

Richland County Parks Commission
December 13th, 2017
Public Hearing Minutes

The December 13th, 2017 public hearing was called to order by Chairman Bob Bellman at 7:00 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.

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

Chairman Bellman turned the public hearing over to Steve Kohlstedt as the moderator.

Steve informed those in attendance the reason for tonight's hearing is to gather information regarding a change in use on the Pine River Recreational Trail, the trail runs from County Hwy O to Lone Rock this is the only section of trail that the County has any responsibility for it is a recreational trail; now the reason for having this public hearing is because the grant money in 1990 was used to established this trail designates 3 uses; Hiking, Biking and snowmobiling; And so to have any kind of change what it amounts to we have to have a public hearing; there is a process of request for change as Bob indicated that goes to the department of transportation State Department of Transportation and then Federal Department of Transportation before any change actually occurs. And so the Richland County Parks Commission who has principal responsibility in this matter host these particular hearings, as Bob indicated we really want people to share their particular feeling related to ATV/UTV use on the trail. Again it is a change in use, alright; we also want people to listen, this is really what this public hearing is really about is listening, it is about I have a chance to rebut...I'm going to call someone some names...everybody has a passion in this room. Alright and so listen because that is where we are going to gain the most .. we as a parks commission are going to listen to the people who want to speak and from that we have the responsibility to make some decisions after that. But we want people to share with us, that is why we certain people to write their names down if they want to speak, they will be given 5 minutes no more than 5 minutes. We started at 7 o'clock tonight and we will close at 9, so we put actual time limits on it so in is not something that drags for every. We really want this thing to be crisp go forward, go straight forward but do it quickly, now if there is time at the end and some people want to speak maybe they didn't sign up we will actual ask for a call of hands at the end, just like we did at the last public hearing, and then some people come up and share their opinions after they have listened to what came out. That is going to be an opportunity, if you are shy like I am, really really shy and just want to write down your particular observations your feelings your concerns and you want to share it with our particular commission you have opportunities, one of them is tonight, just write it down and give them to Cathy place it in the basket doesn't matter either place but sign it, it is really important to sign it because we want people to indicate their feelings and the only way we are going to know that is if you sign it ok, the other thing is that is has been publicized that you can send a letter to Cathy's office and we are encouraging that to send a letter ... by sending a letter you are making the effort to write down your thoughts rather than fly a note here and there we really like you to make the effort to send it to Cathy's office. Steve gave the address. So send her a letter, we would like to have them in before the weekend. So after you've been to this meeting and listen to some people speak and you have some thoughts and you want to share them with us send that letter, so with that again we are dealing with an additional use on the bike trail, the3 three major uses are hiking, biking and snowmobiling we talking about a 13 mile section of trail that gets from Wal Mart to Lone Rock. And we are talking about a start of a process, because the process gets pretty lengthy if we go ahead after these public hearings its not just something that's assured it will be right here that type of thing it is the start of a process; so with that we are going to start the public hearing tonight and Bob the first person to come up and speak is.

Robert Birch; Robert is not here tonight.

Tom Johnson; Good evening, my name is Tom Johnson, I am a retired federal corrections officer, I own a small business called One Mark Trophy and I am also the secretary of the Wisconsin Riverrunners ATV club; I don't believe there is any reason why the Pine River Recreation Trail can't be a multi-use trail. I think we might be surprised on how well we can share the trail, there is always room for the people to get to the peace and quiet they deserve; please keep in mind that ATV enthusiasts have a lot to lose and because of that we work very hard to keep our privileges the main (could not hear what he said next as someone was ripping paper), I'm the nervous guy that he was talking about. We maintain trails, educate new riders and are overall good stewards of the land. The majority of people that have ATVs are also bikers and hikers. We are out there to explore and enjoy being outside just like everyone else; what the Wisconsin Riverrunners on the South end and the Dayton Ridger Runners Snowmobile & ATV club on the North there would be no better multi use trail in Wisconsin that is better protected and enjoyed by all. Last there was a concern about the plants that grow along the trail, we are concerned, spraying herbicide on the trail to keep the grass from growing 2 times a year will cause more damage thru run off and wind drift than ATVs and UTVs, trail maintenance is the key. It was also mentioned last week that people can't ride, walk or bike on the trail because it is too soft. Those who have gravel driveways know all too well that the seasons do their ... he lose train of thought. You know your driveway. You know its cold it heaves it is going to happen to this trail..ok... Um, the clubs will open and close the trails to motorized riders when appropriate, the Dayton Ridge Runner Snowmobile Club and ATV Club know all too well how to keep a trail condition optimal as they manage the trail throughout the winter. Trail management is everything, the county needs the clubs help, I'm sorry to say every sport has its bad eggs, walker have it bikers do as well, but I do know that there is no other sport that works to police itself as much as ATV & UTV users. Most riders are members of clubs where additional rules are added to the rules that are already enforced by the DNR; club members volunteer their time, they maintain the trails, pick up trash and remove dead trees. They will do everything necessary to keep the trails open and enjoyable for everyone. I have to say, not everyone has the knees to walk 14 miles, and not everyone has a rear-end to straddle a bike seat. I not just talking about older people... but shouldn't the seniors have the right to enjoy the public one too. The fact that some seniors can't hike or ride a bike should not keep them from outdoor recreation experiences that those who are physically fit to enjoy. This is why the use of ATVs/UTVs have grown so much in the last few years. Anyone who has driven past Vetesniks will notice the changes of ATVs out front to UTVs should be able to see this. Times are changing, people are realizing this is an enjoyable way of getting out of the house and enjoying the outdoors. Older citizens are of the most respected out on the trail, don't demonize them because of the mode they use to get outdoors. I'll be 60 next month, so I will include myself as one of these older people... and I am looking forward to the future and yes the future will definitely (tongue tied) look brighter if everyone could use that trail, that trail could be for everyone., thankyou.

Chris Gerber; I am a sales manager at Vetesnik Power Sports, but tonight I want to thank you whether you are for this or against this for coming. This is truly one of those passions that I live for... umm, I really breathe for this my son has been involved since he was 4 and now I have kids that are 17, 20, 23 and 26, and this one activity that we truly enjoy doing as a family. So I handed in a pack of picture in tonight off our experiences on the cheese trail. And it is absolutely one of those most fun events that you can do and it is also one of those events that I spent \$100 & \$120 a trip on and that is just to fill the ATVs and the 4 kids on the seats of those ATVs as well. So... it doesn't include the gas in my truck or the amount of getting those vehicles there. So when I look around, Richland County needs something to draw here. we live in one of the most scenery here that you can ask to live in, and if you want to enjoy it, you can do it on a snowmobile but as you guys know we haven't been able to be blessed with much of that and we are hoping that changes as well. But this definitely would help with drawing that clientele here along with that hopefully with that a few restaurants in town and maybe also ... it is surprising we only have one grocery store in town... it is things like that ... that we need to have in order to get people here...so again I truly want to know if you want to think about what this town needs or this county needs, yes it is only 13 miles but it expands to a whole lot more than that, I share the trail at cheese trail with bikers, hikers i have yet to have anybody mad at me or upset, we stop we talk, we see each other in other towns as well, sharing it with golf cart whatever it may be and if you want to at some point truly look me up I would love to take you, my father and my step mother are both in their 70s and they love to ride with us as well, they will not drive one but they will ride and it is about memories. If you have ever heard me on the radio before... it is about family memories is what it is about. And that is the best part of it, as a son you

know that is what the driving force was, I had a stroke in July and that was what was my driving force was in July, to be able to get back on an ATV and to be able to enjoy it. Two wheel life and those kind of things probably are not likely for me as I recover but, I can get on an ATV I can get on a UTV umm... at the cheese trail I have had the opportunity to see bald eagles, I've seen white tail deer, I have pictures of that there as well, machines are not going to make that scarce, cars don't do it ... ATV's/UTV's won't either. But I truly want everyone to really look at what we can bring to this county and help with making it better. Thank you.

