

Richland County Parks Commission
December 6th, 2017
Public Hearing Minutes

The December 6th, 2017 public hearing was called to order by Chairman Bob Bellman at 5:30 p.m. Those present were Gary Peters, Bob Bellman, Kerry Severson, John Collins, Steve Kohlstedt and Cathy Cooper. Larry Jewell and Duane Klang were both absent. List of attendees is attached to the master minutes.

Chairman Bellman introduced the commission members and spoke of a different location for the next public hearing.

The agenda was mailed out and it was posted at the Courthouse bulletin board. Gary Peters moved to approve the agenda and proof of notification, second made by John Collins. Motion carried.

Chairman Bellman turned the public hearing over to Steve Kohlstedt as the moderator. The reason for the public hearing is there an interest in opening the Pine River Recreational Trail to additional uses; mainly ATV's and UTV's. We are gathering comments to see if the work that is needed to do in adding the additional uses will be feasible, then the paperwork will begin starting with this hearing, First to the county, then to the state and finally federal. The floor was open to public comments.

Don Stanke is the first speaker; he was part of the commission in the past and was involved in the start of the path at the beginning. If this happens his concerns are enforcement of what polite trail educate, whether it is speed limits or the hours of use, noise; maintenance if you use ATV's it will be more expensive than maintenance for bicycles because ATV's will take anything that can be turned to sand and then turn it to sand. Then if they get into the lower ground near Henpeck Ln and Gotham you will have a lot of trouble from keeping it like a mud claymire and if that kind of stuff happens then you are kind of excluding a lot of the other users that were originally the trail users. I know that that does not make me popular but ... I don't know how it will be enforced because I live pretty near the trail and if it is loud and late at night and I have my windows open it won't be like snowmobiles where you have your windows closed at night. So noise is a serious issue on this and I know that a lot of people like to have aftermarket exhaust that make more power and more noise so this more where I'm coming from I looked at the Cheese Country Trail for comparison and I heard some numbers kicked around ... um, on their trail the other town average spending per trip was \$175.00 to \$220.00 it wasn't anywhere near the \$500.00 that he heard kicked around and that is a 48 mile trail not a 14 mile trail... so you can just divide everything down a ways and see what those numbers do for you if you are going to push it a strictly just economic terms and I guess I will leave it at that for now, thank you.

Robert Burch; he said that he will speak at the next public hearing.

Ann Hudak is the next speaker. She presented herself. I have lived in this community for about 20 years, when I first moved here I was excited that we such diverse outdoor recreation. Mainly the Pine River and our bike path, tonight we talk about the bike path. Thru the years I have run, walk, bike, snow shoes on the pine river trails and as a silent sport enthusiast. I am opposed to the trails becoming a multipurpose trail notably for atv's, here is my list of whys; all too dangerous for bicyclists, pedestrians and to the trail itself. Like Don said the noise levels having nearby home owners, businesses, wildlife or silent sport people react to such loud vehicles...aa trail erosion like Don said particularly right after a rain, rides can penetrate the trail if it remains unpaved and erosion can occur if drive4s don't stay on the trail. Habitat considerations; I have see3n wonderful beauty from different natural species that live or rest along the trail. Like how the species will reach to the loud noises but from the gas emissions. Invasive species; ATV's can carry invasive seeds to the trail particularly if an owner does not clean their vehicle. Gas emissions and air pollution if our trail becomes multi-purpose the pedestrians become subjective to those emissions, the ATV would definitely add unwanted air pollution which we all know has ramifications for our environment, so if there is a multipurpose trail that includes the use of ATV use there is a host of potential dangers and disasters all of which need strict monitoring, notably potential trash problems, right of way rules, speed limits, valid safety certificates,

requirement of helmets, age requirements for minors who may or may not be able to use an ATV, sticker registrations, intoxication, and then there would be the increased probability of accidents, like injury possibly even death of pedestrians or cyclist included are the ATV people as well in the form of over turned vehicles roll over collisions miss use of carrying passengers I think that ATV enthusiast see the use of the pine river trail as an opportunity for tourism , I am all for potential growth for our community but, I just cannot accept ATV use on the trail, if anything let's consider improving and expanding the trail for silent spork enthusiasts. Thank you very much.

