

Richland County Parks Commission
January 8th, 2018
Meeting Minutes

The January 8th, 2018 meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Bellman at 5:30 p.m. Those present were Bob Bellman, Larry Jewell, Kerry Severson, Gary Peters, John Collins. Steve Kohlstedt, Tracy Gobin, Amy Bender and Cathy Cooper. Duane Klang arrived later.

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

Motion made by Gary Peters to approve the minutes of the December meeting with spelling correction at #5 ... ~~probabitive~~ *prohibitive* second made by Kerry Severson. Motion carried.

There was no public input at this point in the meeting. Tracy Gobin & Amy Bender just wanted to listen in on the meeting.

#5 Bike Trail; General review of the public hearing comments, Kerry Severson stated that at the public hearing the majority were for the added use of ATV's on the trail however, while going thru the written comments, the majority were against the added use. Larry Jewell was not at the public hearings, but he did receive a letter that was against having ATV's on the trail. Bob Bellman was impressed with the turn out for the hearings. Steve Kohlstedt had contacted Cara Carper who did an economic study for the Cheese Country Trail, this trail is 68 miles and the infrastructure is already in place. We don't have that in place; the cheese country trail charges \$15.00 a year to users and this is something that we as a county are unable to do. Until county/city make the investment on the infrastructure the moneys that have been quoted will not be recognized. There are a lot of steps to be taken before this comes back to this commission for final review before it gets forwarded on to the County Board. All groups involved in the use of this trail (hikers, bikers, snowmobilers and atv'ers) must be able to collaborate on how this is going to work. The atv group will have to do all the paperwork, and then the commission will have final say as to whether this gets moved on to the county board. Motion made by Steve Kohlstedt to allow the designated group to start the process (paperwork) necessary for an additional use on the trail and the end paperwork comes to the commission for final approval before it goes on the County Board and encourage collaboration that it is not just a we against them but a collaboration of all. Second made by Gary Peters. Discussion followed, Motion carried. Cathy will contact Eric Seimandal with the commission motion.

#6 Rifle Range; The fire call bill that was presented at last month's meeting was held to the January meeting, there is enough money to cover the bill. The commission agreed to put the bill through. Gary Peters brought up that at the Land Conservation meeting that was that morning; there will be a small timber cutting happening that will also include the taking of Ash and other trees, he was wondering if some of the Ash trees could be used for boards at the range. These trees are being cut just to be cut and they will be burned. The logs are state property and the state would have to be asked. Due to the expense of having to haul the logs and then have them processed in to boards there would not be any savings.

#7 Viola Park; Steve Kohlstedt went by the park and it is still there, all is good.

#8 Rockbridge Park. The permit for the new kayak port has been received. Kerry Severson asked about the artifacts and will we be able to have them for an exhibit at the park. They are now in La Crosse and we would have to petition them to have them for a weekend this coming summer. Gary asked about FEMA, Cathy reported that we would have to purchase picnic tables before we would receive any money for the flooding that happened last summer, and it must add up to \$3,500 in damages before there would be any reimbursement. Gary reported that the land on the back side of the park has been sold.

#9 Snowmobile Alliance: A. date signs to be on/off the trails- All trails need to be signed by December 15th, Kerry Severson suggested that there needs to be written permission on file with the county, along with proof of insurance on file with the County. Agreement with land owners in writing regarding gates and placement of signs, these issues will be policy as of the 2018-2019 season Closing date for all signs being off the trails will be April 1st. All hours need to be reported no later than May 1st. The commission will devise a letter for all the clubs. Motion made by Gary Peters to have the trails signed by the 15th of December and written permission including any conditions from land owners, inspections of the trail need to be done by the county. Duane Klang made the second to Gary's motion. Discussion followed regarding inspections, call the trail bosses with spot checks. Kerry did mention that the hours that a county employee spends on checking the trail and be reimbursed by the grant. Chairman Bob Bellman went back over the motion. 1. April 1st the signs must be removed, 2. Hours spent on the trail will be submitted by May 1st 3. Trails will be signed and have written permission on file from the land owners by December 15th. 4th. Spot checking of the sections of trail with the trail boss. Motion carried.

Commission member reports. Gary Peters reported that there will be another access point at the fairgrounds for paddling, this is something that will need to be approved by the DNR. John Collins commented that the public hearings went very well. Bob Bellman also commented on the public hearings went so well because of the moderator, Steve Kohlstedt. We had to fight for the Parks Commission to stay at 7 members.

No other business

The following bills were presented for January; Richland Observer, \$105.50; Hidden Valley Inc., \$230.00; Kickapoo Fire Protection, \$18.50; Richland County Zoning/Sanitation, \$30.00; Nature's Way Portable Units, \$84.00; Boaz Sunrise Septic Services, \$145.00; Richland Center Shopping News, \$123.80; Town of Richland, \$600.00; Rent-A-Flash, \$787.07; Fastenal, \$27.26; Walsh's Ace Hardware, \$524.18. Motion made by Gary Peters to pay the January Bills as presented, second made by Duane Klang. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday February 5th, 2018. Meeting will begin at 5:30 pm in the conference room of the Ag Service Center, 26136 Executive Ln. Kerry Severson will not be at the meeting.

Motion made by Steve Kohlstedt to adjourn the meeting, second made by John Collins. Motion carried.

Meeting ended at 6:50 pm.

Bob Bellman

Bob Bellman
Parks Commission Chair