Erik Siemandel; I'd like to welcome everyone here tonight, my name is Eric Siemandel and I am the treasurer of the Dayton Ridge Runners Snowmobile, ATV & UTV Club. I got up here last week and I spoke and listened to everybody's comments and concerns about speed, safety, maintenance on the trail and wildlife and all kinds of issues. I just want to assure everybody that we will address these issues.. umm.. we have a committee within our club that if this does go farther than these public hearing, we have this paperwork that we gotta do. And I don't visualize this thing happening over night, this process could take a year, year and half, 2 years to be honest with you. We have research to do, we have studies to do, we have paperwork to fill out and submit and this is all going to take time. But I would welcome anybody in this room in this or in this community that wants to be a part of this whole process to come and join us, we are willing to sit down and work out all of these issues, umm... there will be hours of use on this trail from basically morning to dark. Umm... there will be speed limits on this trail and there will be maintenance that has to be done on this trail. But even if we do go through this whole big process, there is maintenance that needs to be done before we can even consider sending an ATV or a UTV down the trail. I take care of this section of trail through the snowmobile alliance. I mark it brush it do a bunch of work on it umm... there is a section down there that for the last ten years have been nothing but mud. I go down there in the fall and mark that trail and there is a section of trail that I usually have to put my truck into 4-wheel drive just to get down through there umm... in other words I would be spinning, so you know there is a lot of work that has to be done on this whole trail to get this whole process done. And I welcome any bikers I welcome any walkers I welcome anybody to come to our meetings, we meet the first Thursday of the month umm... we rotate our meetings around so we can support all the local business within this town aaa... we post our meeting location on Facebook and aaa... come and attend some of our meetings and aaa be part of this whole process cause I think we can make this whole thing better for everybody in this community aa... clear throat I can't stand up here tonight and say you know we are going to bring 15 million dollars to this community cause I cannot honestly say that, I know there are studies out there on the Jackson County trail and the Cheese County trail that shows that kind of information, but we don't know what kind of use this trail is going to get we don't know what kind of economic development this trail is going to get umm... but.. due the status this trail is in currently and the amount it gets used umm.. I don't see any studies out there telling me now what kind of economic development is created for this city or this county umm... I just think that we need to work together as a group and aaa...try to make it better for Richland County, the citizens of Richland County and any visitors from around the area that come aaa... use this trail and enjoy it and anyway that is pretty much all I've got to say and I thank you and I thank the Parks Commission Board for putting on this whole public hearing business on, thank you. (applause from the crowd)

Robert Sagmoen; Hi any Robert Sagmoen thank you for the pronunciation by the way, I am from Cross Plains WI, aa... I came up here to just to kind of support the ATV club.... I am also a DNR volunteer safety instructor for ATV/UTV and snowmobiles. Aaa (cough) I've been (Cough) for 20 some years, my wife and I been involve in ATV/UTV and snowmobiles for probably 35 years and we enjoy it very much aaa... we also do a lot of camping we have a motor home that we take all around the state aaa... we find that it is a camaraderie of fantastic people to meet out there, so I'm up here to help support it, I do believe that when we break trail it will tie in with other areas ya know west and south and east of us aaa...we at Cross Plains have formed a club called Cross Plains Area Riders and we are in the process in Dane County trying to get more trails through that area also. We understand it is a process so, I congratulations to the club to aaa, keep working on this and for Richland County to go along with this process, It is a fantastic family sport, my wife and I are both in our late 60's aaa... we have grand kids that we take with us they enjoy wildlife to see out there it is great, so thank you for your time and allowing me to come up and speak tonight.

Joe Bradford; Hi everyone I am Joe Bradford; I'm from Spring Green WI; and I'm an Eagle Scout, the reason why I say that is because I enjoy the outdoors umm... got a whole bunch of scribbled notes up here so I will try get some thoughts out to you. Aaa... Wisconsin River Runner Runners ATV Club has been in place for 10 years now and we share that trail with hunters, dog walkers, horseback riders, and monthly or daily we must prove to those land owners that we deserve to recreate on our trail, ATV is a not proven in this state it is a right to do every day and we take it very seriously. There is no committee, it is a simple phone call from a land owner saying my wife and I are upset, you are no longer on the trail and we teach that to our children and all of our club members. Along with that, just some side notes our membership is about 70% over 45 we have very few young members, we are trying to expand that but most of our members are older. We also have about 40% new machines on the trail on the last 3 years. They average between \$8,000 and \$24,000, we are serious about our recreation we all well organized we our serious about maintaining that life and doing what we can to recreate and we like to spend money in the communities. Umm, Richland Center/Richland County has a unique opportunity with this trail, I think it cost about \$22,000 to lay that bed down years and years ago. WE have an opportunity to expand that bed for multi-use, and if you look across the state you will see proven economic plans on how ATVR's can multiuse those trails and give benefit to the community, help maintain that trail and put in the time and energy it takes to make it better for not only ATVs but for everyone that wants to use that trail. Umm, we also have a proven model of cooperation, I also ride that Mineral Point trail quite a bit, umm, unfortunately I would have like to have ridden it with an ATV, but when we first got into this about 6 years ago my wife make it very clear that I could stay home. So, my choice was to buy a 4-seater and take to whole family. And it was the best thing she ever made me do because we take blondie sandwiches lays potato chips and we picnic out on that Mineral Point Trail, and it is some of the best times I have spent with my 15-year-old daughter. And as you can tell I am very passionate about it. Anyway umm... that Mineral Point Tail down there is proven how land owners, neighbors, businesses, ladies pushing strollers, who we yield to and bicyclers can all get together, I'm not saying that there is not going to be some incidents but, we deserve the ride to recreate as well and not be discriminated against. Umm...also last week we rode about of 100 miles of rode routes in Richland County and we shared that with everyone as well and we want to continue to expand it and we are passionate and I don't mean to sound negative but we are passionate about our sport and we are also passionate about making sure we share it and everybody should have the right and if we offend someone then that person needs to have that DNR number written down and call them. We also police ourselves and we expect other to help us do it as well. Thank you.

Bob Hirschy; My name is Bob Hirschy, I am a resident of the town of Orion and the trail goes thru a small portion of the town of Orion, I was on the committee that was instrumental in the establishment of the trail, it is my firm opinion that ATV's and other motorized vehicles are not compatible with the Pine River Recreational Trail and for many reasons. The trail is too narrow to accommodate hikers, bikers and motorized vehicles. Safety is a huge factor in my opposition in my opinion the trail would need to be doubled in width too accommodate all of the uses of the trail. Motorized vehicles severally degrade the trail surface. The tri-county trail wants bicyclist, the trail is not suitable for ordinary bicycles except for perhaps mountain bikes. ATV riders appreciate the occasional mud pit as mentioned in a testimonial written in the tri-county trail user and published by an unnamed organization. Most bicyclist do not appreciate mud pits. Noise continues to be a problem on ATV trails, the Tri-County trail mentions numerous noise complaints and that altered mufflers have been a problem (shuffling of paper)... apparently some ATV operators really like noise and will modify their machine to produce more, this is unfortunate. The Pine River Recreational Trail us also short compared to the Tri-County or Cheese trail system, that trail includes 57 miles, we would only have 13 miles here for ATV's. Our trail would require only 52 minutes to make a round trip. I doubt that this would attract to usage enjoyed by the Tri-County Trail. I doubt that it would be a major ATV destination. I assume that regulations on the trail would be like many other trails that accommodate ATV's. The Tri-County trail is available to ATV's 365 days a year except when there is 4 inches of snow and that when the only time of day that when that trail is closed is from 1 a.m to 5 a.m. ATV's can operates on that trail until 1 o'clock in the morning and resume again at 5, this is according to their regulations on their website. This is especially unfair to folks living in Twin Bluffs and Gotham. With the opening of town roads to ATV's, this now provides a great increase to areas available to ATV's. I attended the last Orion Town board meeting where the use of ATV's on town roads was presented and approved, I expressed no opposition, it seemed like a reasonable move. I'm not categorically opposed to ATV's. I was hoping that this

greater access to ATV recreation would reduce the pressure to open the Pine River Trail to ATV's but obviously the pressure remains. In defense of non-motorized use of the Pine River Recreational Trail it is important to recognize that the non-motorized uses require minimal financial resources, bicycles can be purchased for \$100's that is all you need to enjoy the trail and even less if you hike. That leaves the trail usable even for those who don't have hundreds or thousands of dollars for an ATV. The trail is friendly for people with limited resources, so here is my conclusion – to open the trail to ATV's would eliminate almost all non-motorized recreation on the trail, no hiker and bicyclist wants to compete with motorized recreation. That is why I have never even considered a bike trip on the Tri-County Trail. The noise the roughness of the trail and the dangers are not what I seek. The Pine River Recreational Trail will not be a multipurpose trail, rather it will be a single use trail, it will be multiple use in name only. Just ask the Tri-County Trail is a essentially a single use trail, I would encourage the Richland County Parks Commission to examine closely the other trails that attempt to be multi-purpose.