Bob McConnell; Thanks for giving me a chance to speak; A little bit about myself first, I am the vice president of the Wisconsin ATV association, this a 10,000-member organization, we have several clubs in this area. We support ATV and UTV se and recreation throughout the state... I am a local person here, I live in Reedsburg and my family has owned property just outside of Richland Center for over 40 years, so I do pay taxes in this county. Some of the issues that always come up when every you are looking at new uses are some of the things that were mentioned earlier by the speakers dealing with laws, rules and again the state has a very comprehensive set of rules that dictate operations of ATV's by minors, safety education is mandator in the state of Wisconsin for anyone born after 1/1/1988 is required to have a safety certificate, we do this for hunter education, snowmobile safety and boating. Very very well-done programs, the ATV program is a very well-funded program, one of the other things that I do is sit on the governors off road vehicle counsel, this a counsel that funds ATV & UTV projects, on that counsel we fund about 5 million dollars' worth of projects on an annual bases throughout the state of Wisconsin. We can front the ATV & UTV trail for maintenance on a yearly basis of up to \$700 a mile plus we also provide funding for trail rehabilitant, bridge rehabs, a whole host of other issues, if you have any kind of degradation of the trail, any flooding, ... there are a lot of bridges on this trail so there is additional funding, currently the snowmobile association and clubs are taking care of the majority of the maintenance on that and we would love to partner with them on that, to help keep the upkeep of that trail, the other thing is that ATV users are older like me, I am 58 years old and kind of the demographics of the ATV program, there are a number of youths that are involved but that is mainly kids that are with their parents, this is a family sport, we have very large dealership in the area that provides a great deal of equipment and a site for training, I a number of ATV instructors in the audience. If you folks have questions on the rules and laws, the DNR website provides all of those, get a conservation warden in here to talk about how the rules are enforced, the ATV program also provides funding for 9 wardens state wide we also provide ½ million dollars to local law enforcement reimbursement for townships, cities, counties whoever is doing any ATV enforcement out there so there is a way that if you are doing enforcement on the trail that you would get pay back on that kind of stuff. So, ATV riders try to be good neighbors, good friends, the sport has grown drastically in the last few years. We have registration numbers in the state of Wisconsin for ATV's that are over 310,000+here are over 60,000 registered UTV's statewide. So, there are a lot of people riding and a lot of people paying into the fund and program. We like to think that ATVing is a safe family oriented sport we have a number of other people here from local clubs that are going to come up and speak and we would really like to support this trail and support it infrastructure and maintain it though the future, thanks for giving me a few minutes to speak.

Kevin Jasper; Thank you, Kevin is part of the Dayton Ridge Runners Snowmobile & ATV club, I have been working on getting some roads up in this county, it has been going rather well this summer. Ahhh...we have been working on up to having WTV's on the bike trail, we were down working on the bridges this last fall form damage from the storms & everything and the trails in bad shape, been to several meetings with these guys and there is not a lot of money to fix it either. This might be one way to generate a little bit of funding to make it better for everybody, for bicycles & ... we are not against bicycles at all... but, that is about all I've got.

Pat Werner; introduced himself with his address, I am a me4mber and one of the founders of the Wisconsin River Runners ATV club. In the early part of 2013 the club came to the Parks board and asked if ATV's could be added to the Pine River Recreational Trail in the summer time because the trial was growing up with grass and under used, we were told by the board that it would have to be surveyed and before we could day that it was under used. So, in late September I decided to start monitoring the trail with trail cam, I chose that time because of the fall color and the weather was very nice. I put cameras at Saw Mill Rd, Henpeck Rd, Villages of Gotham and Moore road, because of

