

RACINE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2015
Summary Minutes

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

Committee Present: David Cooke, Kenneth Lumpkin, Tom Hincz, Scott Maier

Members Excused: Katherine Buske, Kiana Harden-Johnson, Ronald Molnar

Youth in Government

Representatives Present: Cynthia Wotapka, Beau Blake

Staff Present: David Prott, Superintendent of Highways and Parks
Jim Metzger, Park Planning Manager

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by PWPF Committee Secretary David Cooke.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of the March 26, 2015, Summary Minutes

SUPERVISOR LUMPKIN MOVED, seconded by, Supervisor Hincz, to approve the March 26, 2015, summary minutes.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Blake aye

Youth Representative Wotapka aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 4/0

4. Review, discussion and possible recommendation on Public Works and Development Services Surplus Equipment (Spring 2015)

Highway Superintendent Prott reviewed the list of surplus equipment with the Committee. The surplus equipment includes equipment no longer being used or no longer operating properly. Once approved, the equipment will be listed online through Wisconsin Surplus, a government auction site, and bids will be accepted. In response to a question from Secretary Cooke, Prott stated that there is no marketing cost involved in the sale of surplus equipment. Supervisor Lumpkin then asked if the sales profit goes back to a Public Works account. Prott replied that the monies go into a used equipment account to fund purchases for Public Works equipment from time to time with the approval of this Committee. Prott didn't know the account balance at this point in time, but will provide the committee with the figure at the next meeting. *

* The used equipment account balance as of 12/31/2014, was \$33,280.50; PWDFC members were e-mailed the figure by PWDS staff on 05/27/2015.

Supervisor Hincz asked if the surplus equipment list provided to the committee is a typical yearly listing, given the age of some of the equipment included on the list. Prott indicated that this isn't a typical listing; the department is basically doing some "house cleaning" and getting rid of equipment that hasn't been used in a long time.

SUPERVISOR HINCZ MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Maier, to approve the sale of Public Works and Development Services surplus equipment.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Blake aye

Youth Representative Wotapka aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 4/0

5. Review, discussion and possible recommendation regarding beaver activities at John Margis Jr. Wildlife Area, Bohner's Lake, Quarry Lake, and the Hunt's Disposal Landfill site

Highway Superintendent Prott turned over the presentation of this item to Park Planning Manager Metzger. Metzger stated that this issue has come before the Committee many times over the past years. He explained that beaver activities are causing damage in three primary areas in Racine County: the Margis Wildlife Area by Bohner's Lake, the Hunt's Landfill site, and Quarry Lake Park. Beavers in the Margis Wildlife Area and on the Hunt's Landfill site are building dams, causing water to spill onto adjacent properties and resulting in having to use Public Works manpower to remove the dams. Beavers are also causing extensive damage to large mature trees at Quarry Lake Park. It's uncertain whether beavers inhabit Quarry Lake or are coming into the lake from Root River. Metzger explained that in the past, Corporation Counsel prepared an agreement to hire a trapper to address beaver problems in these areas of concern. The Parks Division is requesting authorization from the Committee to work with Corporation Counsel on renewal of the beaver trapping agreement. The finalized agreement will require no further action from the Committee. Supervisor Hincz asked if the County will reimburse the trapper for services, noting that a trapper recently removed 7-8 beavers in the Lake Tichigan area in exchange for the beaver pelts. Metzger commented that it's his understanding that pelts no longer have as much value as they had several years ago. Prott added that past agreements established a limit for compensation to the trapper, not to exceed \$1000. Secretary Cooke asked what kind of beaver problems are occurring on the Hunt's Landfill site. Metzger replied that water back-ups on adjacent properties in Racine County, as well as on the Milwaukee side of the County Line Road, are occurring as a result of dam-building activities by beavers. Cooke asked if it would be possible to consult with Hincz regarding the trapper services used to help alleviate the beaver problems in Tichigan Lake. Prott and Metzger replied in the positive.

SUPERVISOR HINCZ MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Lumpkin, to approve authorization for staff to work with Corporation Counsel to execute an agreement between Racine County and a trapper to trap beaver at John Margis Wildlife Area, Quarry Lake and Hunt's Disposal Landfill.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Blake aye

Youth Representative Wotapka aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 4/0

6. Review, discussion and possible recommendation on a resolution authorizing application and acceptance of outdoor recreation trail aids - county snowmobile trail aids funding through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

Highway Superintendent Prott turned over the presentation of this item to Park Parking Manager Metzger. Metzger explained that each year the County, through the Public Works and Development Services Department (PWDS), applies for and receives approximately \$46,000 in grant monies from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to maintain and groom 184.1 miles of public snowmobile trails in Racine County. Metzger illustrated the layout of snowmobile trails this past winter on display board. As part of the application process, the WDNR requires a resolution that acknowledges the County's interest in continuing to participate in the trail aids program and its intent to allocate funds appropriately for the development, maintenance, and grooming of public snowmobile trails. Metzger noted that there are no substantive changes on the proposed resolution from resolutions approved in past years.