Pam Puckett; Hello, my name is Pam Puckett my husband Mark and I live in the Muscoda area, I was born and grew up in Richland County and the Richland area, I roamed the halls of this campus for a couple of years. The reason I am here is because last week when use of the ATV's and UTV's , the only thing I could think about was my daughter Markie May Puckett who was severally disabled at birth and um what we could be to make her life happy full of smiles, we were determined to bring her home against all odds and with 24 hour nursing care available, just a little background, she couldn't walk, she couldn't speak she couldn't eat orally but she made up for all of that in spirit. She was a very bright young baby and girl and we had her for 5 1/2 years the reason why I am talking to you is that the community & families have to come together and I am trying to speak from the heart for Markie May because she very much loved the motion ok so motion on her ATV with her Dad as he strapped her as an infant with her oxygen available suction, we had several things to over come however, for her again it was happiness smiles and those are the memories that we have with our daughter. So that being said, not only did we have an ATV and a dirt bike, the reason why we started to realize she wanted to be outside more and again she was very guarded. We had school come to us, she could not go to school umm... was that her brother who was 5 yers older was on his dirt bike racign around, well she told us with her visual ok, she could say yes/no by looking at items she has switches and if anybody has ever been with any handicap person, they have switches that they can hit with their foot, with their hand. Ok, at the time we had a computer. If she looked at something it would blink very smart ok, and I'm not being prodigious. She knew what she was talking about, she could tell you to go to where you wanted to go if she didn't want to do something. She wanted to be on a dirt bike, she could not be on a dirt bike. We had an ATV, my husband was a genius and he had facilitated her with a tumble form chair and with me doing this racing around a couple of acres. It expanded when a neighbor said that we could use a UTV. We didn't have A UTV, so then we where illegally going down some road way and on private property. And I cannot express to you enough that people that people that don't have the abilities of their own to get their feet dirty to kick the dirt because she couldn't without help that this would mean a lot for this community. If you are 2 or 102 and love to get out and get the wind in your face and go from place to place this ATV/UTV would be something of a tremendous community advantage to families that try to do their best with their families ok, my mother-on-law is 92 hops into a UTV today, drives it around perfect. Ya know this is a lot of community...I respect everybody in this room, but you really need to grasp that that is something that would really be...maybe Schmitt Woodland Hills would have members that have aids that would actually be able to come on the trail I am sure that Vetesnik's would facilitate that 100%. So thank you for listening.

Gordon Sebranek; My name is Gordon Sebranek, I live just east of Gotham about 100 yards of the current bike trail, um...we walk the trail, biked the trail snowmobiled the trail and would love nothing more than to use a utility vehicle on that trail, people talk about the condition of the trail, it is soft the gravel that is on there is just being absorbed by the sand base that is under it. Does the county have the funding to upgrade so that it is suitable for bikes like everybody wants, I doubt it, funding has to come from other sources, umm... how much expense does the county have on this trail. Are people aware that this trail is chemically treated potentially 2 times a year to control the weeds on it. The edges of the trail have been mowed 2 times a year and in the past this trail has been groomed and packed by the county. I don't think that has been done this year. Umm.. people are concerned about the noise level, I am pretty sure we are going to hear motorcycles and semis on hwy 14 before we hear the utility vehicles. People are

concerned about the garbage, there is already garbage out there, there are water bottles, plastic cups, aluminum cans . Um... we belong to the Lone Rock ATV club it has about ten to twelve miles to cross private land for that ATV club to be successful it is self-policed. There are trail cameras along that trail that catches every passing individual it is amazing how quick violators are located by the way social media works somebody knows what is going on. Not anybody can hide. As for garbage on the club trail; if somebody drops something the next passing individual will pick it up, it is just part of being responsible. How people can have concerns about ATVs, hikers or bikers being on the trail at the same time? Have you ever had the opportunity to experience the cheese trail or noticed that ATVs very graciously slow down for the hikers and bikers even will stop and chat with them. I think like others have mentioned that everyone is united in this it is an opportunity to improve the quality of the trail for more and more people will use it, it will much less of an expense for the county. Thank you. Applause

Jean Grassman; Good evening, umm any prediction on what my position will be? Ok, I'm Jean Grassman, I was born in Richland Center and I reside in the Eastern part of the county. Umm..., and I want to start out by saying that I am not opposed to ATV's. But I would like to speak in favor of an ATV free Pine River Recreational Trail. Umm, I know the issue is, ya know we are all speaking of this as whether the bike trail should be ATV free but I really don't want to single out ATV's, I really want address this as an issue of motorized vehicles on the trail. And a trail free of motorized vehicles would, several things, let me say for the users, we want a place where children can learn to ride bicycles where toddlers can learn to walk where bicyclist of all ages can ride free of cars. Mixing faster motorized vehicles with slower foot and bicycle traffic makes accidents more likely to happen and more likely to produce injury. Um, what about monitoring the speeds a, you know does the county or the city at the Richland Center police force monitor that um, I've been told that you know there are no resources. Um a trail free of motorized vehicles would be less noisy and you also gotta like noisy vehicles, its part of.. its fun, un but I want to be able to choose while my surroundings are loud. Those who live near the trail won't be able to turn of the noise and neither will those who are walking or bicycling on the trail. A trail free of motorized vehicles promotes community health, communities where people can easily exercise they access to walking or bicycling are healthier, there are a lot of studies out there that show this. This promotes wellbeing, a productivity and reduces the burden on the local health care system which is a win win . A trail free of motorized vehicles helps to preserve delicate environments. Um, and I know that this is you know is contentious but it is true part of the fun of being on an ATV is know tearing up the roadway and if it is unpaved this can result in erosion and run off. And it also makes it unusable for bicyclist and walkers. Um, and I am also concerned that vehicles may occasionally you know leave the trail and damage nearby wetlands and fields. A trail free of motorized vehicles requires less maintenance, motorized vehicles can cause ruts in unpaved trails especially during wet weather. In keeping the trail available to nonmotorized users, the bicyclists and walkers will either be expensive or not done will prevent them from using the trail. We really...we all share this we want Richland County to be an appealing place for people who live here and be able to attract new residents and one thing about this county is that there are jobs here, there are so many places that where you know that you know losing population cause there are no jobs and that's not the situation here. We want to make the town and the county a desirable place to live. And while the opportunity to snowmobile and use ATV's are among the activities that people want to do. In recent years the silent sports. Such as walking, kayaking and bicycling rank high on the list of what people want available when they move to a community. Right now, the Pine River Recreational Trail is the only place where bicyclist and walkers can be free of motorized vehicles. So we don't want to lose this opportunity to create this community asset. And I realize there are few advocates for ATV free trails. We don't have the clubs you know the people advocating for this are an important part of the current community who want to engage in low profile activities, ok so the reality is that we can have a recreational trail for bicyclist and walkers or a trail for motorized vehicles. Unfortunately putting the 2 together isn't going to work. OK thank you for your time and attention.

