

RACINE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 27, 2016

Summary Minutes

Ives Grove Complex Auditorium

Ives Groves Office Complex

14200 Washington Avenue

Sturtevant, WI 53177

Committee present: Ronald Molnar, David Cooke, Robert Grove,
Kiana Harden-Johnson, Tom Hincz, Scott Maier

Committee excused: Mark Gleason

YIG Representatives: Hunter Ostergaard (present), Samantha Penzkowski (excused)

Staff Present: Julie Anderson, Public Works & Development Services Department Director
David Prott, Superintendent of Highways and Parks
Nathan Plunkett, County Engineering Manager
Jim Metzger, Park Planning Manager

Others Present: Jay Henrichs

Public Comments: Martha Hutsick, Emily Papara, Mike Allard

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

6:00

Roll call vote was taken and the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Ronald Molnar.

2. Approval of the September 8, 2016, summary minutes

6:01

SUPERVISOR COOKE MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Harden-Johnson, to approve the September 8, 2016, summary minutes.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Ostergaard aye

Youth Representative Penzkowski N/A

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

3. Public Comments

6:02

- Martha Hutsick thanked the PWDS staff, WWPFC and the County Board of Supervisors for their part in helping obtain funding and approvals for moving forward with Quarry Park improvements/restoration. She then provided the Committee with a brief summary and photos of past and present conditions at Quarry Park.
- As a user of Quarry Lake Park, Emily Papara was present to express support of Quarry Lake improvement efforts and hopes there will be continued progress.
- Mike Allard expressed concern about ditch digging on Highway V, stating his belief that it creates a danger and that safety should come before someone's personal vendetta. He indicated that he is still waiting for an answer to his questions and clarified that the person he believes has a personal vendetta is a county employee.

4. Review, discussion, and possible recommendation for sidewalk installation on the south side of Spring Street (CTH “C”), between STH 31 and Ohio Street, in the Village of Mt. Pleasant

Nathan Plunkett addressed the Committee. Pursuant to Racine County sidewalk policy, any sidewalk on roadways or highways that lie within County jurisdiction is subject to staff review and PWPF Committee approval. Among other things, a proposed sidewalk must serve a public interest and purpose, must be continuous, and ensure that the County is not responsible for maintenance, snow removal, etc. The proposed sidewalk will be located along the Willkomm development site at the intersection of Spring Street and Highway 31. Plans for the proposed sidewalk were distributed to the Committee tonight. Homes in the direct area have been demolished or moved and grading for the development is currently being done. Next summer, the State plans to reconstruct Highway 31 and Spring Street, with sidewalk constructed from the southeast corner of Highway 31 and Spring Street (Highway C), going east to Ohio Street. The State is also making sidewalk approach improvements at this intersection (e.g., new signals, curb ramps, crosswalks).

Supervisor Cooke commented that the submitted plan depicts sidewalk on the north and west; however, only the sidewalk on the north is being discussed tonight. Plunkett stated that although sidewalk is proposed on Highway 41, on the south side of Sunnyslope, and on a portion of Ohio Street, as well as on Spring Street, County approval is needed for only the portion that is located on a county highway (namely, Spring Street/Highway C). Supervisor Cooke then asked if the sidewalk installation is approved tonight, if it be handled the same as past sidewalk approvals and exempt the county from maintenance of the property. Plunkett replied that the proposed sidewalk lies entirely within the Village of Mt. Pleasant and the Village requires that all commercial development has sidewalk and any sidewalk in the Village will be maintained by the residents or business owners.

SUPERVISOR COOKE MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Grove, to recommend approval of the proposed sidewalk construction.