sun light issues being able to get close to the trail for pictures and being able to hide the camera Henpeck Rd was chosen. The survey started on October 1 and thru to October 19th when the weather changed, survey showed 49 bicycles and 27 walkers for an average of 4 users per day. I started back on May 1, 2014 and went to the end of July 2014, the total survey was 88 days and the average users on the trail was 4.09 bicycles per day and 0.64 walkers per day. I stopped then as my camera was discovered and messed with on October 2. I went back to the parks board and was told that maybe it could happen if could find that Richland County would not have to pay back the grant money if they aloud other users on the trail system. This finding that Richland County would not have to pay back the grant money was a very long process, I finally found where the gandy dancers trail in Burnett County had been changed and had the same PE grant money for their bike trail and got the minutes from the Burnett County meeting and sent letters, make phone calls to the DOT federal PE money people and got nothing in return. With all the running around I finally went to Madison to Senator Howard Marlein office asking for help, I was assigned Scott K? to help me with this. One and a half years later I received a letter from Senator Marklein's office about who to contact to further this along. This was given to the Richland Center parks board and the process has started with this public parks commission meeting, most people need to see the beauty of the trail and not all riding bicycle or walk, allowing ATV/UTV on the trail would help the economy of Richland County by bringing people into our communities, this will also bring in State ATV/UTV trail money in with the help with the maintenance of the Pine River Trail. Allow ATV/UTV on the Pine River Trail. The Pine River Recreational Trail was started in 1992 I think that is when the whole thing started and for a total cost of \$220,000. With only 4.73 average users on the trial per day in the summer time the trial is not getting utilized to its fullest, after this has been going on for 25 plus years the park board should look at allowing other users on the trail. Richland County is having trouble meeting budget and economy is bad. Just look at the shopping center on the east end of town. There used to be 3 grocery stores in town, now there is only 1. Hot recreational sports today is ATV and UTV just go 4 miles east of Richland Center to Vetesniks Motor Sports and see all of the ATV/UTV setting out side of the front of the building. They would not be there if they were not selling. Allow them on the Pine River Recreational Trail would be great, help the economy of Richland County and bring people to our county, not having our Richland Residents go elsewhere. Everybody thinks silent sports and motorized can't get along should take a ride down to Darlington and see for yourself. I also have a letter here from Buena Vista Township which says "This letter is reply to Richland Center Parks Commission request input on ATV/UTV use on the Pine River Trail, the town board of Buena Vista unanimously supports the effort to allow ATV/UTV machines and other users on this trail. Time was up (Pat left the letter with the commission)

John Rundle; Introduce himself, I am in favor of the ATV trail, um I think we need to look at different things in the county um, the um... the way we are headed right now with businesses going out and things not going well we need to look at every avenue we can, ahh as far as the noise goes ahh ATV's are regulated as to how loud they can be, ahh I know that there are after market exhaust I understand that but that would have to be enforced umm, safety, umm, most like one of the gentlemen said mostly older people and family do it and auu I believe it would be fine as long as it is monitored. That is about all I've got to say.

Tom Johnson; he would like to speak next week.

Barbara Blackmore; I am speaking from the point of view of a botanist plant ecologist, so I think you can see where I mine point of view is coming from. I enjoy walking the Pine River Trail and beyond, it is a quiet spirit lifting experience for me, the habitats along that trail are varied, I've been to m any natural areas in my life time and I had enjoy seeing plants and animals on this trail that I have seen else where such as (she listed 3 different plants could not understand), painted turtles, sandhill cranes and great blue herons just to name a few. But I have been delighted to see things that I have never seen things before in my life. I saw a lesser purple finch orchid, landing turtles, yellow throats...never saw them before and a barn owl caring a snake of all things. I'm concerned that the noise from the ATVs will scare wildlife from the area and that less...some of the less common plants that grow along the edge of the trail will be destroyed, that those things will destroy my enjoyment of the trail. I'm afraid that ATVs will leave that trail...after all they are all terrain vehicles. And that will destroy habitats and spread invasive species with some of those mentioned and although it has been mentioned that they pay for people to watch the trail, how do we have a

guarantee that there is going to be somebody there to make sure that they stay on the trail. Finally, umm this area of the trail that I am talking about that I like to walk suffers from flooding. When flooding occurs, there is some damage to the trail and some fine gravel was put on there...I have been walking that trail when a bike ride came along and got to that and had to make a sudden stop because he couldn't control his bike. Would an ATV that was following be able to stop in time, to prevent from hitting that person or to prevent hitting walkers, those are some of my concerns.

Zachery Barnes; Thank you for having me, I live in Viola, WI and work here in Richland Center. My work is with the DOT a grant called share and be aware, this is a grant (rumbling of papers can hear). The education is about reducing pedestrian and bicycle fatalities on the roads in WI. This year has been a tremendously hard year for pedestrians...we are at also double rate of our 10-year average of people like our kids, like our grand parents that are dying on our roads in Wisconsin, so we try to do education for not just people just driving cars but also to those walking, biking, driving UTVs/ATVs umm, all the people on WI roads are important of course. So what IS MY WORK HERE IN Richland Center, recently we have community partners start bringing elders out on the trail, so there is a bike taxi that will go out and bring out 1 or 2 elders that will go less than 10 miles an hour umm, as I think it is talked about, there is laws in the state of Wisconsin to let people know that when they get to within 100 feet of somebody the ATV/UTVs are supposed to by law slow down to 10 miles an hour, that can become a large difference from what we are use to, so I ask everybody that when we are driving ATVs/UTVs we remember this law, we feel that reminder that we have more than enough pedestrian fatalities this year and every year. The DOT is committed to this idea called vision zero, it started in other parts of the world and is luckily come here to Wisconsin, because the vision is that we have zero deaths on our roads, on our trails, of people walking, biking. People ask us why our grant doesn't educate people driving cars and how to avoid killing the thousands of people that die in Wisconsin driving cars... well vulnerable users, this idea you may have heard, vulnerable users are people walking biking contributing to the health of their families, they are active umm, they are not driving vehicles that are going quite as fast. They are doing an activity that we all know is valuable for our selves and for our neighbors and so vision zero here in Wisconsin focus' in on that one area we can do first, that one area that umm isn't quite as high as the thousands of people that die in motor vehicle crashes so umm I'm here again to present the data and remind folks of this commitment in our State of Wisconsin called vision zero. I ask that if you have questions about safety in your community, so people can feel safe walking and biking, please approach the DOT request information about share and beware, I do have information here and can continue to share it but also remember that there are elders out in the community. Folks that can't ride bikes by themselves or necessarily walk by themselves, but they are on the pine a little bit less now that it is cold. but every day and so umm I really appreciate the work everyone is doing and thank you so much for making it safe for everybody.