Demi Price; Hello my name is Demi Price and I am in favor of opening up the Pine River Recreational Trail for ATV/UTV use. I am a relatively new resident of Richland Center having lived here less than five years and a huge positive that allowed me to settle in and call this place home so quickly is the access to the outdoor trails and recreation. As an avid runner bicyclist and outdoor enthusiast I was surprised at the miles and miles of trails with varying degrees of difficulties for not only for biking and running but also snow shoeing, snowmobiling, cross

country skiing and even a frisbee golf course, if some of you are unaware. However, I was surprised to find out that there was no local UTV or ATV trails even with a large dealership right here in town. Over the course of last weeks meeting and tonight's speakers a lot of grate information had been brought up about the potential positives about opening up a portion of the Pine River Trail to UTV and ATV use all of which I whole heartedly agree with but there is just one single point that I myself would like to focus on tonight and that is that Richland Center has an extensive system of non-motorized recreational trails and allowing ATV/UTV use to a portion of one of these trails will not detract from the biking and walking users experience and access, it seems the concerns brought up so far have been about safety, noise levels or the effect this will have on the immediate eco system around the trail which strong counter point again have been made to put those concerns at ease, however, if you are not reassured by the data that has been presented please know that this is the one opportunity at UTV/ATV users will have locally whereas unmotorized users have numerous trail options. Again, I could go off topic to discuss the economic benefits and etc., but I think that the speakers before me have information pretty thoroughly and again I want to stick to that one point I mentioned um., so not including the Pine River Recreational Trail in Richland Center alone there are the Ocooch Mountain Recreational Trails ,the Miner Hill Trails, Wedgerwood Park Trails, Ash Creek Community Forest which is actually over 350 acres, aa.. the UW Richland Wallace trail, the frisbee gold course and my personal favorite is actually the Pine River Walking trails that actually go right along the edge of the Pine River. If you are a user of the Pine River Recreational Trail and any of the trails I just mentioned are unfamiliar to you, I would highly recommend checking out the parks and rec website as they have done an excellent job providing trail maps access information and descriptions of the trails so you know how to prepare for your time in the outdoors. Ad well as the trails themselves are rather meticulously maintained um..., I know a common concern that has come up with the Pine River Recreational Trail is that there are soft spots and I think people have mentioned that they couldn't even use it this past year on their bikes due to it being so soft um... some of the trails that I mentioned previously are at an elevation such that the drainage runs off, they are smoothed, packed, some of them are graveled, the Miner Hill Trail is not graveled but it is not really gravelly, I mean I ride up and down on it with my road bike. Um..., so it is definitely a great option. Um..., information for the UW Richland Wallace trail can be found on the UW Richland Facilities web page. Um..., I am in no way suggesting that nonmotorized users should leave the trail, my only intention tonight was to offer alternatives for those not interest in sharing the road at this time. IF you are truly adamant about not wanting to share the trail with motorized users please consider utilizing these other trails so that everyone can appreciate the natural beauty in the Richland Center area in their own way or whatever mode works best for them. Thank you, applause.

Jan Hirschy; Like the first speaker I count myself as one of the older people aaa, using the trails and I think I've got them bet by a few years, I'm over 60 but I do count myself as young, (could not hear), so with that said I am opposed with changing the Pine River Rails to Trails use and purpose to create a multi-purpose trail to accommodating ATV's and other motorized vehicles to others than snowmobile users in the winter. For me there are 3 reasons that I recommend no change which would allow such vehicles. 1. Richland County is in the process of increasing our variety of tourist desirable options. Townships and counties are now allowed to designate ATV friendly routes for travel on public roads, this is a recent change to make more miles available for power sport enthusiasts Richland County and Orion county have just recently identified and are in the process of signing such roads , more public roads are likely to be added as time allows for more study to respond to the need of ATV and motorized vehicle owners, there are numerous all terrain and multiple use sport trails around southwest Wisconsin as well as popular ATV sites around the state. ATV trails are often filled with ruts and challenging mud holes which provide excitement and challenge to the riders, we have spent time around at a lake in Jackson County and have seen much of the sport out there, it looks like great fun and dirty, these are power sports, meaning power and speed and noise and exhaust, there are not compatible with silent sports such as bicycling, hiking, birding or exercising your dogs on leashes or teaching your children to walk on the trial, silent sports like camping kayaking, bicycling. (Richland Center is now recognized as a bicycling friendly city), hiking, dog exercising, (dog exercising facility has now been created for people who love their dogs outdoors) canoeing, birding, promoting staying healthy and fit, that is something that is really a push in Richland County. 2. The silent sports, which Richland County is really promoting now as with stuff that I have mentioned. In Wisconsin as in other states, much of the environment is being compromised very quickly and extensively by removal of environmental protections. Public spaces are being compromised and opportunities for

populations of the state who engage in silent sports as opposed to power sports are being diminished. Those with ATV's have strong lobbying power and clubs and financial backing to create heavier demands on public trails. Typically, people participate in silent sports for a variety of personal reason, age (doesn't include me) perhaps because such outdoor sports require more personal energy and challenge that power sports which require little or no physical endurance or challenge. It is important that the Rails to Trails program be maintained just as the original purpose and vision for all those bicyclist, hikers, bird watchers, dog walkers whatever. These trails which extend through out all of our states across the country need to be protected and not be given over to the ATV lobby. There is ample evidence that bicycling trails once open to ATV use quickly decline the trail quality and become filled with ruts and mud holes, there are so many quotes about the destruction of trail condition on the cheese country trail (one minute) and others check them out on google, but my personal most the biggest reason for retaining the Pine River Trail for the quiet silent, for the silent sports are the awe factors, we live in a crazy busy, nosey, demanding, adrenaline, generating culture, we seldom have time to be quiet take in nature to reflect or meditate in nature or simply sit quietly in our natural world. We are composting the human mind; more and more studies recognize that the awe factor is extremely important to our psyche our communal connection which each other and our world. I find lots of studies about this. Riding around the bike trail quietly with my friend or in silent I experience often the sense of awe and quiet, how wonderful a sudden glimpse of a spring bird just return to its nesting area, the beauty of a spring flower popping up listening to the sand hill cranes. Here is what all that (time). ok, thank you. Applause

Brenda Brindley; Hi, my name is Brenda Brindley, my husband and I are very active ATV/UTV riders , we like riding because of scenery and animals, but let me tell you places we have ridden, we have ridden mountains in Wyoming, seen the wildlife refuge in Necedah, trail in West Virginia, trail in upper Michigan and Canada and most of the public trail systems in Wisconsin through our adventures. We have seen wildlife, deer, eagles, turtles, turkeys, swans, um...sand hill cranes, elk, moose, bear, snakes, Rabbits to name a few. This is way we have become ATV/UTV safety instructors for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, we talk about how important it is to wear helmets the doctors can fix your um..., from your shoulders down but not from your head up. Wash your vehicle off before riding in other areas to prevent the spreading of invasive species. Trail etiquette- meet bikers, horses, hikers, from opposite direction slow down. Carry out, they do carry in, tread lightly, stay clear of wild animals and avoid disturbing livestock. Stay on designated trails and roads. Safety requirement education at least 12 years of age born on or after January 1st, 1988, we have trained approximately 1,350 students to date. That includes Iowa County, Richland County and Dane County. 2012 we become trail ambassadors for Wisconsin ATV UTV associations , we patrol as volunteers the public trails, we have we have local enforcement numbers in the area of what ever are we are traveling in, DNR numbers to contact if something comes up or there is an emergency we assist other riders if lost we try have maps of the area we are riding, gas locations we have hand outs, trail passes, we even tell then were to purchase. Many ATV/UTV club members are trained (tearing of paper on the recording, unable to clearly hear) with all fo this mentioned about promotes tourism in local communities in our state therefore we are fore the Pine River to be multi use. Applause

Brian Larson; Hello, I am Brian Larson I'm a long time resident of Richland Center life long biker, Rail to Trails bike trails in Wisconsin and the rest of the United States were designed to be a safe relaxing place for families and individuals to ride bikes and enjoy nature. Richland County and the Pine River Trail are a part of this network, the status of a safe place for people to bike and enjoy nature needs to be maintained. Many bikers will not bike on roads for fear of motorized vehicles, but they will ride on trails because it is safe. ATV's have access to plenty other roads through out the county. As I ride bike on these roads I would much rather encounter and ATV then other motorized vehicles. But that is my choice to ride on the roads. I believe that ATV's plenty of other places to rideand the Pine River Trail should remain a non-motorized safe place for biking and hiking. Some applause