DISCUSSION FOLLOWED. Supervisor Hincz noted that the submitted plan depicts a proposed property line which doesn't encompass the sidewalk. He asked if the property line isn't inclusive of the owner, can it be guaranteed that the county is not responsible for maintenance. Plunkett replied that even if the sidewalk is in the right-of-way, maintenance is still the property owner's responsibility.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Ostergaard aye

Youth Representative Penzkowski N/A

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

5. Review, discussion, and possible recommendation for the proposed boring of a manure pipe under Sunnyside Drive (CTH “N”), north of Church Road, in the Town of Dover

Plunkett distributed information about the proposal to the Committee. Brain Schaal was present to explain his proposal and answer questions from the Committee. He stated that he is a third generation on his family farm, still in partnership with his parents. The farm has increased over the years from a 50-cow herd to a 350-cow herd and farming methods have changed though the times. Currently, a liquid manure storage tank is left on the farm until field conditions are ready for manure to be applied as fertilizer. A custom applicator is then hired to apply the manure to the fields. Manure is pumped into a semi-truck, driven down the road and unloaded to a holding tank

from which manure is injected into the soil from a hose. Schaal noted that if he bore a pipe under Highway N, he could run a hose directly from the manure pit to the fields, thus eliminating the semi-truck traffic and minimizing safety concerns and potential citizen complaints on Highway N. He indicated that the size of the pipe is 10". Molnar asked if there has been any feedback or input from the neighbor(s). Schaal replied that the neighbor who would be directly impacted has no objection and he surmises that others will be happy because there will no longer be trucks hauling the manure tanks down the road at all times on any given day.

Supervisor Grove commented in his experience with farming methods and practices, the proposal is not unique and is a common practice in counties in which large dairy farms are located. He believes it is a good thing in that it will keep semi tankers off the roads daily and will eliminate possible safety issues. He expressed support of the proposal. Chairman Molnar asked for input from Dave Prott. Prott stated that the County would have no concerns about the pipe installation. He agreed with Grove's comments and is also familiar with this being a common practice throughout the state. He stated that, if approved, there will be permit conditions established holding Racine County harmless – the property owner will bear responsibility for the pipe, maintenance, etc.. Plunkett added that the design and installation details will need to be worked out, Digger's hotline will need to be contacted prior to installation, and a DNR spill prevention plan to address possible spills must be established.

SUPERVISOR COOKE MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Grove, to approve the proposed boring of a manure pipe as presented.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Ostergaard aye

Youth Representative Penzkowski N/A

DISCUSSION FOLLOWED. Supervisor Hincz asked if the County will request a bond for the road to protect the County from possible future damage to the road. Plunkett stated that the County will consider a requiring a bond. He commented that conditions and language contained in the recently updated WisDot Highway Maintenance Manual concerning utilities, including liquid manure transport, will be helpful in this regard. Supervisor Cooke asked if there has been anything like this proposal anywhere else in the county. Plunkett indicated that he isn't familiar with any such proposals within the County up until this point. Grove asked Schaal is he envisions boring or a culvert, and if a culvert is used, will any special hoses, etc., be used. Schall replied that no special materials would be needed, just a standard galvanized pipe. Dover Town Chairman, Tom Lembcke was present and commented that the Town has received complaints from residents, primarily on Church Road, about the truck traffic. He stated that he would encourage this project, if it eliminates the semi tankers from using the roadways.

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

6. Status update on Quarry Lake Park

7:28

David Prott summarized the recent use of Quarry Lake Park by the public. He stated that there is a \$175 fee to rent the park for exclusive use, which includes use of the building and surrounding amenities. In 2016, twenty individual reservations were made for building in 2016, averaging a number of 50-100 people. About 100-150 people use the park on holiday weekends. The annual DNR kids' fishing clinic has been taking place at the park for many years. Prott commented that there is speculation that the DNR may change the fishing clinic to a different location.

Supervisor Cooke asked if proactive measures are being taken to ensure that the kids' fishing clinic at Quarry Lake Park. Prott replied that the County will work with the DNR to do everything possible to keep the event at Quarry Lake Park.

