

MINUTES

Eau Claire County

• Committee on Parks & Forest •

Monday, June 10, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Agricultural and Resource Center

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

Members Present: Joe Knight, Tami Schraufnagel, Cory Sisk (Virtual), Michele Skinner, Christy Tomczak

Others Present: Josh Pedersen – Director, Jody Gindt – Supervisor, Kimberly Watnemoe – Administrative Specialist III (Committee Clerk), Erika Gullerud – Finance Analyst, Kathryn Schauf – County Administrator, Kyle Johnson – DNR County Forest Liaison, Nancy Coffey – Ex Officio Member

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

Chairman Knight called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m and confirmed public posting of the meeting.

Public Comment

No members of the public wished to make comment.

Review of May 13, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes

Supervisor Schraufnagel motions to approve the minutes from May 13, 2024, All in favor.

Cell Tower Lease at Exposition Center

Director Pedersen spoke on this project. The facilities director Matt Theisen reached out to the Parks department as they were approached to have a cell tower placed at the Eau Claire County Exposition Center. This would allow for an expansion of broadband coverage, primarily to Verizon on the south side of town. The proposed area would be a 100 ft by 100 ft area with a 75 ft fenced in area restricting access to the base. The cell tower itself would be a 200 ft tower. Ramaker has proposed a \$1,000 a month payment increase by 1.5% every year for 50 years to lease the space. Previously, this was brought to the administration meeting and was discussed. A Ramaker representative was there to speak about this project and field any questions from the committee. Supervisor Wilke questioned if this was the best offer, they could provide. This is market value for the tower space. The proposed space would be interfering with the fenced in dog area, but this space could be relocated. Pedersen did clarify he has talked with the user groups, i.e the County Fair. The fair is planning on using the proposed land for the fair this year but has not used it in years past. Pedersen said the only downside to the proposed location is that the expo center parking lot could not be expanded. Committee members then discussed the possibility of moving the location slightly to allow for parking lot expansion and would locate it further from where children may be etc. Supervisor Schraufnagel motions to continue working on locating the cell tower on the expo center grounds but work with user groups and Ramaker to find the best location for the next 50 years. All in favor.

Resolution 24-25/041 Granting Utility Easement to Eau Claire Energy Cooperative in the Town of Lincoln, Eau Claire County, WI

Director Pedersen spoke about this resolution stating said every time we add a new electrical metered service, we need to issue an easement to the service provider, which requires county board approval. This is a capital budget project, allowing for 10 electric sites out of 27 sites. To do this, the department would need electricity brought in from HHH to the campground. This costs about \$8,000 for the trenching and to get the service in. The true cost for the easement is nothing. The actual cost is included in the capital budget. Supervisor Sisk motions to approve the easement. All in favor.

Director's Report

Director Pedersen provided an update on the summer season. We have most of the seasonal staff hired. LAP ranger, Sarah Christensen, has left the county and found a new position. We are in the process of our DNR and Forestry audit. The Coon Fork campground has been very busy, as has LAP beach. Ski Sprites got their first aqua thruster, and it will be fired up tonight to see how it works. Ski Striders raised enough funds for their new groomer so we will be issuing the final payment shortly. It will be stored at the grooming shed at Tower Ridge. In May, a Tornado hit Augusta, DNR Liaison Johnson went on a flight throughout the area however, it appeared private land took more damage than county land, with minimal clean up needed at Skid Row. Our County Forest Land needed some red pine cleaned up which forester Kron will be cleaning up at a discounted rate. Lastly, the 2025 budget is being worked on currently.

Future Parks & Forest Committee Meetings and Items for Discussion

Next Parks & Forest committee meeting date is set for July 08, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Knight would like to discuss more access to Lake Altoona North and have an update on the Carbon Credit Project. Supervisor Skinner would like to add a discussion about the Lake Altoona Sand Trap. Approval of Advisory Committee Appointment will also be on the next agenda.

Committee on Parks & Forest Adjournment

The Committee on Parks & Forest adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Kimberly Watnemoe
Committee Clerk
Administrative Specialist III