Tim Culver; Hi, thanks and much respect to anyone coming up and speaking and sharing their views, aaa. My name is Tim Culver, not affiliated with "Culvers" I don't you to get mad at them or anything um but they are a business that could benefit a lot from a shared use trail or more use on that trail. Umm...I snowmobile, I hike I mountain bike. Aum... but I also ATV, I don't feel I should have to apologize for that. Umm... I travel all over southwest Wisconsin

northeast Iowa for my job, so I usually on the way home I stop and hike, mountain bike, different places, umm... and we all know if that trails is over grown if that trail isn't maintained of there is briers if there is mud if there is bumps, you don't go back. You go back to a different trail, So umm... on Saturday I decided I was going to ride the Pine River Trail, so I heard Eric say he put the truck in 4 wheel drive for a second there are some soft spots that it is not maintained I heard bicyclist say that they could hardly get through with a road bike, well I thought I want to go see that sucker, so umm.. I road 16 miles so I went thru Richland Center also and I have to say that the paved section that won't be used for ATV/UTV that was pretty fun aah... th.. it is a flat straight rail road bed un know so, I can't say I would..., if I had an open mind about it, I wouldn't have come back again to bicycle that trail, there were areas that would have been soft, I road it frozen hard of course, so there was a lot of bumpy spots umm..., you would have to be a really tough road bike rider too want to do that you could have done it I guess, I happen to mountain bike it umm..., and I guess I would like to see the shared use just to increase money and funds to help improve the trail for everybody, aah I road embarrassingly probably over two hours to go 16 miles it was windy and I am not I great shape umm..., I saw 2 people, one was another bicyclist and one was a hunter walking, so umm..., we certainly need some more use and we to improve the trail and of course the funds would help, umm..., we are talking like \$700 a mile, \$9,000 a year to improve the trail, I would love to envision something like the whole thing paved some day , the whole thing wider and some of those funds as we get going, umm..., I could see like a bicycle path that would around the Pine River maybe, that would be something desirable that I could probably come back to but a trail the is not maintained that well umm..., I probably would not want to bicycle it, I would bicycle somewhere else. It would also be awful nice to have more volunteers umm..., I volunteer as much as I can with the snow club, I know it's not as much as they would like, sorry guy. It is unbelievable on the time and effort you do on this trail and other trails so thanks for what you have done with it so far. And I would like to say again kind of what I mentioned last time, united we trail divided we fail, Umm..., I think the trail is in little bit of a failure in the amount of usage right now, it is in decent shape right now...I know there's people that enjoy walking it but, I think we can make it a lot better aaa, sharing it and a getting some of these funds of course. So, umm..., and also I don't know if in ten years I would want to bicycle that sucker um..., I think the way to enjoy it is by way of ATV/UTV... no friends would go with me on my trip if I invited a bunch of people, they would want to go by ATV/UTV or something like that. I could never take my parents on the trail to bicycle or walk that far maybe a mile or something and turn around and go back, so it is a way I feel more people can enjoy the trail, we can get more funds and then maybe some of my friends would come with me next time. And so I think that with ATV use came we certainly have someone now, some UTV's spending a little bit here or going a little bit fast, so we certainly need to work together and just kind of practice tolerance. Please rest assured that person maybe (time). Thanks for your time. Applause

Jamie Walsh; Hi, my name is Jamie Walsh, I own J.J Walsh jewelers here in Richland Center, I am a nature lover, I love animals but I love the quietness of the outdoors. I am in favor of opening the trail to ATVs and UTVs for several reasons. Let me share a little bit of my experience as an ATV rider and a respond to some of the concerns that I've heard. Most of them I understand although I disagree with them. First and main reason I want to make this action happen is to help the elderly or disabled or others with physical disabilities to get out and enjoy our beautiful county. Obviously, I fall into one of these categories. Do you know how hard it is to get a wheelchair down a path of gravel, dirt or sand... it is nearly impossible I can jump on to an ATV and instantly enjoy the same that everyone else enjoys, it saddens me that I pay taxes on multiple properties in this county, I contribute to the area by employing local people with above average jobs. Enjoying my time and money with this community. But currently not give the chance to enjoy public property in a responsible manner. How many other people will now be able to enjoy our wildlife, the elderly get them outdoors share this beautiful county with all of us. The second reason I want to support this action is simply for wholesome individual and family entertainment. Our area does not have all the activities that other communities have. We need new ways for families to have fun together as we struggle with drugs and alcohol in our community. This a wholesome activity to keep kids out of trouble. You've heard the saying "the family that hunts together, breathes together, fishes together stays together" well we can add riding together. The third and final reason that I am in favor of this is financial. With Vetesnik's the finest motor sports business right here the money and potential sales tax generated from local riders. Being able to ride in their own county is substantial, the Richland

County is struggling financially, every sales dollar helps all of us. Keeping business local, shopping local and buying local is one of the best ways we can regenerate our economy. Applause.

Randy Jasper; Aaa. I'm Randy Jasper, my son and I farm south of Boaz so I wanted to address the wildlife thing a little bit. We see deer and turkeys and the first time they go through the combine it is pretty scary the second time they go through they might jump. The third and fourth time you go by they watch you go by, there are not scared after a little bit of time, you know it is the same thing on the road. I hit 5 deer with the last car. Their not scared of noise or vehicles, you know they just eventually get use to it. Umm..., another thing, I use to do a lot of boating and this is similar to boating what we do for rules because on boating if you are a canoer has the right of way a sail boat has the right of way a motor boat has to yield to both of them and I think that is the same thing we have to do here. The bikers and the walkers have the right of way. You know if you come up behind one of them. Until that walker realizes that you are there and they move over and let you go by, you just stay behind them. And that is the way with a boat, you just gotta stop, you can't you can't even if they run across in the water in front of you, you still have to yield the right of way because that is mandator, I think that is the same thin g we need to do here aaa..., as far as the trail only being a few miles, that trail will connect other roads together so it is just about the trail connecting, aaa..., you know, I know money comes into the community like the last speaker said, it makes more tax dollars, and this county needs more tax dollars, we need money aaa..., I'm involved in agriculture and it is really tough, I mean that there is not much money made in agriculture so we ain't going to be paying much taxes so bring in more money would be great, so I think that if the four wheelers are aloud on there it would just help everybody in the county. Thank you. Applause.

Colleen Schroeder; Good evening, my name is Collen Schroeder and I live in Richland Rural County, I was at last weeks session and in hearing Steve say this is a process, some other speaker said that it would not happen over night, it can take a long time. Last week a couple of speakers mentioned in favor of the ATV that let us give it a try if we umm..., if we ruin our privilege you can take it away. My concern is, if it takes a year and half or more to get the privilege, is it taken away as soon as someone violates it or does it take more listening session and all this to remove their privilege once it is violated, that is my concern. Thank you.

Tom Johnson; already spoke, you don't want to hear it again. Thank you.

Harry Pulvermacher; Hi, I am Harry Pulvermacher, uum..., I'm from Lone Rock, I am on the Lone Rock Village Board. Um..., I've been on the Village Board for about 6 years, we had an ATV club come to our village board 10 years ago, umm..., wanting us to open up some roads in town so they could get to their private trail, it has been ten years we, they police themselves um..., if anybody in the town resident they have a problem they call club. They have people they are on it now, umm, we have not no problems with them. So, I am just saying I'm not into the trail, we would support that, we have some business in town um..., we all need the help we can get to keep the businesses going, talk about noise, I have lived in Lone Rock my whole life, I've lived next to the bike trail and the railroad tracks I've heard a train go by early in the morning, I've heard trains go by at night I live right on the bike trail right now and I mow some of it because to weeds get so bad there, but I hardly every on that end of the trail I hardly ever see that many bicyclers or walkers and I live right on the trail I mean I think it needs to be used for everybody, I'm not just saying ATVs, snowmobilers, walkers, bikers, I hope the horses get to get on it, I hope every gets to use it, it needs to be used. That is all I got. Applause.

Ron Alt; just handed in his written comments.

Steve Welte; Not sure if some of you know me, some of you don't, ahhh..., been around here a long time life and recreation. Spent my time in the early years as a motorcycle mechanic before Vetesnik's came, for a while when they were first here, ahh..., I was one of the early era snowmobile dealers in the county, spent 27 years as your county and area archery dealer. Ahh..., I'm 71 years old right now but think of me as 12 because I currently race go-carts all over the nation. So um..., the one thing I want, everybody that wanting ATVs and UTVs on tghese trails and this trail may

only be just a link to bigger things because I know the road that I live on toward Oakwood Orchards was just approved as an ATV route, so so this trail would be just probably a link to a lot of things that could happen, but what a lot of you don't know is in the late 60's and early 70's, as motorcyclist we approved a increase in our motorcycle registration fees for every motorcycle registered into the state of Wisconsin, that money was to go to buying property for off road motorcycle parks. Now 2 sites were selected, none was every purchased. It ended up being in I believe over a million dollars , the money was eventually siphoned off by the DOT and we as motorcyclist have never received anything for it. So, the point I want to make is that if you as ATV owners and UTV owners want to get anything out of this, you have to unite and get together and make it happen, because nobody else is going to make it happen for you, and that is the only thing I got to say. Applause.