Colleen Manning; I am nervous, I grew up here in Richland County and I grew up snowmobiling around Richland County and the state of Wisconsin with my dad with some of you might know. Norman Hildesheim, umm I would really like to have an open mind on this subject. But it is difficult for these reasons; as the one who walks on the trail because it is a quiet place where our family can enjoy nature, it's difficult to imagine what it would be like if ATVs and UTVs were also using it. As apparent whose older children like to bike on the trail it is difficult how the trail would be kept smooth enough with large wheeled vehicles using it. One web site for a trail that is promoted as multi uses, specifically states bicyclists should be aware that the trail is heavily used by motorized vehicles, and some surface portions of the trail are not bicycle friendly. Then they are given information of nearby bike only trails. Will here in Richland County we don't have very many bikes only trails that we can turn to if this one is going to be multi use. It is difficult to imagine that safety and common-sense recommendations will be followed on an isolated trail, the DNR in a pamphlet titled Wisconsin trail etiquette and safety guidelines states that motorized vehicles should slow down to 10 miles per hour within 100 feet of a non-motorized user and within 150 feet of a dwelling. It also states to avoid riding after heavy rain and not to spin wheels which leads to rutting and mud holes. Under the heading Safety Tips for all users is this one, do not use trails when under the influence of alcohol or drugs. It is difficult to imagine who would enforce these safety rules. There are not many public hiking and biking trails in our county, I am opposed to having ATV/UTV trails in our county. I am sorry I said that wrong. I am NOT opposed to having ATV/UTV trails in our county, but it is difficult to imagine that adding these vehicles to this trail will not push hikers, bikers and

nature lovers away, my appeal to the park commission is to keep this trail for the hikers, bikers and the snowmobilers. Thank you.

Eric Seimendel; Good evening my name is Eric Seimendel and I am the treasury for the Dayton Ridge Runners ATV/UTV snowmobiles club, I am in favor of adding ATV & UTV usage on the pine river trail. The reasons I feel it is beneficial to open the trail. 1. There would be up to \$700.00 a mile for maintenance for growing, brushing adding screenings, signage and other items that would improve the trail for everyone to use. There are grants available for some of the power sport manufactures for making improvement on the trail. Things like improved parking rest areas, shelters, toilets, signage just to name a few. In a recent survey by the UW River Falls on the Jackson County ATV trail users the average age is 45 to 54 years old, 91 percent of the users were there from other areas other than Jackson County. 81% of users are return users on the trail. 60% of the users stay over night and of the people that stay over night 44% of them stay at hotels/motels and 42% stay at campgrounds. The remaining people stay with relatives or family members. The average respondent that stayed over night spent \$350 to \$427 during their stay. In a recent study done by the UW Madison on the Cheese County Trail in southern Wisconsin, the average age of users is in their mid-40's. Day trips count for 75% of the users that are using the trail and they spend an average of \$175 to \$220 per visit. Over 75% of those of visitors use the trail on weekends & holidays. I've heard numerous people tonight and on social media talking about how we are going to handle speed limits, safety and all other concerns and us as a club will address these issues if this goes any further than these public hearings. WE welcome anybody in this room or anybody in the public to attend any of our meeting to address these issues, we want this trail to be used by everybody. Umm, we have over 130 members in our club and we spent over 300-man hours between our club and the Richland County Snowmobile Alliance club to put in 5 bridges this fall for everybody to use So anyway I am in favor of Allowing ATV/UTV use, thanks.