Chairman Molnar commented that at the County budget hearings last week, t four supervisors supported a budget amendment to allocate funding for a study of the quality of the water and beach at Quarry Lake Park, with the hope of receiving matching funding, in order to improve the quality of the beach and park for usage. Chairman Molnar stressed the importance of pursuing measures to improve park conditions and water quality and maintaining quality of life in the county. Anderson added that this issue was discussed at length at a staff meeting this morning. She stated that it should be kept in mind that if the money added to the budget is approved, it won't be available until January. Staff recommends engaging a stakeholders' study group, including people who actually use and have used the park and lake every day, to determine the needs and to formulate a game plan to how best use the money, how to best leverage the money to obtain other grant money, how to pursue sediment control, eradication of weeds, etc., before the lake becomes a eutrophic body of water.

7. Review, discussion, and possible recommendation on a request from the Eagle Lake Management District to require a winter parking fee at Eagle Lake Park in the Town of Dover

Staff informed the Committee that the County had received a letter from the Eagle Lake Management District requesting that consideration be made for a cooperative agreement to collect parking fees at the County-Owned Boat Launch/ parking area on the north end of Eagle Lake. During winter months, ice fishing is very popular on Eagle Lake and most weekends the parking lot is at capacity or overflowing. The Eagle Lake Management District plan would allow them to keep some of the funds if they work to collect them, and then allow the County the remainder of the funds for maintenance. Staff indicated that this not done at any other County owned boat launch and that more research is needed to determine how other counties handle these types of situations.

SUPERVISOR HINCZ MOVED, seconded by Supervisor COOKE, to lay over the request to allow staff time to do more research. This will be brought back to the Dec 8, 2016 meeting for further discussion.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Ostergaard aye
Youth Representative Penzkowski N/A

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

8. Review, discussion, and possible recommendation on an application for a hearing regarding an appeal to Docket No. 2016-0107-01, concerning driveway access to CTH "W" (North Brown's Lake Drive) in the Village of Rochester (Petitioners: Jay A. & Julie A. Henrichs)

Plunkett provided background information. Staff initially denied the permit, based on the black-and-white issue outlined in the guidelines for driveways that is used by Racine County Engineering staff. Mr. Jay Henrichs was present and explained to the Committee that he received approval for a land division on the premise that he would be allowed one residential driveway onto CTH W. Mr. Henrichs also hired a traffic engineer to study the driveway location proposed onto CTH W and moved the proposed driveway location to a different area. After review of the revised driveway location access point, and the fact that this is only a minor deviation from the driveway access standards, staff supports this requested waiver. Without this waiver, the property owner would have

to gain an easement or fee title to other adjacent lands to access the closest public roadway. This was neither feasible nor practical.

SUPERVISOR GROVE MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Cooke, to approve the location of the driveway as depicted on the October 20, 2016, application.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Ostergaard aye

Youth Representative Penzkowski N/A

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

9. **Review, discussion, and possible recommendation on a resolution authorizing the conveyance of county-owned property in Bushnell Park by permanent easement to Wisconsin Electric Power Company (DBA We Energies) to relocate electric facilities for highway purposes (1st and 2nd readings requested on November 7, 2016)**
6:54

Plunkett presented the application from We Energies for a permanent easement. This is needed because the WISDOT is going to be constructing a new roundabout along STH 142 and the relocation of some of the utilities encroaches into Bushnell Park. This is a 12-foot wide strip of land where utilities will be buried once relocated. Staff supports this request.

SUPERVISOR COOKE MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Hincz, to forward a resolution to the County Board, with a recommendation to approve, for 1st & 2nd readings on November 7, 2016.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Ostergaard aye

Youth Representative Penzkowski N/A

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

10. Communications and Referrals

There were no communications or referrals.

11. Miscellaneous Public Works Business

- Future PWPCF meetings: If needed, a meeting will be held on November 10, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. No meeting will be held on November 24, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Meetings for December 8 and December 22, 2016, are tentatively scheduled and will be held if necessary.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business, **SUPERVISOR COOKE MOVED, seconded by Hincz,** to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.