Royce Dieter; Hello Royce Dieter secretary of the Dayton Ridge Runners ATV/UTV/Snowmobile club and I am here for the use UTV & ATV on the Pine River Trail because I believe that it will bring tourism and keep local spending in the county. Also the 2 active ATV & UTV clubs in the county can maintain these trails at \$700.00 funding. We will be able to maintain this trail better than it has been in along time with very little expense to the county. I would also like to say that this will be used as a connecting trail it will connect to the Spring Green and Sauk County routes at the County Road JJ at Gotham and it will connect to the Richland County routes at Sawmill Rd. I would like to think that thank the Parks and Rec committee for having these hearings, and that is all I have to say. Applause.

Todd Coppernoll; Tell+ ya what folks, public speaking and vaccinations 2 times I know my name will always be called. So here I am, make no mistake about why I am here wearing my Vetesnik's shirt, I am not hiding anything, I am an employee there, I am also a resident of Richland Center, both parents raised here. Dad's family has been in the county since the 1850's, I am invested. I am a city polis commissioner, this place matters to me. I moved away as a 20-year-old kid right after having a class taught by someone named Bob Hirschy. Went to college at Minnesota state at around 29 I came back last year because I wanted to be here. Umm..., couple things just to educate, in case you don't know, On ATVs & UTVs and what is going on. Now I hear a lot of concern about noise on the trail and that is valid, and you know, especially if you live there that snow mobiles are already there. Don't worry about what this means, but there are 2 kinds of engines on a snowmobile. A 2 stroke and a 4 stroke, and anywhere there is a snowmobile trail, they are both there. Now a 2 stroke is much louder than a 4 stroke. These machines have been legal on that trail since its inception. They are already out there. The most common auu, side by side UTV sold today is the Polaris Ranger and the decibel level produced by a Polaris Ranger is roughly 50% of that is a 2 stroke snowmobile motor. Quieter by 50% than the motorized vehicles already allowed on the trail ok. Now I'm not talking about making it louder, I'm really not ok. Now with youthful kids with the amount of cost, well there use to be a class of ATVs called a sport quad and they were made for racing they had louder exhaust, modified exhaust after market part that you could buy, that market isn't doing so well, so Honda doesn't make them any more, ok. Vetesniks doesn't stock them any more. If you buy one from Vetesniks, you have to special order it and I believe in the last year they have sold one. What has come in its place is the side-by-side, the UTV which we sell 4 of those for every one ATV and the average rider, now I'm 50 years old believe it or not, most of my customers are as least my own age. Almost everybody is over 40 and I can clearly remember in the last season 2 young men purchasing a a machine, the reason that is true more than anything is that these machines tend to cost 15 or 20 or more thousand dollars. It is not a cheap way in, it is not a child's toy. Anyone who want s argue with me, against the merits, the enormous impact of the cheese land trail, I live on 8th st.. and my front door is unlocked. Polaris has chosen the town of Darlington as 1 of 5 national finalist to be named, I believe Ranger land USA, and they chose 5 communities round the country that have done exactly what we are trying to do. To a high rate of success, so they went to Darlington and filmed a great little video showing off the town and the merits of the town in Layette County this is being pushed all over the internet and Darlington is getting tremendous exposer for free from Polaris. What are we waiting for? We have natural beauty most places do not have, we have a power sports dealer that most places do not have. Nobody that I've heard speaking in favor of ATVs on that trail does not want hikers on the trail does not want bicycle on the trail. I am for dog walkers I am for horse back riders I love the fact that on the fourth of July I drove past the old community center lot on Seminary St., I could not believe the amount of Kayakers on the river, I love it. I'm not opposed to silent sports or those who enjoy them. I am opposed to this weird sort of ideal that they needs to be weird segregation. ATV

riders are not inherently dangerous or mean. Some of us even have mothers (laughter). I can back that up, I'm telling you that Barneveld is about to connect to the cheese land trail if you haven't heard that yet. I had a customer come in and tell me that and they are going to use county roads and township roads to do that because they want to be in game. What are we waiting for? Thank you for your time. Applause.

Gary Gutknecht; My name is Gary Gutknecht I am a life longer resident of Richland County, Auu..., first thing I want to do is thank all of the previous speakers, I have learned a lot just by listening and aaah..., the second thing I would like to say is I'm a biker and we use the trail (by we I mean my wife and self, my grandchildren). My only concern is and this has been addressed already, is the safety issue. I guess we worry about a collision and some body getting hurt or killed, if there is a liability issue that sort of thing. And aaa..., that is my main concern. Thank you.

That concludes the people that had signed up.

So if you like to speak come up; and share your views, raise your hand at this time and we will recognize you as we go. We will start out with you Dale and then we will go with you Greg then we will end up with you.

Dale Bender; I am Dale Bender for those of you that may not know me. Um..., I know a little bit about silent sports and I have to admit I had to learn quite a little bit about aaa..., UTVs and ATVs because I didn't know that they were different, but thanks to Brian he got me straightened out a little bit on that last week. I'm speaking tonight in favor of ATVs & UTVs' on the bike trail between Lone Rock and Richland Center and a lot of that is um, not just about the use of the trail but the diversity that brings to our community, I heard both sides tonight, I haven't been here for all of the meetings so I don't know what all was said but I do know that aaa..., if we unite like I have heard some say, and aah I we learn how to work together to build more, the guy that mentioned he would like to see that trail payed all the way, I'm kind of with him, I wouldn't mind that but I don't want to cut out any snowmobilers either so we need to figure that part out too. Un, I think that between the three different groups if we do work together, I think there is a lot of things we can do positively in this community. Just because something didn't work in another community doesn't mean it can't work here. Um, I think we need to give it a chance and if that means we have tighter restrictions on things to start with and if that is were the comfort level is with everybody then that is Ok too, but I think that there is some proving ground for all groups. Um, I've heard a lot about maybe rude UTVer's or snowmobilers but I've seen some rude bicyclers to and I'm probably one of them at times, so I'm sorry about that to anyone Um, but I think there is a lot of opportunity, it isn't just. tonight, we are talking about um. The Lone Rock Pine River Trail, but there has been talk. We've worked with for some that know, you know we have work with the DOT on getting some bridge dockings done to the north that they are constructing over the next couple years, to have lanes on the bridges that are being on 80, um, there are opportunities, and those opportunities will take all three groups working united to maybe connect Rockbridge, Hub City, Yuba, Hillsboro, some of those areas where you saying that this trail here can be a connector, it can be a connector for a lot of different things, a lot of different opportunities. Um, I think that if we all work together, I think that there is a lot of give and take to all of this, Um, I certainly use the bike trail pretty much since it opened and I have enjoyed it, but I not opposed to sharing it either. Um, I think that there is a lot of opportunity and I would really hope that we would all embrace that opportunity and grow as a community. That is it. Applause.

