

MINUTES

Eau Claire County

• Committee On Parks & Forest •

Monday, January 13, 2020

5:00 p.m.

Agriculture & Resource Center – Room #203

227 1st St W • Altoona, WI

Members: Gary Gibson, Pat LaVelle, Bert Moritz, Tami Schraufnagel, Kevin Stelljes

Others: Josh Pedersen – Director, Jody Gindt – Supervisor, Jake Tumm – Forester, Ali Moe – Administrative Specialist III (Committee Clerk), Kyle Johnson – WDNR Liaison Forester, Frank Draxler – County Administration, Bayli Christorf – CORBA, Steve Wood – CORBA, Dustin Marsh – CORBA, Debbie Kitchen – Eau Claire County Fair, John Bodkin – WHYS Radio Fest, Missy Christopherson

Chair Stelljes called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. and confirmed public posting of the meeting.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the December 9, 2019 meeting. Schraufnagel moved to approve the minutes as presented. It passed unanimously.

No members of the public were present.

John Bodkin was present to discuss waiving the parking fee for the Bluegrass Festival at Lake Altoona on August 15, 2020. Stelljes moved to allow festival goers to print parking passes prior the event. Moritz Seconded the motion. Bodkin inquired about the use of tents on the park grounds. Schraufnagel made a recommendation for staff to look over the Lake Altoona event contract and consider allowing pop up tents/canopies weighted down – no stakes – and review again at a future meeting.

Steve Wood with CORBA was present to propose placing a storage facility, at CORBA'S expense, on the Expo grounds to improve trail maintenance efficiency at Lowes Creek. Supplies are currently not easily accessible to all volunteers. Two storage options were presented – An old hickory storage building or a shipping container. Schraufnagel moved to invite CORBA back to a future meeting to present a concrete schematic of the location of the proposed storage shed.

Debbie Kitchen represented the Eau Claire County Fair to discuss the long term lease with the Expo Center. The drafted lease still needs fine tuning.

Gibson made a motion to reduce the initial fee for a vehicle entrance pass to \$15 for senior citizens. There was a unanimous approval to calculate the financial impact the discount would have on the department. To be discussed at a future meeting.

The initial draft of the Expo Center contract revisions was passed out to the committee to look over for suggestions and input. The contract will be discussed at a future meeting.

There was a unanimous approval to defer the DNR Forestry Liaison's presentation on floodplains for a future meeting.

Eau Claire County's 15 year forest comprehensive land use plan will expire in 2021. Director Pedersen asked for the committee's input for the 2020 drafted plan process. Schraufnagel and Lavelle would like to see a draft in place for public comment in three locations on three days in June/July. A draft could potentially be put on the County website for public comment. The committee should meet twice per month during this drafting phase. Pedersen will provide a copy of the 2006-2020 forestry plan to the Advisory Committee and the Parks & Forest Advisory Committee, and construct a timeline of future meetings. Schraufnagel moved to commence on the public comment process for the fifteen year County Forest plan, which will include three public comment sessions, and see that the committee meets more frequently during this process.

Pedersen presented the annual 2020 Work Plan Resolution and County Forest Administrator Grant to the committee. Schraufnagel requested to add "and volunteers as needed" after the third item on section I. Lowes Creek. The committee will discuss canoe landing improvements for Highway D access at a future meeting. Lavelle moved to go ahead with the 2020 work plan.

Stelljes commented that he lead a group of 35 people on a snowshoe hike through the Hathaway Creek Wilderness Area.

The February 10th meeting will be at the Tower Ridge Chalet at 3 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Ali Moe
Committee Clerk
Administrative Specialist III – Parks & Forest