**MINUTES**Eau Claire County
• **Committee on Parks & Forest** *•*

Monday, January 9, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Agricultural and Resource Center

227 1st Street West., Altoona – Rooms 103 and 104

Members Present: Joe Knight, Missy Christopherson, Tami Schraufnagel, Jodi Lepsch, Dane Zook

Others Present: Josh Pedersen – Director, Winnie Parker – Administrative Specialist III (Committee Clerk), Erika Gullerud – Finance Analyst, members of the public: Carl Walters, Archie Ecker, Arlyn Stertz, Jeff Thielen, Jereme Rauckman, Timothy Wucherer, Nick Meyer, Nathan McCorkle, Todd Wanous, Roxan Rice, Bob Burch

**Call to Order Committee on Parks & Forest and confirmation of meeting notice.**

Chairman Knight called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and confirmed public posting of the meeting.

**Public Comment**

Committee on Parks and Forest received a call from Chuck Hotvedt, a neighbor of Lake Altoona Park, regarding the Master Plan. Mr. Hotvedt is in favor of a garage or maintenance building at the top of the hill.

**Review of December 12, 2022, Committee Meeting Minutes**

Supervisor Schraufnagel motions to approve the minutes from December 12, 2022. All in favor.

**Mountain bike skills area at Lowes Creek Park presentation**

Jereme Rauckman presented to the Committee about the possibility of building a mountain bike skills practice area at one of the two entrances at Lowes Creek Park. Rauckman proposes hiring a professional design company, getting public approval and input, doing extensive fund raising, and completing construction sometime in 2024. Tami Schraufnagel moved to accept the consideration of the park addition of a mountain bike skills practice area. All in favor.

**Discussion on safety on portions of trails in Lowes Creek and Tower Ridge**

The Committee discussed the areas of concern of trails at both Tower Ridge and Lowes Creek. One such area is the Onion Trail at Lowes Creek. CORBA will get back with the Committee if signage is needed. It was decided that the grooming issues brought up by Archie Ecker would be addressed at the next Committee Meeting on February 13, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Tower Ridge.

**Awards for service**

Tami Schraufnagel moved to present awards for service to the originators of Kickin’ Kids and to recognize those involved with the Tower Ridge light improvements at the regular Committee Meeting on February 13, 2023, at Tower Ridge at 3 p.m. All in favor.

**Adopting the 2023 Annual Work Plan for the Parks and Forest Department to comply with the County Forest Administration Grant Program: Resolution 22-23.084 2023**

Jodi Lepsch moved to adopt the 2023 Work Plan as presented. All in favor.

**2023 Emergency Fire Warden List**

Jodi Lepsch moved to approve the 2023 Emergency Fire Warden list as presented. All in favor.

**Eau Claire County Master Park Plan Update**

The Committee decided to review the Master Park Plan at the March 13. 2023, Committee Meeting.

**Director’s Report**

Director Pedersen provided an update on the challenges and dangers faced early this winter with downed trees and limbs. The Tower Ridge toilets are working at present. At the next meeting we are going to invite the Advisory Committee, Disc Golf group, Horse group, and Rifle Range Club.

**Future Parks & Forest Committee Meetings and Items for Discussion**

Next Parks & Forest committee meeting date is set for February 13, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at Tower Ridge

**Committee on Parks & Forest Adjournment**

The Committee on Parks & Forest adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Winnie Parker

Committee Clerk

Administrative Specialist III