Good Evening I'm Greg Vetesnik, I spoke last week and ah, this week I just kind of want to listen to everybody and there has been a lot of great comments made and um, You know I've written down a couple of points and there still seems to be a miss conception on the ATV user and how this trail is going to be used. Um, this is a map from WATVA and it is really hard to tell, but the yellow sections are off road trails ok, so of course the cheese trail is not here, so if you look at this closely and I encourage everyone to do that, and this doesn't even have all of the counties. All of these little red lines up through here are all of the road routes that are now available, of course in Richland Center um, we've don't have very many of them at his point but I know Vernon and Crawford and all of these counties have a lot of roads open. So, you know my point is, is that um, we are not reinventing the wheel here, the wheel has already been invented, um, there is ordinances in places in all of these counties, so we have an easy way to

get all the information that we need to be able to make this safe for everybody. Um, you know of course the cheese trail gets referenced a lot here thru the night, there are speed limits on the trail if you meet a pedestrian you have to slow down to "x" speed, if you are in a parking lot it is "x" speed if you go thru a town it is 10 MPH so as far as the safety goes, its way safer on a multi-use situation on a trail than it is on (coughing, could hear) or in town or you know even around some of the parks and so on and so forth. Um, the trails that got referenced earlier today, when you get up north they aren't these restrictions necessarily as there is on the cheese trail and on the Pine River recreational trail. Um, again it will be policed will be patrolled or it will be patrolled. You heard Brenda talk about all of her um, time with the patrolling and learning trail ambassador program. Um, you know the other point is um, some of the new business opportunities in this community that I that kind of made a quick note of tonight , restaurants, um, could be added to the community, camp grounds could be added to the community, bed and breakfast and cabins, maybe along the trail on somebodies personal land off, offa you know the trail. Um, may come about after we have tourism in this area. Rental businesses could also come (coughing, unable to hear the recording). To rent bicycles and ATV's or what every, it is already happening with kayaks, um, additional people benefited it got referenced earlier, elderly people, handicap people, can now use a resource that we now in this community. Um, you know there is another plus, um, again we're not inventing the we're actually probably one of the last communities to get this kind of usage and we have a beautiful area to do it in. So um, aaaa.... So in closing I guess stammering, as a group as much support there is between snowmobilers and atver's and the bicyclers and every other user, I know for a fact and I promise this trail will be in better shape than it ever has been. It will be patrolled um, um, as a group we will help to mow the trail get some tourism in this area you know. We will educate users to be safe respect the environment um, for all users and and respect all other users, again there's a you know all the training is happening, Brenda referenced that um, she has trained over 1,000 people and part of that training is not just how to ride an ATV actually really a small part of it is about riding it's about the laws it's about the rules, it's about how to use it how to respect everything um, so with that said you know, I ask the parks committee whoever else is involved to please spend the rest of your time trying to figure out how to make this work. Um, because I think its gonna be aaa, a big plus for the community. Thank you. Applause.

My name is Jan Kristoffersen; I am so happy to be able to live in this beautiful area for now, for a few years and one of the nicest things to be around here is the possibility to go out and do all the activities out in the nature. During the summer I'm a huge bike fan I take my bike to work every day and riding around in this beautiful area. But one of the things that I also I to do is see this beautiful area on an ATV, Go on trails, what I am hearing here with all the restrictions with speed and safety on trails I cannot understand why you can't share the trails so we all can see the beautiful nature around here. Thank you, Applause.

Barbara Blackmore; I spoke last week, I just want to respond to 2 things. One person mentioned several other trails that could be used but, most of the trails that were mentioned cannot be used for bicycles, there are extremely hilly they are not made for bicycles , the miner hill trail the campus trail the county forest trail. You cannot ride bicycles on there, I've been there I know you cannot um, even for certain people they would not be able to walk those trails, they're to steep. The other things is, um, several people have mentioned it's a way, ATV's area way to get older people out on the trail. Last week there was a gentleman here who said that um, Schmidt Woodland Hills and I think some of the others, other assisted living or other places are taking older people out on special bicycles, I've seen them in town go out and they are taking them on the trails. So they are getting them out in a quiet way to use the trail. Thank you.

Bob Walsh; I wasn't planning to talk here but, I keep hearing about the trail falling apart, that its in bad shape, I own property here in town here and the snowmobile trail on the bottom, and I realize it's a different group of motorized group , you know like the ATV's now these guys came around every year asked permission to cross thru the property and they would fix anything that was wrong and I would give comments on things that I would see wrong and they would put all their money into this work and improving things that they could make better, I would assume an ATV club is going to do the same thing. So if that trail is soft and it has problems, I'm sure they are going to get together and their going to make it a lot greater. Thank you. Applause

Joe Bradford, thought it was really interesting your question about the, doing the trail work and how the snowmobile club works with the local land owners. We do the same in the ATV club, we have a trail clean up at least twice a year. Aaa...., once is in the spring clearing the trail um., for any downed limbs or things like that and a, we work with the farmers, the land owners really close because if they want to take trackers out and tear up their trails, their own land they are certainly aloud to do that but we don't, we close that trail down in the fall when it gets mushy we don't open it in the spring until it get mushy, so we do that same thing we do that twice a year to maintain the trail (rumbling of paper) other snowmobile clubs are also supporting us on this venture that we are trying to do. We had a number... how many man hours does this snowmobile club put on that trail? The current pine river trail the recreational trail(someone from the audience answered) this year we built 5 bridges down there we probably spent over 300 man hours and then just the clean up on the trail probably another 100 to 200 man hours. (Back to the speaker) So again we just want to work together to make that trail better, also...didn't know if we had time for a question. How much funding "state & federal" available for the current situation do... Steve spoke up, we are not answering any questions tonight. Back to the speaker, so I guess, it concerns me that we a re so far apart on some of these issues and um, it's really good to hear all of the different input, I know, I just hope that we can find a compromise Richland County has a unique opportunity with this bed that has presented them a ride that no other county's don't have, and the one question came up, I'm not 100% sure of the answer but I think if Richland County does allow it and the funding does go thru Richland County still and I hope this is the case, maintains the ability to control the use of that trail. If they later decide that ATV's aren't a good fit. I certainly hope they have done their homework and remain control of that trail. That is all I wanted to say.

Rebecca Furbisch; I've take some notes. I'm shaking like crazy right now, I have been on county tourism now for three years, so many things in those three years has happened and this would be a huge leap for us. I don't think we should be afraid of change just because it is something different. The ATV trail would open up our area to a whole new client base. It would open our area to other people to know what we have to offer. They would come here and then go home and tell their friends and family about Richland County. I have done a far amount of traveling world wide and nation wide and every time I find them say there is now place like Richland County, We also have so many beautiful things to offer and you can't find it in any place like it anywhere we go. Tourism has be pushing more and more and we have been doing billboard advertising in multiple surrounding states and we would love to add ATV and UTV trails to our billboard advertising campaign. I am also part of the group that has been working for the past year and a half to get our Richland County new chamber of commerce that is up and running and I am currantly the secretary, this trial would open up the possibility for new businesses to take a second look in our area and come and open up their businesses. It all works together. It is not something that people know our trail this could do wonders for our county. Applause

Denise Lins; Eric and I graduated together and I know all the work he has done, I've ride I've ridden ATV's so I can appreciate the whole thing. Um, I live in Spring Green right now, and um, my hesitation isn't with any of you ATV or UTV rides in the area. My hesitation is, Spring Green tried this for a year um, the club ruined to for everyone else. They stopped it in Spring Green Township, my hesitation is um, I live in Spring Green and I drive to Richland Center and I use the trail to go through and what not, I also once a year take my nieces and nephews on the trail and they range in age from 7 years old clear up to 19-years old. And obviously different physical levels, and kids are going off, my concern again isn't for you guys, I say you guys you will do what you are supposed to do. My concern is do police the people that aren't part of your clubs and use the trail and if you're out there and they don't do the rules, that is my concern how do I put my nieces & nephews on the trail with people other than yourselves. That is my concern.

John Gaston; I grew up in Twin Bluffs so that the railroad and the river were a playground in a way and I very much, I left Wisconsin in about when I was 21 and then came back when I was 55 and now I'm 70 so I had a lot of opportunities to walk that trail and I am a walker of it, I take a bicycle only once. But tonight I heard a lot of discussion of both sides and 1 compromise I don't even know what is possible, but if you would consider ... I think the section between Sawmill Road and Henpeck Road or basically Gotham is a truly unique area in its wetland its

ecology that is where I think most people will have seen the animals, a the eagles for sure and maybe not so many cranes um, would it be possible to consider the trail to go from Gotham to Sawmill Road via TB, aa..., that would preserve a certain section of the trail for the people who are most interested in nature and maybe walking it to stop and observe it observe what is there without additional noise pollution um..., just came up with that idea has it been mentioned with something like that be a compromised and something people would consider. That is it.

