

Richland County Parks Commission
August 4th, 2014
Meeting Minutes

The August 4th, 2014 meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Bellman at 5:30 p.m. Members present were Bob Bellman, Duane Klang, Charles Parduhn, Gary Peters, Don Seep, Steve Kohlstedt and Larry Jewell. Others present were Frank Brey, Town & Country Engineering, Pat Werner, Mike Mercer and Joe Bradford all from the Wisconsin River Runner Club ATV group, Rob McConnell, Wisconsin ATV Association and Cathy Cooper.

Tammy mailed the agenda out and it was posted at the Courthouse bulletin board. Gary Peters moved to approve the agenda and proof of notification second made by Chip Parduhn. Motion carried.

Motion made by Duane Klang to approve the minutes of the July 7th, 2014 meeting second made by Larry Jewell. Motion carried.

Chairman Bellman skipped down to item #6B ATV & UTV use: Pat Werner, member of the WI River Runner ATV/UTV Club spoke to the board about letting ATVs and UTVs on the trail. The group has been monitoring the trail usage since October of 2013 and has found that the center of the trail has a usage of minimal bikers and walkers; in an 88 day survey they monitored 4.09 bikers a day and .064 walkers. ATV groups can apply for grants as do the snowmobile groups for trail maintenance. Richland County as a whole has over 1,000 registered ATV/UTV vehicles that do not have trails to ride on and having a state funded trail in Richland County would help the economy of the county. Bob thanked Pat for his thorough report. Pat introduced Rob McConnell, current chair for the Wisconsin ATV association; this group is the group that approves grants for ATV trails in the state. Further discussion of other state trails that allow a variety of vehicles of transportation; it may be possible in the future to allow this request, Steve Kohlstedt asked Rob for a copy of the court decision that has findings of allowable uses on state funded trails to trails. This information will be handed over to Ben Southwick, Corporation Counsel to Richland County for review. Pat is asking for possibly a trial run. Chip Parduhn had some input and concerns. Don Seep followed up with reiterating what had just been stated. More discussion followed for the next twenty + minutes reviewing how the ATV group works. There will be a meeting on September 19th in the town of Rome in Adams County and the commission members are invited to attend. At this point Chairman Bellman was ready to move back to item 6A. Don Seep still had more questions on ATV and mentioned that he was approached by the Cazenovia ATV Club as they are requesting to have the County Board amend some of their ordinances to allow ATV's on some County roads. Don handed out maps and a copy of an Ordinance for Sauk County that allows ATVs and UTVs to cross over County roads. The question is actually for the High Commission and not the Parks Commission.

#6A: City Sewer Project update: Frank Brey reported when the construction will begin. August 18th is when the bike trail will be closed from County Hwy O to Gotham. The current Parks web page has this notice posted. Signs will be posted along trail main crossing, County Hwy O, Twin Bluffs and Gotham. The tentative finish date on the trail is December 18th. Snowmobile traffic usually doesn't start up until after the Holiday hunt. There is money in escrow to make sure the trail is put back to original or better. Fencing if needed to be removed will be replaced. There will be a final walk thru of the trail to make sure that things on the trail are back.

#4, Public input: there was none

#5 Rifle Range; Steve has replaced the planks. There are 4 extra planks. Standards will need to be replaced next year. Everything is looking good at this point.

#7 Outdoor Recreational Plan: The Goals and Objectives from the previous plan were sent out with the agenda. Cathy informed the commission that they will need to come up with some people to invite to some special meetings strictly for the review of the previous plan and to update the plan. Steve suggest that this is something to be done later this winter

Further discussion of long range plan ideas, Pine River clean up and canoe launches from Pier Park down to Gotham. The commission needs to send a letter of invitation with a copy of the goals & objectives to Mark McCauley, Pat Werner, Chris Carley and others that may be interested in the promoting of Richland County. Bob would like to include the City Parks and Townships for the new long range plan.

#8 Rockbridge Park – A) Don Clark Land Donation; Need to contact all of the current owners of record on the title of the land they will all need to sign over the land for no compensation, this would be the main way that the County will get clear title to the property. Bob will get the addresses of the owners to Ben Southwick, Corporation Counsel, so that he may send a letter to them for them to sign. Suggest items to move forward would be to pay for the title search and pay for the taxes; this will be on a future agenda for action. - B) Brush Clean Up: West side of the Rock – Don Clark would clean up this side with permission from the Parks Commission; the Eastside of the rock will be cleaned up by the Highway Department this coming winter. Bob will be at the highway committee meeting and he will find out what the rate will be for the clean-up and he will report back next month as to what the rate will be. C) – Bat Survey update, there is no white nose syndrome at this time, D) - Archeological Dig, George is still working on the curation of the items and he will submit the final report after he has finished. Some of the items that were found may be on display in the future at the Rockbridge Store. The Commission will get the case. Chip will talk with Sharon at the store and report back at the next meeting. - E) Playground equipment, Cathy spoke with Shane Stibbe from the City Parks and he gave her some ideas. Chip is asking about having something that would be unique to the area. Cathy will be setting up a visit with a consultant and meet out at the park. Cathy also asked Shane about the benches that are used at the City Park so that we can give Mr. Bewick some suggestions if he still wishes to donate a bench in remembrance of his son

The bills were presented as follows: Town & County Sanitation, \$368.17; Nature's Way Portable Units, \$373.50; Richland County Highway Commission, \$1,130.56; Decker Supply Co., Inc.; \$31.30; Rockbridge Sawmill, \$140.00,. Motion was made by Larry Jewell to approve the August bills as presented second made by Chip Parduhn. Motion carried.

Cathy will check with Jim Chitwood, Highway Department on the placement of the no camping signs. Steve Kohlstedt stated that when he went past the Port Andrews boat landing last weekend he noticed 40+ cars and some tents. The boat landing was packed full.

The next meeting date is September 8th, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

Gary Peters made motion to adjourn, second made by Duane Klang. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

 Bob Bellman

Bob Bellman
Parks Commission Chair