

**RACINE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017**  
**Summary Minutes**

Public Works-Development Services Conference Room  
Ives Groves Office Complex  
14200 Washington Avenue  
Sturtevant, WI 53177

**Committee Present:** Ronald Molnar, Mark Gleason, Tom Hincz, David Cooke, Scott Maier,  
Kiana Harden-Johnson, Robert Grove

**Youth in Governance**

**Representatives Present:** Paige Betthausen, Rasheed Muhammad

**Staff Present:** Julie Anderson, Public Works & Development Services Director

**Also Present:** David Prott, Parks and Highways Superintendent  
Martha Hutsick & Jeanne Garchek, "Friends of Quarry Lake"  
Janet Hoff, WRJN Radio

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**1. Call to Order, Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Ron Molnar. Molnar indicated that the meeting was properly noticed. He also read the statement relative to the Racine County Youth in Governance being present.

**2. Public Comments**

Comments were made by Ms. Jeanne Garchek and Ms. Martha Hutsick regarding the status of Quarry Lake and the amount of work that still needs to be done in that lake to get it cleaned up, especially the beach and buoyed swim area. They did express appreciation for the work that has been done during the 2017 season, but expressed concern over the additional funding and work that is needed at that site. They offered photos of the beach and swim area, as well as the kayak / canoe launch area.

**3. Approval of the August 10, 2017, PWPFC Conference Call Meeting Summary Minutes**

**SUPERVISOR MARK GLEASON MOVED, seconded by, Supervisor Cooke.** to approve the August 10, 2017, summary minutes.

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:**

Youth Representative Betthausen: aye

Youth Representative Muhammad: aye

**Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 7/0**

- 4. **Review, discussion and possible recommendation on a resolution by the Public Works, Parks and Facilities Committee on a resolution authorizing the writing for grants from various entities in cooperation with the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network (Root-Pike WIN) seeking funding for projects to reduce the impact of the goose population in Pritchard Park in the City of Racine**  
*(1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> readings at the September 26, 2017, County Board meeting)*

Anderson indicated that this was first presented at the conference call meeting of the PWPF Committee on August 10, 2017. The Committee reviewed the draft resolution language before them this evening and offered suggestions that the language be amended such that grants could be pursued for any Racine County parks relative to reduce the impact of the goose populations. Anderson noted that of primary concern is Pritchard Park, and the geese in the park that could become problematic with the forthcoming aquatic center next summer.

Brief discussion followed.

**SUPERVISOR DAVID COOKE MOVED, seconded by, Supervisor Mark Gleason, to forward a REVISED resolution to the County Board for 1<sup>st</sup> reading only on September 26, 2017, with a recommendation to approve.**

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:**

Youth Representative Betthausen: aye

Youth Representative Muhammad: aye

**Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 7/0**

- 5. **Review, discussion and possible recommendation on a resolution to request that the City of Racine eliminate a two-tiered pay system for city vs. non-city residents at the only public boat launch in Racine County for access to Lake Michigan**  
*(1<sup>st</sup> reading at the September 26, 2017, County Board meeting)*

Anderson explained that the current pay system at the City Boat Launch allows City residents to pay one fee, and anyone not a resident of the City must pay a higher fee to launch boats into the basin and into Lake Michigan. Anderson also explained that what the City is doing is perfectly legal, but that there have been complaints received by the Racine County Executive as well as the Parks Office and it was decided that sending a resolution to the City might change their minds about how to charge fees for the next boating season, or as of January 1, 2018.

Discussion was held. Supervisors agree that perhaps a better strategy would be to charge one fee for ALL Racine County residents, and then charge a higher fee for NON-County residents. This is the way the Racine Zoo charges admission and they feel this would be a good way to approach the boat launch fees.

Anderson will update the proposed resolution to articulate the wishes of the Committee relative to the launch fee system used by the City.

**SUPERVISOR DAVID COOKE MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Mark Gleason,** to forward a resolution to the County Board for 1<sup>st</sup> reading on September 26, 2017, with a recommendation to approve as amended in the meeting this evening.