Greg Vetesnik; Hello everyone, co-owners of Vetesnik Power Sports, my staff of 40 employees from the com unity administer 3000 transactions a month, that 100 customers per day. The demographic of those customers reaches out to beyond a 200-mile radius, my question to everyone here is, what else can we do with them when we get them here and how do we keep them here? Because while they are here they may need gas, they maybe hungry, they may drive downtown to see something in one of the downtown stores or see a car in one of the local car dealers lot or want to spend the night. Then when that happens the businesses can support the local employees that do all the things that I just mentioned along with paying taxes and help fund our city government. One of the ways to help achieve this would be to open that Pine River Recreational Trail to multi use just like the Cheese Country Trail. The past summer my family and I had an opportunity to visit the Cheese Country Recreation Trail that runs from Mineral Point to Monroe, during my visit we met hikers, bicyclers and horse back riders, horse back riders has not been talked about yet tonight. There is a 30-mph speed limit and when we met these users ...or when we met users other than ATV riders we had to slow down to 10 mph we also had to slow down to 10 mph when traveling thru any town. We also met volunteer trail patrolmen monitoring the safety and compliance of all trail users as well. Every aspect of the day was enjoyable, and all the trail users got along great. When riding through Darlington we observed s city owned camp ground full of campers, too my understanding that campground is full every single weekend. May of the businesses had their parking lots full of trail users. I spoke with one of the restaurant owners, he quoted 75% of my business is from the trail users. He purchased the business 13 years ago and said he won't be able to stay in business if it wasn't for the trail. He also said that the hardware store relocated closer to the trail. So here are some additional reasons why we should change the Pine River Recreational Trail to a multi-use trail. As some of the people have mentioned and I apologize ...there is \$700 per mile available from the DNR to maintain the trail, that is \$9,100 for that section of trail plus club money from all the club members. A large organized group of current club members willing to volunteer their time to do the work necessary to enhance the trail conditions for all recreational users alike, this trail would be greatly improved, and no tax payer money would be needed to complete the necessary work, also mentioned that is several \$100,000 available for local law enforcement agencies if they choose to patrol the trail system along with our help at Vetesnik Power Sports. There is also the trail ambassador program that WATVA that also got mentioned, administers of state funding and the purpose of that is for training of local clubs how to patrol the trail system for safety and compliance. Currently there are members of our local club willing to take the class. And the

last thing that I have is the economic benefit that this will create. I did have a hand out that sums up some of this stuff. I will briefly step through it, in 2012 there was a 72-page economic study of the Cheese Country Recreational Trail in Mineral Point performed by the UW Extension office in Green County by the UW of Madison. On average, an individual non-local trail user spent \$175 to \$220, that figure has come up a couple of times per trip... now that is a non-local user. Ok now that infuses 13 million dollars into the local economy that supported 190 local jobs the total local and non-local users exceed 15 million. The jobs that it created had an average compensation of \$28,000 and again there is a hand out that kind of sums this up. So, in closing, let's use the current resources that we must promote and encourage tourism to our community and change this trail to multi use. Thank you.

Russell Ihm; hi, in a couple weeks I will turn 40 and a couple months ago my wife asked me what I would I like for my Birthday, I said a range, she said sure why not. Some guys go thru a mid-life crisis that say well I'm going to get a corvette or anything I want you to know, so I said I'm going to get a ranger. Well I didn't get a range or a razor, you know one of those fast ones, I got a 6 passenger cause me and my wife got 4 boys, 9.7.5 & 3. I'm not going to tear up this trail, I'm not going to run anybody off the road, I want to take my kids out on this trail, I want to enjoy the trail with you guys, I'm not going to hurt anything or run any deer or kill any animals, you know...I'm a young person, I don't know, I just want to enjoy the trail like everybody else and that is about it.

