

MINUTES

Eau Claire County

• Committee on Parks & Forest •

Monday, March 11, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Agricultural and Resource Center

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

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

Others Present: Josh Pedersen – Director, Jody Gindt – Supervisor, Erika Gullerud – Finance Analyst, Kyle Johnson – DNR County Forest Liaison, Elissa Upward- Altoona Schools, Jeff Thielen – Get it Groomed, Roger King- Chippewa Valley Grouse Dog Association, Kristen Geifer- Beaver Creek Reserve, Corey Linder- Beaver Creek Reserve

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 February 20, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes

Supervisor Schraufnagel motions to approve the minutes from February 20, 2024, All in favor.

Ordinance 23-24-074 To Amend Section 16.30.040 B. Of the Code: Fees and Charges; To Amend Section 16.33.015 of the Code: Rental Rates for Non-Profit and Government Organizations

Director Pedersen spoke on the ordinance. This topic was previously discussed at an earlier meeting but is coming forward now to change the code.

Supervisor Schraufnagel motions to approve the ordinance and forward it to the county board. All in favor.

Altoona Schools Request to Use Tower Ridge for Cross County Races

Elissa Upward presented information to the committee regarding the use of Tower Ridge Recreation Area trails for use as a cross county running racecourse. The school has used Tower Ridge for the last several seasons and really likes having a meet at the area. Altoona is requesting to use Tower Ridge on 10/5/2024 and 10/4/2025 for events. The per participant fee of \$4 per participant will be used.

Supervisor Christopherson motions to approve use of Tower Ridge on the requested dates. All in favor.

Request from Chippewa Valley Grouse Dog Association to Build Shelter Near Knights Pool in County Forest

Roger King presented information to the committee regarding a proposal to build a new 24'x36' shelter near Knights Pool in the county forest. He stated that their club would use the space for their trial events, but that the shelter would be available for all users of the forest. The club is hosting a Grand National trial this fall in Eau Claire County. The club will purchase and install the shelter with their own funds. They would like parks and forest staff to assist with building the roadway to get to the shelter.

Supervisor Knight motions to approve the plan as presented by King. All in favor.

Annual Report from Chippewa Valley Trailriders

Director Pedersen presented the annual report from the Chippewa Valley Trailriders which detailed their volunteer hours of service on building and maintaining horse trails in Eau Claire County.

Expo Center Updates

Director Pedersen gave updates on the forthcoming National Junior Curling championship coming to the Expo Center in March and general updates on the winter storage program.

Resolution 23-24/081 Authorizing the Parks and Forest Director to Submit an Application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any Financial Aid that may be Available for Maintaining, Acquiring, Insuring or Developing Lands for Public Outdoor Motorized Trails

Director Pedersen explained the resolution and that it is required for the county to apply for reimbursement funding for the ATV/UTV and snowmobile trail aids programs. These programs offer 100% reimbursement on trail maintenance.

Supervisor Christopherson motions to approve the resolution as presented. All in favor.

Resolution 23-24/082 Authorizing the Parks and Forest Director to Apply for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Friends Grants, Stewardship Local Units of Government, Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trail Program; Authorizing the Parks and Forest Director to Accept the Award and Take all Necessary Action to Effectuate the Grant Including Entering into all Necessary Agreements and Expending Funds

Director Pedersen gave an overview of the resolution and the request to apply for matching state funding for park development project at Lake Altoona County Park. The project is in the 2024 capital budget plan and shows 50% matching to come from this grant.

Supervisor Schraufnagel motions to approve the resolution as presented. All in favor.

Katie Moyle – Memorial Bench Request

Director Pedersen presented information from Katie Moyle, requesting placement of a memorial bench at Coon Fork Park.

Supervisor Schraufnagel motions to approve placement of the bench and donation from Katie Moyle. All in favor.

Ski Striders Request for Additional Funds for Groomer

Jeff Thielen presented information to the committee regarding the fund-raising efforts of the Get It Groomed campaign. He explained that the group is close to the fund raising goal but is still short. His request was for the County to contribute an additional \$10,000 towards the project to help reach the target goal.

Motion by Supervisor Christopherson to postpone a decision on this request until the May committee agenda, while allowing staff to further review the 2024 capital budget to see if there are areas where projects could be scaled to allow this request. All in favor. Chairman Knight withheld voting due to conflict of interest.

Beaver Creek Reserve Request for Free Park Admissions During Earth Week

Kirsten Gieffer presented information to the committee regarding the County's participation in the Earth Week free park entrance program in the past. She requested that the County allow free entrance to county parks April 15th through the 22nd.

Motion by Supervisor Christopherson to allow free entrance to county parks during the requested time frame. All in favor.

Director's Report

Director Pedersen provided updates on projects that the parks and forest crew has been working on over the last month. Projects included Harstad Park parking lot work, Coon Fork improvements, work on the Lowes Creek skills park, collaboration with the Ski Sprites on installation of Aqua Thruster units, and progress on the sediment collector on the mouth of Lake Altoona.

Future Parks & Forest Committee Meetings and Items for Discussion

Next Parks & Forest committee meeting date is set for April 08, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Committee on Parks & Forest Adjournment

The Committee on Parks & Forest adjourned at 6:42p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Kimberly Watnemoe
Committee Clerk
Administrative Specialist III