Secretary Cooke asked what percentage of trail grooming costs grant monies will cover. Metzger stated that the County contracts with 10 snowmobile clubs from the Racine County Snowmobile Alliance for snowmobile trail maintenance and grooming in accordance with WDNR standards. Out of the \$250 in grant monies received for every mile of trail, \$175 per mile/per season is allocated to individual snowmobile clubs for trail grooming; \$50 per mile/per season is allocated to the clubs for maintenance, including trail building, staking, signing, mowing, and smoothing plowed areas and brushing; and \$25 is earmarked for the purchase of signs and posts by the Parks Division of the Public Works and Development Services Department. There are no administrative costs. The snowmobile clubs are required to submit invoices and documentation to the Parks Division in order to get reimbursed. Reimbursement will not exceed the \$175/\$50 per mile maximum figures and any money remaining in the account after all invoices have been submitted will be divided among the clubs.

SUPERVISOR MAIER MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Lumpkin, to forward a resolution authorizing acceptance of outdoor recreation trail aids through the WDNR, with a recommendation of approval. First reading will occur on May 26, 2015.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Blake aye

Youth Representative Wotapka aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 4/0

7. Review, discussion and possible recommendation concerning use of county property for public snowmobile trails

Highway Superintendent Prott turned over the presentation of this item to Park Planning Manager Metzger. Metzger explained that it's the responsibility of the above-referenced snowmobile clubs that have contracted with the County for building and signing trails to contact individual property owners for permission to allow the trails to cross over their property. Permissions must be documented and kept on file in the Parks Division of the Public Works and Development and Services Department. Metzger then illustrated on display board, Racine County-owned properties for which the snowmobile clubs are seeking permission to build trails.

SUPERVISOR MAIER MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Hincz, to grant permission to use county-owned properties for public snowmobile trails. No County Board action is required.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Blake aye

Youth Representative Wotapka aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 4/0

8. Special Use Request

- American Horse Counsel 100-day "Time to Ride Challenge", Fischer Park

Deborah Guthrie, representing two equine organizations located in Union Grove, is requesting to use Fischer Park at Brown's Lake as a venue for the American Horse Counsel 100-day "Time to Ride Challenge". The challenge is a nationwide campaign designed to expose new people to horses and encourage participation in horse activities. The request is to bring in two horses at Fischer Park for a few hours at a time. She would like to use the park on a Thursday evening when the Aquaducks are performing their water show, with the hope of drawing a larger crowd of people who could participate in the horse event. Metzger stated that staff is not opposed to the horse challenge itself, but believes the use of Fischer Park, especially on a Thursday evening when large crowds will be present, is inappropriate. Therefore, staff recommends denial of the request. Supervisor Hincz expressed concerns about liability issues. Metzger noted that the event organizer indicated all participants will be required to sign a release form; however, this would not exempt the county from liability.

SUPERVISOR HINCZ MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Lumpkin, to deny the request as presented.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Blake aye

Youth Representative Wotapka aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 4/0

9. Review, discussion and possible action on Report No. 2015-1 by the County executive making an appointment to the Racine County Board of Harbor Commissioners

(Daniel R. Strommen)

SUPERVISOR LUMPKIN MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Hincz, to forward Report No. 2015-1 to the Racine County Board of Supervisors, recommending confirmation of the appointment.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Blake aye

Youth Representative Wotapka aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 4/0

10. Review, discussion and possible action on Report No. 2015-2 by the County executive making a reappointment to the Racine County Board of Harbor Commissioners
(Richard Hynek)

SUPERVISOR LUMPKIN MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Maier, to forward Report No. 2015-2 to the Racine County Board of Supervisors, recommending confirmation of the appointment.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Blake aye

Youth Representative Wotapka aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 4/0

After the vote was taken and the motion carried, Lumpkin asked if it's possible to request that candidates for appointments/reappointments appear before the standing committees in case committee members may want to ask questions of the individuals. Discussion followed. The Committee recommended that a request be made to the County Executive's Office that when, and if possible, reports are scheduled in the future in such a way so as to give standing committees to whom reports have been referred an opportunity to meet the candidates at their respective committee meetings prior to an official appointment being made.

11. Communications and Referrals

It was noted that Public Works received a letter from the St. Louis Catholic Church in Caledonia, on behalf of the St. Louis parish, expressing thanks for the sign improvements made by the Public Works Division (i.e., church entrance and pedestrian crossing signs and removal of 45 mph sign on Highway G).

12. Miscellaneous Public Works Business

The next regularly scheduled PWPF committee meeting will be held on May 28, 2015.

13. Adjourn

There being no further business, **SUPERVISOR HINCZ MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Lumpkin**, to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 4/0**