Tim Culver; Thanks, I want much respect to anyone that got up and spoke, because you got a chance to a lot of people and I hate what I got to say (audience laughed) right. So, in do work in the power sports industry, I travel around to power sports dealers, I do visit Vetesnik's every two weeks. I go to 50 different dealers so I go to all the dealer son the Cheese Country trail, I go to a lot of dealers that are along the military ridge um .then I travel (half my area is in Iowa) so there is a lot of trails open over there, so I get to see a lot of what is going on with trails, I'm a member of the snowmobile club here and ahh, I'll say (russing of papers missed part of what Tim said) if we could work this good and get this many people working on the trail. So much respect to everyone was been maintaining the trails too. The big conflict of course is what bicyclers hate the ATV's potentially coming in, think there is going to be dust and firearms discharged and drunken people everywhere, well its just not the case. And there is a lot of um, I hike a lot, I bicycle a lot, I mountain bike, Don I hope you don't hate me, so I hate all the misconceptions about bicyclist too, so on the military ridge a lot of those businesses are hard on bicyclists. Now they are complaining that they leave garbage and um all of us bicyclists know that, that is not necessarily the case. You always have some bad apples but, um my favorite saying of this whole things is "united we trail and divided we fail". So, everything that I see where this is just bicyclist, this is just ATVs, this is just motorcycles, those clubs, those areas, those recreations, that fails. When I bicycle I love the quiet, I love the peacefulness, um, I don't like briars all over either and I don't like puddles all over and I like a maintained trail. So, I have a lot of respect for the bicyclist, I have a lot the ahh hikers and anyone walking their dog anything like that, but the fact is. We gotta learn to work together. So, any of you that got concerns we've heard a lot of stuff where these laws where it is going to be monitored um, and all of you can be a part of any of these clubs to that help work and maintain the trail and you can be heard every month, every week and... if there are any concerns, there isn't exactly permanent, if there is a problem are something spirals out of control, you will able to change it. Um, you will be able to find an abuser, um.. with snowmobilers we always have a bad apple. Goes off the trail or something, trails aren't open yet and they go out. It is almost self-policing. You get ahold of another snowmobiler another ATV/UTV operator, another bicyclist and say this happened. And it is amazing, it is like FBI, they all want to protect to right they must use that trail. So, I certainly respect everyone's concerns, and ya as a hiker, as a bicyclist, as a ATVer, I loved to see where all of us get along so, I wrote down the things that I wanted to get mentioned, self-policing and it seems that everyone gets along on road ways. We got cars, semis um... but everyone knows to respect the bicyclist, to slow down and pull over. Everyone knows to stop when a walker goes across the street. So, it is just human nature there, umm, if you are in a motorized vehicle and you someone not, umm you pause and give them the right of way so the same thing, I know if Greg mentioned horses, umm... I've been a lot of trails where you are mountain biking along with people on horseback, it is obvious when you see a I' horse, the horse may get giddy (not everyone may know that), you move off the trail and let them go pass. Um.. I've been on ATV trails where there are mountain bikes, I've been both on the mountain bike and the ATV before, I kind of know

both sides of it. Um...I think human nature would kind of take over, and people would realize who you yield for and who you respect, so I hope I didn't make too many people mad at me. Thanks for your time.

That is, it for the sign ups, are there anyone else that would like to come up and share their comments with the public and with the commission.

Jim Schuck, I've been 4 wheeling now for 15 -20 years, I've run the cheese trails I've run the trails up to Black River Falls, I've been all over on ATVs and it is all common courtesy, have respect for one and they will treat you right back. I think the opening of these trails will help the economy a whole bunch. I live in Boscobel we don't have nothin' so I think that now it would really help, that is all a have.

Paul Perkins; I am in favor of the UTV/ATV trail for multiple reasons, um... I know you brought up the point of your family, um ... I do have a razor, I have a ranger, um ... I have road bicycles um ... I've horseback on Black River Falls, um the cheese country trail me and my wife usually go a couple times a year. One of the things I would like to see um we had the guy from the DOT talk about the elderly, my dad is 80 years old sitting in the room with me and um... I know that one of the things he likes is, I will put him in the ranger or the razor, I am a member of the Dayton Ridge Runners, I'm the vice president. Um, we'll put the signs in and we will pull the signs out and anytime I ask he is willing to go. I think that there is a little bit of bonding going on between us, he enjoys going and I enjoy taking him. Everyone is talking about the habitat, I was one of the workers that worked on the bridges. I helped every day down there. The one day that we were building a bridge, Eric can attest to this, we were sitting there watching the deer literally come across the trail and we all were standing there watching this deer, while we were running screw guns. Hammering, um ya know the world is for everybody to see and nature is there we just gotta open our eyes and see whether you are hiking, biking, UTVing, or whatever, we all should be able to enjoy it. That's all thank you.

