

MINUTES

Eau Claire County

• Committee on Parks & Forest •

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

Eau Claire County Expo Center

5530 Fairview Dr., Eau Claire, WI –Building E Meeting Room

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

Others Present: Josh Pedersen – Director, Jody Gindt – Supervisor, Kimberly Watnemoe – Administrative Specialist III (Committee Clerk), Todd Johnson – Park Manager, Kyle Johnson – DNR County Forest Liaison, Tim Wucherer - CORBA, Laura Plummer – CORBA, Rhonda Van Dong, Viet Van Dong, Dale Sonnenberg – CORBA, Rachel Hart-Brinson – UW Extension Eau Claire County, Jeff Goodland

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

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

Public Comment

No members of the public wished to make a comment.

Review of September 11, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes

Supervisor Christopherson motions to approve the minutes from September 11, 2023. All in favor.

CORBA Presentation on Different Classes of Electric Bikes

CORBA member Laura Plummer gave a Power-Point presentation on the different classes of electric bikes and why it may be beneficial to allow them within the parks, specifically class one electric bikes. The Committee then went outside to look at different varieties of electric bikes that CORBA had provided for viewing.

Policy of Electric Bikes in Eau Claire County Parks

Discussion among Committee members, Director Pedersen, and Supervisor Gindt about electric bikes in the County Parks. The consensus was to allow class one electric bikes within the parks, not class two or three, but it's hard to enforce that. However, new signage could be posted noting only class one electric bikes are allowed and depend on bikers to utilize the honor system.

Supervisor Christopherson motions to allow class one bikes in County Parks and to allow for the change to the code. All in favor. Additional voting will be needed at the next Committee meeting to officially apply for change to the code.

Naming Right for Skills Parks at Lowes Creek County Park

Tim Wucherer from CORBA spoke about naming rights on the new Skills Park at Lowes Creek County Park. He proposed allowing donors the ability to name a portion of the Skills Park that they had donated to. In the past, they had to get Committee approval every time and he was asking to save all approval until the end of funding, allowing CORBA to make those immediate decisions.

Supervisor Zook motions to postpone discussion until the November meeting until better input is given, including advice from the Corporate Counsel. All in favor.

Policy on Interdepartmental Rental Fees and Charges

Director Pedersen spoke first giving some background on who is charged a fee to utilize the Expo Center. Currently, they do not charge County departments, but there is a blurred line on where that reach stops. Rachel Hart-Brinson from UW-Extension then spoke about allowing 4H to use the facilities, mainly outside for the group's programs. She expressed that other counties are not charged and as 4H would not exist without UW extension, she wanted the group to be exempt from being charged a fee.

Supervisor Lepsch motions to bring this issue to Corporate Counsel for policy development on interdepartmental and governmental rental fees for County facilities. Revisit this at the November Committee meeting. All in favor.

Review 2024 Capital Budget Request

Committee members asked staff to go over capital requests that were not approved in the administrators recommended budget. Director Pedersen, Supervisor Gindt, and Park Manager Johnson expressed the need for a boat to help pull buoys and other lake maintenance, as well as a car hauling trailer to be added back into the 2024 Capital Budget. The boat cost \$25,000 and the trailer \$7,000. Supervisor Zook will write up an amendment to put these items back into the budget for next year.

Director's Report

Josh Pedersen gave a brief report about the newest employee to the department and an update on winterizing all buildings.

Future Parks & Forest Committee Meetings and Items for Discussion

Next Parks & Forest committee meeting date is set for November 13, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Committee on Parks & Forest Adjournment

The Committee on Parks & Forest adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Kimberly Watnemoe
Committee Clerk
Administrative Specialist III