Ray Hatfield; and a I live right where the four-wheel trail goes through my land ok, and I heard mud hole and I've heard dig it up and I've heard animals and wildlife. I can honestly say that I had 5 big 3 big doe and 2 fawn in my back yard all summer long. Rabbits, you can come down and see rabbits all day if you want to, squirrels have a lot of squirrels, but I have never ever since we've had this 4-wheeler club, we got cameras, we got cameras in trees all over the place. So if somebody does something we got em' you know and we do patrol it. There is a bunch of people that are patrol people that are in the club and if there is any messing around they are out, they don't get to ride the trail no more that is that and as far as I actually own 28 acres and as far as garbage, I have never seen any garbage out there where the 4-wheelers are. And that is all I've got to say, but this is a good thing, it is not a bad thing. We've all got license plates on all of these 4-wheelers and the licenses plates are big and it is so easy and we got flags on them, this tells ya if the belong of the club or they don't belong to the club if they don't have the flag on them they cannot ride the that trail and those license plates, ig you are walker down a trail, honest to god you can read that license plate in a heartbeat, that's all I got to say. Applause.

Logan Olson; not much of a speaker my dad normally does most of the talkin' but a, I live on County Hwy TB between Hwy 60 and Twin Bluffs my whole life. And the amount of people that I've seen on bicycles on County Hwy TB verses that bike trail are probably 200 to 1, a, drive the road multiple times a day and I wouldn't ay every day I see a bicycle on TB but just about every day. And our business that we deal with a little bit of dirt and the extra funding that they would get for this bike trail would be used ot put extra screening down take care of your soft spots and the weight of the UTV's would also compact the trail thus making it harder so your bicycles wouldn't sink and be more firm that is all I got to say, thank you. Applause

Eric Siemandel; I know Denise brought up club and trail and all that stuff and how ya know people that are in our club, every ATV has a license plate on it, and I look around and most every body has got a smartphone, if you think somebody it violating and doing something wrong, a quick picture, quick call to the sheriff's department, the DNR. That can be addressed. Um, most of you a don't know if you're snowmobilers or not um, snowmobile has a little sticker on it like this, that's it and usually they are covered in snow, you know people can can't see a registration number, can't see any of that but not on a ATV, that is a license plate and that is specified in the DNR rules how big it has to be and if you get around ATVs or UTVs you will see it on every one of them. Thank you.

Mary Bauer; Can you hear me, I'm here to just mention something that hasn't been mentioned yet, I think that it has be eluded to geography, um, when you are on a bicycle you don't have a motor, and although ...one of the speakers before mentioned that ..in another... ten years you would not be interested in that bike trail, I am actually more interested in that bike trail now because it is flat. Relatively flat and I haven't really followed this, it seems like there is a lot of supporters of ATV's and UTV's, there are a lot of clubs here and that is great. Um, a couple things about biking, first of all um, its good ... that trail is really good for ... people and old people and for people who are just recreational and don't want to be around cars, aaa, we've been in this aread for over 35 years and we've biked a lot. I avoid the roads for 2 reasons now. 1 is the hills and the other reason is the cars. They're faster and they're more of them. We use the bicycle trail while going northwest of town and I see Dale coming back and forth all the time on the Ridge, um..., but it is true that we don't get to the trail as often if as if we lived in town. But I also would like to point out to those of you who have talked about the economic development of the ATV's, that is also economic development to have bicycle trails and I have been true out the state, River Falls, Ashland, Fox River Valley. Oconomowoc, Waukesha, they all have bicycle trails, if you look in our town its not an easy place to bike because we are surrounded by beautiful hills, so we are limited and um, before I, somebody um, Gas//Gaston mentioned a compromise and I know that we have um, when we want to rather than back and forth when we do a loop, we will

use TB when we are particularly ambitious, and I'm not sure now this idea started that we should use the bicycle trail with the ATV's and UTV's but I really think it would be possible for this ATV/UTV group to actually use the roads and um, TB is a beautiful road... um . its got some hills but I don't think that your machines would mind them, I have ba ATV and that's ..I use them on our hills and that is just great um, I just, I really don't understand why there is this need to use this trail and maybe one of you after we are done here could explain that to me because I can tell you that it will be, it will actually be less of an experience and it will make it less desirable to bike and I really think that communities especially Richland Center which is full of hills ands is a tricky place to bike. Should really realize that is a flat stretch which can be used both to get places I've used it to go all the way to Spring Green, ah, by taking Kennedy Road and I usually stop in Lone Rock at the the um, one stop there and get something to eat or drink and I understand that there would be more usage with ATV's and UTV's but you would be giving it up to bikers because it would be more difficult and I just want you to know that and then maybe somebody after this can explain to me why you want to use the trail as opposed to TB, because that could do your linking to. Thank you. Applause.

So we have about 5 minutes left does anyone else want to speak.

Joe Bradford, I jus twant to speak again because I have a side bet as to how many times Steve has to get up and down and I am getting real close to winning that. Um, Mary I don't know where she went, I know that this isn't a debate but it is a great, (side talking with Mary), I juss want to bring up that I like the ATV on trails because I like to stop and pick berries. I like to educate my children on which one's I can do that on. I like to stop and look over the bridge and look at the fish, I like to bird watch I am an avid bird watcher, im, but as a company... Richland County actually decided that this is a good fit for them, we are happy with the roads if that is how it turns out, bit we prefer to be on the trails and at the end of the day the discussion is, is it a good fit and will Richland County maintain that ability to pull it back if it isn't in the future; And you know, the biggest thing that I brought to the table tonight and I always tell myself is compromise give us a chance don't discriminate against us. And we gotta find a way to live together to make sure that bikers, walkers, horseback riders and ATV'ers can all have fun together and that is the problem the board has to face tonight and I am sure it is a horrible decision they have to make, they are going to stress out about it, um , but the reason why we prefer trails is we want to be off the road as well. That is it, applause.

So just one clarification, the commission is in charge of the public hearings, there is an entirely different process that goes forward with this particular public hearing data and we may make some decisions but there are other decisions up stairs. It is a process and it most likely is not a process that is going to turn over in a few weeks, it may take much longer than that, so and this public hearing is the initial part of the process. Yay we time for one more person if they want to. Here we go.

Linda Wanless; so I grew up in west Texas in the middle of a cotton field and you can see on a bright night, Friday night lights because we could see who's football team was having a game on Friday night cause you could see forever. So when I moved to Richland County I have a beautiful bike um, but I cannot ride because I am scared to death of the hills and what's around ,I would love to be able to ride, but it, like I said it scares me. It scares me driving because I go around a corner and I see somebody on a bicycle. And so I understand, I understand why, sort of understand bicyclist because it is beautiful, I mean to see all that, but I think for those of us that do would like to bike, I think what, what a compromise because when you can when you can see if you're on an ATV/UTV and you can see ahead that there is somebody walking or somebody ahead, you can slow down and you can go around them and with the funds and stuff to be able to fix the roads so that the bicyclist, I do have friends that have ridden and they will say that you know they wish that because they will do long rides so they can get the miles in, they wish that those, the rest of it were fixed better to ride to get those miles in, so I think ti is an answer for those bicyclist so you could have more bicycles on that road, more walkers on that road so it was fixed for those people and to get to be able to have the use for the other people so if you had those funds it could be fixed for everybody and actually get more useands what my daughter said about tourism, if we could get more people in to Richland County, that are bringing in and coming in and camping and doing those things, like we said you are having more people come in and walk these hills and they are bird watching and they are doing the things and they are going to the warehouse to see the things that we have that

we are not getting in here to know that we have the Frank Loyd Wright ... all the beautiful things that we have here that we are not exposing people to because we don't have ... another grocery store, we don't have restaurants, we don't have all the things, but the more tourism that we can bring in we have reason for people to come to Richlands County so I just think...I am a lover of nature, we live on a hill, I am as on the fence because I love the quiet, I don't blame anybody for not being for this cause I totally understand. But at some point you have to give to get something to and Richland County has not been the same 5,000 for no reason, there has got to be a way to grow and I think our beauty I think is an answer, so. Applause.

We said we are going to close at 9 o'clock and we are. But I want to make an opportunity to everyone, again we started out and indicated that there is address, you can write your comments down and mail them to, Cathy Cooper, 26136 Executive Ln, Ste C, Richland Center. If you have additional comments write them down, sign your name and mail them to Cathy.

Motion made by Bob Bellman to adjourn the public hearing, second made by John Collins. Motion carried.

Public Hearing ended at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Bellman^{tbl}

Bob Bellman
Parks Commission Chairman