Craig Walthers; I do represent a large manufacture in the power sports industry and have been for the past 40 years. Will also represent a quite a bit of performance manufactures and we never UTV'ed until a couple of years ago. I'm part of Harley and it's a comprador thing, it brings community's together, I went on a trail ride with a bunch of people last year, we don't sell UTVs I didn't know anything about it and a we have a lot of kids and grandkids and I understand bicycles and I understand people wanting to nature walk and I have looked at the trails here and they are very close to the highway and one time I assume Richland Center had dirt highways in here and then they progressed to automotive needs for people to get and go more people to take trips to Madison to the zoo and places like that well now we have paved roads. The trail noise level wise um from a performance stand point we did look at UTVs as a performance market and after riding last year up on way north trails um 30 mph is tops it is well policed, I didn't see any incidence we actual killed our performance line, there is no need, um most of the modern UTVs/ATVs whatever are emission controlled we are very concerned about emission controls and the pollution that they do spread and the noise um.. I've looked at these manufactures and stuff that create performance levels that are very acceptable to what we are doing now, it's just absolutely no market for us to go into the performance division of this, so from that stand point what the manufacturer sells today is a very safe and reliable and quite piece of machinery. Um ... I do understand the bicyclist concern and everybody to get along with but the 2 or 3 trail rides we did go on a family there was probably 20 of us and I didn't see any incidences, I didn't see any alcohol abuse and in fact I was so excited when I got back ... being Harley Davidson and being part of wanting to be a community type or belonging to a group or something to do with my family ... aaa... we bought a 4 seater and I take our grandkids on it, and they love it and its not the type of abusive thing that I see, so we are very much in to it now, we would like to do more but we really can't, I mean we have to travel 200 miles just to ride, and then you know kids now a days, I have been in and out of Madison I don't know how many times and I never see that trail really being used. Then we must get back to the funding, the trail is maybe in some disrepair, there is no money, the county has no money. So how are you going to bring revenue in? You talk about the businesses being objective to the trail, I can't see why. I've been to towns and they have told me they were about dried up and then with all the riders and travel the businesses are all rejuvenated. I'm pretty sure they can get along on the same thing and that is our only perspective on this whole thing. I would love to buy another UTV and be able to ride the trail with my kids and my grandkids and give them something to do.

Bicycles, I can't even ride my kids around in downtown Richland Center. They have a better chance to get hit by a car down there than they do riding a trail with a UTV. Cuz the UTV's are going to be policed, I go down to curves and stuff in Richland Center I gotta be watching my kids all the time aah, there a car a stuff that pull out in front of you it's no different car people I don't care if you're a boy riding motorcycles bicycles anything it is all a person on it. It doesn't matter what they are riding it is how they reach and how they treat it. That's pretty much the bottom line, it's a revenue thing everybody here has jobs we all need revenue. We like to see this town prosper we like to see our kids have something to prosper besides sitting in front of the tv watching video games. What if there is another way, it's just kids aren't into anything motorized, they have no passion for anything for anything, they like to do nothing, they don't ride bicycles hardly their just you know...it just doesn't happen a lot. At the lake you know, we take them they ride around the camp grounds and that stuff, but they don't ride them around town, you can't turn your kids loose in downtown Richland, its dangerous. The cars you know I would rather...UTVs slow down there 900 lbs., I would rather have a confrontation with that then a 3500-lb. car and that is just the bottom line, so yay I see this as a revenue maker, not only from the businesses but from a family stand point, comradery that is what community is, its bringing things together. Coming from Harley we know this we try to track in markets and noise is a big concern and so is pollution and those things need to be addressed and they will be addressed. And the self-policing, I see that on the trails and I rode them. People get out of hand, people around them get hard on them, nobody wants to lose it.

Steve made final call, anyone else want to speak

Todd Coppennoll; Resident of Richland Center and I am an employee of Vetesnik Power Sports, I an in sales out there so some of my lines are self-evident. Before I continue I want to thank everyone her for allowing this whole thing and commend the civility from everyone here. My point here, we have heard a lot of economic and we have heard a lot of about can people get along on the trail and I wanted to say publicly that it is being done in a lot of other towns, Darlington and Monroe and so on and so on. It is happening, you've heard people speak up here about having been on a trail with ATVs and hikers and they are doing it. ATV's and horseback riders and they are doing it. ATV' & bicyclers are doing it. Everybody is getting along obeying the law and having a good time. Why flatly reject the notion that they can do that but some how we can't do that? You are insulting your selves, Richland Center and Richland County can do it if they can do it, we should do it, we should enhance the opportunities here and this is a simple way to do that, so thank you all for being and for my chance and I don't see a reason no to do it.