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:**

Youth Representative Betthausen: aye  
Youth Representative Muhammad: aye

**Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 7/0**

**6. Discussion about mowing policies on County and State routes**

David Prott discussed the mowing policies relative to State and County routes. He explained that on State routes, the State only allows one full cut of the road shoulders and that must be done before July 4 of each year. The State also allows medians to be mowed up to ten times per season and that vision corners on State routes may be cut any number of times for safety. This is what the State will pay for, and nothing more. On county routes, road shoulders are also cut once by July 4 of each season, and now highway crew is completing a full second cut far into the rights of way along all county routes this month as mowing is completed and preparation for winter operations is begun. There are 2 large mowers on the east side of the county, and 2 large mowers on the west side of the county.

Discussion followed. Prott indicated that Racine County uses all State-allocated funds for mowing each year, and it is programmed so that the use of the state money is maximized. Molnar indicated that he feels State routes 20 and 11 need more attention, especially with the increased visitors to this area and with the possible major economic opportunities that could come to Racine County in the near future. He also said that the off-ramps are full of litter and he has witnessed people stopped in their cars at the traffic signal tossing trash out the car windows and into the State right of way. Prott indicated that County staff is not allowed to pick up trash on State routes. Further discussion was held about increasing fines for littering, as well as adding signs stating "no littering", "fines for littering", or something to that effect.

Anderson informed the Committee that there is a meeting coming up in the next few weeks with the State DOT in Waukesha and that we could carry these concerns to the group at that meeting for their discussion and consideration. The Committee directed staff to carry their message to the DOT. No action was taken on this item.

**7. End of season status update for Quarry Lake**

Prott reported that the floating wetland islands are in place, the plants appear to be doing well, and that fencing was added to deter geese from occupying the islands. There will be water testing done yet this fall to provide baseline water quality data. This is being undertaken by UW-Parkside. Additional testing will be done in 2018. Prott said that a presentation will be forthcoming to the PWPFC about the Quarry Lake projects.

Discussion followed relative to how much money is left in the account for the Quarry Lake improvements. Based on comments earlier in the meeting by the members of the "Friends of Quarry Lake", Supervisor Cooke indicated he would like to see another \$50,000 put into the Quarry Lake improvement fund for 2018. He acknowledged there is a lot of work to do relative to weeds, muck,

beach improvements and so forth. He indicated that momentum needs to pick up relative to getting the water and weeds cleaned up at this park.

Discussion was also held about the status of enzyme treatments in the lake. Prott informed the Committee that Patrick Haley is holding off from introducing enzymes into the lake at this time, until the wetland islands have been in place for a full season.

## **8. Communications and Referrals**

Supervisor Gleason indicated he had questions from Mount Pleasant about the status of highway projects around CTH "C" and STH 31, the timing of the CTH "MM" project from 31 to 38, and other highway projects as fall and winter are around the corner and there is construction everywhere.

Anderson reported that the State has indicated the work at CTH "C" and STH 31 will wrap up by the end of this season, and that the CTH "MM" project will be let this fall and will be completed entirely within the 2018 season with a full closure and detour that will use STH 31 to STH 38 as a detour route around "MM". There were also questions about the USH 45 and CTH "C" roundabout project. Prott explained this is a 2-year project and that the roundabout and areas to the south are to be completed yet this season, with the "north leg" of the project to be completed in 2018. Staff will continue to keep the Committee updated on the timelines for all construction zones. Anderson reported that the CTH "A" culvert replacement project should be done in the next 4 weeks, and that the CTH "X" project is complex, but moving along. She reported that earlier in the week, several teens were arrested after they were caught using slingshots to throw rocks at the highway contractors and their vehicles. Additionally, Anderson noted that there have been hundreds of speed citations issued in that construction zone, as some vehicles are going over 40-50 mph in the work zone. Anderson also reported that she received an email from a concerned resident along Fancher Road in the Village of Mount Pleasant with respect to the amount of truck traffic, traffic in general, and speeds within that area. He has asked that the speed limit be lowered from 45 to 35 mph in that area, north of STH 20 and north to CTH "K". Staff indicated that with all the construction occurring in this area and with more road construction expected, lowering the speed limit would not be prudent. Also, staff noted that all county highways can legally be used by trucks without any restrictions.

## **9. Miscellaneous Public Works Business**

- Next regularly scheduled PWPFC meeting: September 28, 2017, if warranted

## **10. Adjourn**

There being no further business, **SUPERVISOR DAVID COOKE MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Tom Hincz**, to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 7/0