

RACINE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2015
Summary Minutes

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

Committee Present: Katherine Buske, Kiana Harden-Johnson, Ronald Molnar,
Tom Hincz, Scott Maier

Members Excused: David Cooke

Members Unexcused: Kenneth Lumpkin

Youth in Government

Representatives Present: Beau Blake, Cynthia Wotapka

Staff Present: Julie Anderson, Public Works & Development Services Director
Nathan Plunkett, County Engineer

Also Present: David Hazen, Racine Unified School District

1. Call to Order

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 June 25, 2015, Summary Minutes

SUPERVISOR HARDEN-JOHNSON MOVED, seconded by, Supervisor Molnar, to approve the June 25, 2015, summary minutes.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Blake: aye

Youth Representative Wotapka: aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0

4. Review, discussion and possible recommendation on an ordinance to amend CHAP 13, ART III. Outdoor Burning, Sec 13-55 (c) Restrictions, of the Racine County Code of Ordinances
(to change burning hours from 12:00 noon - 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.)

Director Julie Anderson presented this item, relative to a minor change in the outdoor burning ordinance. The Committee was provided with a letter from the MABAS DIVISION 102 Racine County, Wisconsin Racine County Fire Chiefs' Association supporting an amendment to the ordinance to change burning hours from noon-7:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m. Discussion followed. Towns may be more restrictive than the County, but they may not be less restrictive. All other outdoor burning restrictions remain in place and unchanged.

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SUPERVISOR MOLNAR MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Hincz, to forward the proposed ordinance amendment to the County Board of Supervisors, with a recommendation for approval.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Blake: aye

Youth Representative Wotapka: aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0

5. Request from Burlington High School Boys Soccer Program to place a 7' x 10' storage shed on the west parking lot at Bushnell Park

Anderson presented the request. There were questions as to whether this would be a permanent structure located in the parking lot or if it was seasonal. It appears to be portable. Discussion followed relative to making the shed look more aesthetically pleasing, as it appears to need some repairs. The Committee understood that seasonal storage of soccer equipment is not an unreasonable request at this location.

SUPERVISOR MOLNAR MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Harden-Johnson, to approve the request with the following conditions: (1) The shed will be seasonal only and not a permanent structure; (2) The shed must be repaired so it looks nicer than the photo that was provided to the Committee; and (3) A certificate of insurance must be provided that indicates the soccer group has adequate coverage and that names Racine County as an additional-named insured and releases Racine County from liability if a vehicle strikes the shed or if the shed is vandalized or broken into.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Blake: aye

Youth Representative Wotapka: aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0

6. Review, discussion and possible action regarding a special use request for a fireworks event at Reef Point Brew House on Saturday, September 26, 2015

Anderson presented this request. As part of a special event scheduled to be held at the Reef Point Brew House, fireworks are planned to be launched near the small boat basin in Pershing Park. Discussion was held about the City of Racine's regulations and process for allowing fireworks to be launched at the location under consideration. Anderson informed the Committee that the City has been in contact with the applicants and they are working to obtain permits for this special event.

SUPERVISOR MOLNAR MOVED, seconded by, Supervisor Maier. to approve the special event request, subject to the following: (1) A copy of the County's approval letter be provided to the City of Racine's legal department; and (2) Racine County appears on the certificate of insurance as an additional -amed insured, with a minimum of \$2,000,000 coverage.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Blake: aye

Youth Representative Wotapka: aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0

7. Review, discussion and possible recommendation concerning Racine Unified School District's proposed Gifford School access improvement(s) on County Trunk Highway (CTH) K

A brief presentation was given by David Hazen of Racine Unified. He explained that there is currently a \$20 million addition underway on the existing Gifford School on CTH "K" that is expected to be completed for use beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. A traffic impact analysis was required to be completed for this project, as the addition will add approximately 450 new students to the 950-1000 students who currently attend the school. The school district understands that a traffic signal would help manage and control traffic flows into and out of the school property once the addition is completed. Currently, Caledonia police are used to helping manage traffic flows at this location when the school has large events and there are high volumes of traffic. Mr. Hazen noted that a traffic impact analysis and signal installation is a condition set forth by the Village of Caledonia for the conditional use permit and that this must be done prior to receiving final occupancy of the addition to the school. Nathan Plunkett explained to the Committee that a traffic impact analysis was done by Mr. Wayne Higgins and he uses current and future traffic flows, as well as other factors, when determining if a traffic signal is warranted for a site such as this. The past three traffic counts have been fairly consistent with traffic flows between the 8,000-10,000 cars per day average traffic volume in this area. This is a two-lane highway and there are no plans to expand the highway at this time to allow additional lanes. A traffic signal would be installed at the far eastern end of the school site, at the school's main driveway. There would be a traffic signal actuator installed which would allow the light to remain green on CTH "K" unless vehicles are stacked up to leave the school location. The other option is to install medians and additional pavement improvements, including widening the highway to four lanes at this location. Time is of the essence and there has been no engineering or design budgeted for widening of this section of CTH "K" at this time. Installation of a signal would cost approximately \$150,000-\$200,000. Installation of medians and other road widening could cost approximately \$300,000-\$500,000. The traffic impact analysis recommends traffic signals at this time.

Discussion amongst the Committee followed. There are some concerns that perhaps signals are not the answer and that the pavement improvements should be started. Staff reiterated that the traffic impact analysis recommends signals at this time and this could change in the future as traffic volumes or other conditions warrant. Staff also explained that the RUSD would pay for all design and construction of the signals. An agreement would have to be drafted so there is a clear understanding about who would pay for any downed traffic signals, burned out bulbs and annual maintenance of the signal system. The Committee had mixed feelings about the installation of traffic signals, but indicated that the traffic signals should be installed as soon as possible so that the public becomes accustomed to the lights well in advance of the start of the next school year.

SUPERVISOR MAIER MOVED, seconded by, Supervisor Hincz, to approve the traffic signal installation at this location.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Blake: aye

Youth Representative Wotapka: aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 3/2 (Molnar and Johnson dissenting)

8. Update for Committee: Racine Quarry pumping permit status (no action needed)

Anderson informed the Committee that the DNR had conducted studies of the Quarry Lake and found that there would not be a conflict with pumping water from the Quarry into the Root River. Anderson explained that next steps include Racine County applying for a WPDES permit, which can take up to six months to obtain from the DNR. Staff hopes to be able to pump Quarry Lake either later this fall or in spring of 2016. (No action required by the Committee for this item).

**9. Discussion and possible action on changing meeting start times to 5:30 p.m.
*Laid over on June 25, 2015***

Discussion was held and it seems that the Committee is interested in moving the meeting start times back to 5:30 p.m. The YIG representatives indicated they could make that time as well. Starting with the next PWWF Committee meeting, the start time will be 5:30 p.m. Chair Buske will inform County Board Chair Clark of this change in meeting start time.

10. Communications and Referrals

Anderson read two referrals from the County Board, to be received and filed.

11. Miscellaneous Public Works Business

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, August 27, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. No meeting will be held unless there are items to discuss or upon which to take a vote.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business, **SUPERVISOR HARDEN-JOHNSON MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Hincz, to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0**