Amy Bender; and ah, I do want to thank ah the snowmobilers, they do a wonderful job with the trails um, but um I know that this last year and one of the things with the trail its um getting at the road bed, it is getting pretty soft anymore and when it comes to summer time it's gotten that we can't really rid it with bikes um, you know, that one of the things that someone brought up is that they aren't seeing bikes. People using it with our bikes, well the reason why we aren't using it with our bikes is that it has gotten too soft. Most of the time we can't use it with our bikes, you know it its getting ruttey and everything, too soft for us you know its tough to ride it. Um also there is farm machinery and other things that have ruttied it up, so we aren't riding it. You know because of that um, the road bed is just getting' getting to rough for us to ride. Um, we tried many times to ride um this summer um, and haven't been able too, so if that um, ...sorry we haven't been able to like we should have but that is an issue there. Um, so and um, I guess another thing um, I guess I would like to say is how many trails do we have in the county that bikes can use I the county...that are dedicated for bike trails only. Only one, there is only one that we can use that's it, you know that is the only one we have in the county. So, you take that away and essentially that is what is going to happen you know, that that away as that's it. Um, it is the only trail that you can take your family on, where you going to take your family on, you know if you have mother and father and their 4 kids, if you want to go riding that's the only trail you can go on. Let me tell ya, you aren't going to take your kids on a ride side and go biking with them. Let me tell ya, when I go riding on the roadsides arounds here it cannot .. ya know its not always fun. I'm like a Christmas tree out there, I have a vest a lighted blinking vest I have a tail light. I have a head light and I still almost get hit. I get forced off the road, let me tell ya, going 20-25 mph on a narrow tire getting forced off the road because somebody is passing you by this close is no fun going in the ditch. That is no fun, when you are going 20 mph. So, it is nice to have trails to be able to take your kids on. It isn't for biker for a road biker, it isn't if you get hit, its when you get hit.

I know at some time I'm going to get hit by a vehicle. Its just a matter of time. So, it is nice to have trails, to be able to have to take the family on. So, I understand that ATVs would like to use this trail you know. I appreciate that, just leave us at least one safe place to ride. You know that is all I ask, just leave us one safe trail to ride, so thank you.

Steve asked if there were any others that wish to speak.

Don Wedor from Lone Rock; part of the Lower Wisconsin River Runners ATV club, I wasn't going to speak until the last member said some stuff, so it kind of got to me, ah I have walked the trail I have biked the trail from Lone Rock I have run it the whole way I have a ... many tens of thousands of dollars at Vetesniks, I enjoy the trails in all of the seasons ah and if the people are walking or riding a bike because the trail is soft, well I don't see any bike clubs or walking clubs getting together buying everything and fixing it. Sounds like the snowmobile trail people are fixing everything. So, I mean nothing against the walkers, like I said, I enjoy it too. Ya it is soft, I ride my own bike, it took everything out of me riding on that trail, if we can get some machinery out there and get the trails cleaned up share the trails obviously I mean that is the whole goal and its like it s been said try it if it doesn't work shut us down. I mean that is just how it is, give us a shot at least, ah so I guess that is all I've got to say. Have a trial run and if the trail gets fixed all the better for you guys. Thanks for letting us try.

Steve asked if there were any other comments, he stated that he has asked a couple of times that if you want to write your comments down for against or give us some insight in what to do. Please write them down on an index card and leave them in the basket before you leave.

Garett Vetesnik everybody has pretty much covered everything um, the one thing that I think I've heard for any of you that haven't read the social media stuff the trail proposed is from County O which is Wal Mart to Lone Rock so that leaves an asphalt trail from County O the other way all the way to North Park, so there is a bike trail that can be used by bikers and hikes available that there will be no UTVs on now. So, I just wanted to clarify that for everybody in the room. Um and I of course for the ATV use. Thank you.

Steve asked if there were any others that wanted to speak. Hearing none, Chairman Bellman thanked everyone for coming, he had one quick question for a show of hands for those who were at this public hearing would be attending next week Wednesday. So, with that many hands up then we will work very hard to get it in the Copper Top theatre where you all will have seating we work on that part of it. And by the way just to know that you don't have to attended tonight just to come next week. You can be here next week and a, talk with your friends an if they want to present something that is why we are having 2 consecutive weeks for testimony. Cathy gave her office address for those to send in any signed comments.

Steve mentioned that the deadline for written responses is December 15th. 2017, so we would like to gather all the information, we have all of tonight's information on tape.

Motion made by Gary Peters to adjourn the public hearing, second made by Kerry Severson. Steve asked one more time if there are any other comment anyone else want to speak, seeing no hands. Motion carried.

Public Hearing ended at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Bellman^{tbl}

Bob Bellman
Parks Commission Chairman