

RACINE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2012
SUMMARY MINUTES

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

Committee Present: Katherine Buske, Mike Dawson, Kiana Johnson, Dan Sharkozy, Bob Grove, Monte Osterman

Members Excused: Jeff Halbach

Staff Present: Dave Prott, Superintendent of Highway and Parks
Jim Metzger, Park Planning Manager
Marla Wishau, Administrative Services Manager

Also Present: Dave Schilling, SEWRPC Principal Planner

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Kay Buske.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of the October 11, 2012, Summary Minutes

GROVE MOVED, seconded by Sharkozy, to approve the October 11, 2012, summary minutes. Motion carried. VOTE: 5/0, Osterman abstaining.

4. Review, discussion and possible recommendation on a resolution to adopt the "Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County 2035"

Dave Schilling gave a brief history of the Regional Park and Open Space Plan. The Commission developed the original plan in 1977. Since then the plan has been amended and updated on a county-by-county basis. The first amendment to the plan was made in the late 1980's. In The 2020 plan was developed in 2001 and re-adopted by the County in 2006. The County is now requesting the Commission's assistance in extending the plan to 2035. The County formed a special advisory commission to prepare a new plan. The new plan is needed to maintain the County's eligibility for stewardship funds. Schilling briefly reviewed the 2035 plan, using text, maps and charts. Handouts were provided to the Committee members.

David Prott asked what the next step in adopting the plan will be. Schilling explained that if this Committee approves the plan, it will then be forwarded as a joint resolution to the County Board. If approved by the Board, by law a final printed plan is certified and copies are sent to the County, DNR, and all 17 civil divisions of Racine County. The 2035 plan will be good for an additional five years. Dawson suggested that it may be a good idea for Dave Schilling to also attend the next Economic Development & Land Use Planning Meeting on November 19. Osterman asked Schilling for clarification of the properties marked red on the plan. Schilling explained that these properties are proposed state ownership, which means the properties could be in a DNR project area, an expansion of an existing scattered wetland site or in the natural areas plan. The properties in red are privately owned and some have been easement donations, which are becoming more popular. Osterman asked if the privately owned areas targeted for acquisition prevents the owners from selling to anyone else. Schilling answered no and went on to explain that properties must be identified in the plan for possible acquisition in order to get funding for that property.

OSTERMAN MOVED, seconded by Dawson, to forward a resolution to the County Board of Supervisors, with a recommendation for approval. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

5. Review, discussion and possible recommendation(s) regarding proposed policy changes for park camping in 2013

a. Policies for camping reservations/individual sites

Marla Wishau distributed information to the Committee and summarized the proposed changes. The Racine County Visitors Bureau currently makes all camping reservations. The Visitors Bureau asked for consideration in making the campgrounds all reservation only. The County would prefer not doing it this way, because it would not allow last minute walk-ons to use sites that are available. The current policy is to allow walk-ons to take an available site for 7 days and decide whether they would like to stay longer and then make a reservation.

A compromise was worked out with the Visitors Bureau:

It is proposed to divide Cliffside Park

- Sites 42-92 would be reservation only.
- Sites 1-41 would be reserved by the old rules.
- Should sites 1-41 be occupied, and there are unreserved sites on 42-92, a walk-on may work with the Manager/Host Camper/Parks Office to get permission to occupy a reserved site in the reservation-only section. Real Racine will be notified of these situations and adjustments will be made in the on-line reservation system.

Other proposed changes:

- After 2:00 p.m., beginning the first working day of the given calendar year, internet and on-line reservations may be made.
- The 21 day limit will be eliminated.
- Sites 1-13 will be walk-on or reservation.
- If a cancelation is made 3 days prior to stay, all funds will be refunded.
- If a cancelation is made 24 hours prior to stay, a one-night fee will be charged and the remainder of funds will be refunded.

The proposed changes have been approved by the Visitors Bureau.

Osterman asked for clarification concerning walk-ons. Wishau explained if a reservation is made more than 7 days out, a camper can choose a site anywhere in the park. If a reservation is made less than 7 days out, a camper is limited to sites 42-92.

