

Richland County Parks Commission  
October 21<sup>st</sup> 2014  
Meeting Minutes

The October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Bellman at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Bob Bellman, Duane Klang, Charles Parduhn, Gary Peters, Don Seep, Steve Kohlstedt and Cathy Cooper. Others present at the meeting were David Hanzel, Verlin Coy, Jean Nicks, Gladys Anderson, Claire Hagg, Pat Werner, Dana Fischer, Marilyn Rinehart, David Barron, Mick Cosgrove and Dale Bender.

Steve Kohlstedt talked about the process the Parks Commission is going through to write the 2014-2019 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. This is the first step; receiving input from stakeholders on what they feel should be in the plan. He then passed out sticky notes for those present to write down what they would like to see for the county recreational opportunities. Everyone then, one by one, put up on the wall their ideas. These ideas were categorized and voted on. Cathy will compile the results and send or email them to the group. There may be another meeting later in the year or early next year to further discuss these items.

**Festivals (4 votes)**

- Outdoor oriented festivals patterned after those in Europe specifically Scandinavia and the UK (2 votes)
- Equipment rentals for activities: snowshoes, cross-country skis
- Consider a "pedal and paddle" competition in the future (1 vote)
- Leading groups to explore and recreate- people don't like new activities alone
- Caves and Spelunking tours
- Ginseng and mushroom ID group/class
- UW-Richland Road Rally
- Music festival in the park- parking?
- Fermentation tour

**Bike & Hiking trails (5 votes)**

- A high ridge hiking trail (1 vote)
- Create additional safer access and egress points on Pine- Parking areas, take outs, picnic areas (2 votes)
- Create bike trail for bikers (add a lane to existing county highway on shoulders)
- Develop county wide hiking trail (2 votes)
- Fitness stations
- Landowners giving permission on their property for hiking, snowmobile, etc.
- Blacktop and light bike trail from to Walmart. Allow usage by those working shift schedules
- Bike trails through the county "Boaz"
- Develop trail system for hiking in Managed forest areas ( like Ice Age Trail)
- Use city and county logging roads to create mountain biking trails also good for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing
- Improve the snowmobile routes in Richland County
- Enhance the ATV-UTV routes in Richland County

**Marketing & Promotion (7 votes)**

- Get Richland County information into area publications like Hidden Valleys, Driftless, etc.
- Put Outdoor recreation and many good pictures on the Richland County Website. Show the fun
- Funding from Rec. Equipment Companies
- Take a 4 seasons approach- we have great things all year around
- Promotion of what's available- Maps, trails, amenities, points of interest
- Contact Stephanie Klett

- Develop and maintain a website
- Market/advertise- Make use of local, regional and state media
- Wisconsin Department of Tourism
- Promote Parks and recreation at waysides- people stop and see what's available. Also at local businesses and beyond
- Possibly look at partnership with tourism committee to better utilize and promote county's outdoor and indoor assets.
- Promote Driftless- uniqueness and history (1 vote)
- Develop and promote on social media of opportunities (facebook, websites, twitter, etc.) Younger generation- how they communicate
- Increase advertising on social media and in schools
- A county recreation events calendar after each community/group schedules events without double and triple events on the same day/time
- Get the word out through "Discover Wisconsin" or similar public relations
- List all of the parks and what they have to offer. Hiking, camping, sites to see (1 vote)
- Put Richland County Outdoor activities on "Discover Outdoor, Wisconsin"
- Slides of what Richland County outdoor has to offer
- Advertising
- Promote a "Rustic Roads" program in Richland County- "O" now!
- Promote Frank Lloyd Wright's legacy
- "String of Pearls"- sites we talk about and connect
- Coordinate with city to provide good publicity at the Depot
- It does take funding resources- How many dollars are available
- We should have a "Tourism Booth" or focal point to help visitors find out about Richland County's opportunities
- Recognize groups that do volunteer such as FFA Pine River Cleanup
- Maps of all locations- symbols on what they have
- County hire a grant writer for county grants & outdoor activities
- Need information on what is available and used at each park on a web site for Richland County such as camping rates, shower, availability
- More funding for the parks we have so we can keep them up for everyone to enjoy
- Produce a county map with all county fishing areas marked, trout and warm waters areas. Also include all public hunting areas.
- "Connect the Dots" by showing all the opportunities for recreation on a complete map like Symons, bike trail, Miner Hill trail, etc.

#### Youth Activities

- Hold more kid specific events to get kids excited about the outdoors. Bird watching, fishing, hiking, running. At no cost
- Get 4H more involved in park volunteering (2 votes)
- Youth organizing for the young people to get interested in the outdoors
- Paddle to learn. Pine River. Signs with education along the routes. History- geography. Also Peddle to learn
- Get to school kids K-12
- Get youth into our parks- get them excited about "silent sports"

#### Miscellaneous

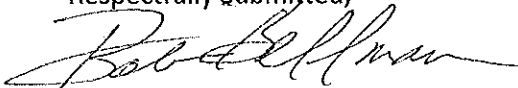
- Make Akey School Museum more ADA compliant and accessible
- New signage for Akey School Museum

- Dog Park
- Non-profit raffle
- Reclaim Lee Lake in Cazenovia
- Develop good Parking and access for Kayaking (2 votes)
- Balance hunting and "silent sports" (1 vote)
- Outdoor splash pad/water park
- Upgrade bathroom facilities and playground equipment
- Maintain our existing trout streams. Over the last 10 years there have been 3 trout stream projects. Once finished no work has been done to maintain them
- Rockbridge Park (1 vote)
- Trout stream bank improvement access (2 votes)
- Outdoor leadership skill-build ropes course, etc. for groups

Duane Klang made motion to adjourn, second made by Chip Parduhn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Bellman

Parks Commission Chair