathy mailed the agenda out and it was posted at the Courthouse bulletin board. Steve Kohlstedt moved to approve the agenda and proof of notification; seconded by Charles Parduhn. Motion carried.

Steve Kohlstedt moved to approve the minutes of the March 3rd, 2014 meeting, seconded by Duane Klang. Motion carried.

Public Input: Bernie Hying asked who was responsible for the up keep of the bike trail. Bob mentioned that the Parks commission has the responsibility of maintaining the trail and we subcontract it out to the Richland County Highway department to do brush removal. Bernie asked if they would be looking for volunteers to help with the maintenance of the trail. Bob mentioned that there has been private individuals in the past that have donated their time to the maintenance of the trail. Bernie mentioned that he has had complaints from people regarding grass growing on the trail. Steve mentioned that the commission usually has the highway department come in in the beginning of the year and take the grader out to even out the trail to smooth out the ruts that have been created over the winter and then come back over it to compact it. The parks department usually goes down the trail and mows off the first bloom then either in June or July they go thru and apply round up right thru the middle of the trail. This application usually works for about 6 weeks then we have a sedge & small grass problem. Then later in the summer (after July 1st) we go thru with a mower and start getting ready for the snowmobile rail. About 60% of the trail is in low lying area and trying to keep grass off the trail is a real challenge. Last summer (2013) the above was not done. Now this year the commission may be looking at doing the same as in the past. If Bernie is interested in doing trail maintenance like mowing or dragging the trail he would need a permit/permission from the commission. The city of Richland Center owns and is responsible for the trail running from Walmart (County Highway OO) thru the city. Richland County is responsible from County Highway OO to Lone Rock. Bernie then asked about the rumor he has heard about having the trail open to 4-wheelers. Bob Bellman mentioned that he believes that the use of 4-wheelers on the trail is illegal and Steve mentioned that there is an ordinance in place that if you don't have a permit to be on the trail there is a fine of \$200.00 dollars. At this point Bernie reiterated that he and his family absolutely love the trail. The trail will be dug up some this year while the new city waste water treatment plant is being constructed and the trail should be in better shape after the plant and piping is in place. Steve reminded Bernie that at least the county's section of trail would probably be closed this year during the construction season. More discussion with Bernie and the use of the trail happened. It will be announced on WRCO when the trails will be closed from current city sewer plant to the south and east of the city otherwise the trail to the north and west will be open.

Next was the Rockbridge Park. Steve handed out some information. He spoke with George Christianson III, UW Baraboo and Thomas Pleger, Dean UW-Baraboo on Friday April 4th. Steve reported that the county has 3 options regarding the find at the park.

1. Need authorization to do the dig with a curation plan in place before the application to dig goes out. Curation must be either in Madison or lacrosse. George Christianson is willing to make the application with the state for the dig as an educational application; the cost to the county for this would be between \$4,000 and \$5,000 dollars.
2. Bid the job out. The commission would have to hire a consulting firm to put the bid together first and the county would still have to give authorization for the dig and have the curation plan in place and the finds will still have to be placed somewhere else.
3. Do nothing (not recommended)

Further discussion with why would this cost so much. Depending on how extensive the dig becomes will dictate the cost of the dig and curation of the findings, George is willing to do the dig.

There is a resolution on the table with County Board that any of the findings are not to leave the county and that is just not possible. The county may have a small display back, but in reality all of the notes regarding the dig and the relics found will be somewhere else. Charles "Chip" Parduhn feels that nothing should be done. He stated that the county can rope the area off and have signage noting that the area is a known archeological site and nothing is to be disturbed. There was further discussion at this point, Chairman Bellman feels that clarification of the artifacts curation and where they are to be stored. Public property has a different set of rules and regulations with the state.

More discussion followed regarding the artifacts and what is going to be done. George and his students from the UW Baraboo were in the process of raising funds when Corporation Counsel, Ben Southwick made a phone call to stop. Don Seep suggested that Mr. Southwick be invited to come to the May meeting. The committee agreed to have Steve and Bob meet with Ben.

Cathy reported that she put an ad in the Shopping News and the Richland Observer for clean up at the rifle range on Saturday April 12th starting at 9 am. Steve did a quick interview with WRKO and it will be announced for the 3 days prior to Saturday's clean up.

Chairman Bellman skipped to item 8 on the agenda, Richland County Snowmobile Alliance Report. Chris Carley. All of the bills for the snowmobile grant need to be handed in by May 15th, 2014 in order for the County Audit Committee to approve the grant reimbursement. Chris did have one bill to turn in this month that he did not get to the office before the meeting.

Next the snowmobile grant/resolution: \$33,700 for the 2014-15 year, the grant application and last year's resolution are sent in by April 15th and this year's resolution is taking to County Board in July for acceptance, then all of the paperwork is in place. Motion made by Steve Kohlstedt to approve Cathy to make the application for the snowmobile grant to the state, second made by Duane Klang. Motion carried.

Now Chairman Bellman went back to the Bike Trail Update. Cathy read the email that Tammy received from Town & Country Engineering regarding the sewer plant and the construction. Mike Schindhelm will be at the June meeting Bike trail will be rerouted during the construction season. Cathy will contact Jim Chitwood, Highway Commissioner, to have the trail rolled in May and ask him about some route signs. Cathy will have Tammy contact Town & Country for the dumpsters and Nature's Way Portable units for placement of the portable restrooms. Right after the trail has been rolled pictures need to be taken of the area that will have the construction on it. This way we have proof of how the trail looked before and to make sure that it is put back to the same or better.

The outdoor recreation plan was next on the agenda. Cathy reported that Victor received an e-mail Parkway and asked for the recreation plan. The plan that we have is 2009-2013. The plan was done in the past to be eligible for state grants.

Other items. The Land Donation Survey update: Bob spoke with Ben Southwick and Paul Klawiter regarding this survey. A survey may not have to be done. Need to talk with Paul Klawiter, Real Property Lister for a legal description and then take that description to a Title company after that if all is good then take this to the County Board for final approval before it is recorded. Motion made by "Chip" Parduhn to have Ben Southwick take the legal description to a title company second made by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

Tape ended.

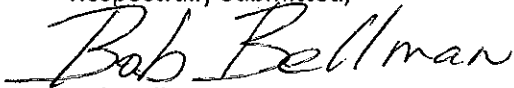
The bills were presented as follows: Walsh's Ace Hardware. 124.99. Don Seep moved to approve the bills, seconded by Duane Klang. Motion carried.

Cathy passed out the budget sheets from the county clerk's office for the committee to review. The next meeting is May 6th, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

Charles Parduhn moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Bellman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

Bob Bellman
Parks Commission Chair