Osterman asked if the campgrounds are ever sold out. Wishau responded no, except for Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day. On any given weekend, the campgrounds may be ¾ full.

Sharkozy asked if the new policies would benefit the Visitors Bureau and the County. Wishau replied that it is a win-win for everyone.

DAWSON MOVED, seconded by Sharkozy, to approve the proposed policy changes. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

b. Harley Fest Five-Night Special

Marla Wishau explained that the Five-Night Special was done for the Harley Fest's 100th celebration and it was so successful that the County would like to offer it again for the Harley Fest's 110th celebration. This event takes place over Labor Day weekend, which is already a busy time for the campgrounds. The 5 days required for the camping reservation match up with the Harley Fest schedule. The camping rates would remain the same. Sharkozy asked how Cliffside compares to other campgrounds in the area. Wishau explained that Cliffside has fewer amenities and is, therefore, cheaper. Osterman asked if the campground sold out last time. Wishau responded that it had.

Osterman MOVED, seconded by Sharkozy, to approve Harley Fest Five-Night Special. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

6. Review, discussion and possible recommendation on an ordinance amending Section 12-72(11) of the Racine County Code of Ordinances relating to "no parking zones" on CTH "X" (1st & 2nd readings on November 13, 2012)

Dave Prott reviewed the proposed amendment. He noted that there are many apartment complexes on Highway X (Taylor Avenue), just west of Meachem Road. Vehicles are currently being parked along the north side of Highway X, which causes problems for snow plowing during the winter months. He noted that there were no parking signs posted on the south side of Highway X, but it is unclear who posted these signs. Racine County did not adopt an ordinance for the signs posted on the south side of the highway and those signs are not enforceable. The ordinance being proposed is for no parking on neither the north nor south side of Highway X. Sharkozy asked if the no parking ordinance would be for only the winter months. Prott answered that this option was considered, however, the vehicles park in such a random fashion that it raises other traffic concerns all year round. Osterman stated that he is familiar with this area and he thought it best to have no parking all year round. He noted that the tenants of the apartments have ample parking provided for them and they are choosing to not use it.

OSTERMAN MOVED, seconded by Dawson, to forward a resolution to the County Board of Supervisors, with a recommendation for approval. The Committee requested 1st and 2nd reading at the November 13, 2012, meeting in order to expedite the posting of "no parking" signs. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

7. Review, discussion and possible recommendation on Public Works and Development Services Surplus Equipment (November 2012)

Dave Prott explained that occasionally Racine County has equipment no longer being used or equipment that no longer operates properly. He indicated that the County has had tremendous success with listing these items on Wisconsin Surplus, a government auction site. Grove asked where the items are located. Prott indicated that photographs of each item will be taken and posted on the website. Eventually the equipment will be brought to the Ives Grove Complex, except the boat lift due to its size. Sharkozy asked if listing these items on the Racine County website has been considered. Prott replied that this may be possible, but the County has had great results using Wisconsin Surplus.

OSTERMAN MOVED, seconded by Grove, to approve the sale of Public Works and Development Services surplus equipment. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

8. Communications and Referrals

Dave Prott informed the Committee that O'Brien Tire on Taylor Avenue has been displaying a make-shift sign consisting of a pickup truck with the back end cut off and a piece of plywood inserted into the bed of the truck. The sign is about 2½ feet off of the highway. Recently an electrical cord has been strung across the county right-of-way to provide power to light the sign. Prott indicated that he has had many conversations with the owner over the years. Now that a power cord now is being used, discussions with Corporation Counsel have taken place. The owner was asked to remove the sign tonight. If the sign hasn't been removed by tomorrow morning, the County will remove it.

9. Miscellaneous Public Works Business

a. 2012 Winter Maintenance Training Day

Dave Prott informed the Committee 20 seasonal employees have been hired this year to aid with snow removal. He noted that both full-time and seasonal employees attended a full day training session on November 5.

b. Establish date and time for next Committee meeting

The next Public Works, Parks and Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2012.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, **OSTERMAN MOVED, seconded by Grove**, to adjourn at 7:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0