

RACINE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, December 12, 2013

Summary Minutes

Ives Groves Office Complex Auditorium
14200 Washington Avenue
Sturtevant, WI 53177

Committee Present: Katherine Buske, Jeff Halbach, Bob Grove, Kiana Johnson, Mike Dawson

Committee Excused: Monte G. Osterman, Dan Sharkozy

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

Also Present: Marty Johnson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

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

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of the November 14, 2013, summary minutes

GROVE MOVED, seconded by Dawson, to approve the November 14, 2013, summary minutes. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0

4. Review, discussion and possible recommendation on proposed design and location for the Rochester Shop building replacement project

Ms. Anderson stated that the new building will replace an old masonry building on the property that was built in 1941. The new building will be used for truck and equipment storage. Ms. Anderson will appear before the Village of Rochester Planning Commission and Board on January 6, 2014, at which time the Village will review the proposal. Chair Buske asked how large the building will be. Ms. Anderson stated that the proposed building is approximately 9800 square feet. The building that will be replaced is approximately 11,000 square feet and has multiple levels inside. The old building will be demolished and a new concrete pad with foundation footings will be installed on which the new building will be constructed. Supervisor Grove asked if the new building will be used for cold storage only. Ms. Anderson stated that the building will be heated, but won't have any offices. In response to an additional question from Supervisor Grove, Ms. Anderson stated that maintenance on equipment will be performed in the other shop building on the property, not in the new building. Supervisor Halbach questioned the necessity of the wing walls, noting that the structures cost roughly \$12,000 apiece and it would be very expensive to replace them if they're damaged by a plow or by some other means. Supervisor Grove stated that perhaps one reason for the structures might be to block a little wind. Ms. Anderson will consult with staff about the wing wall feature. **GROVE MOVED, seconded by Dawson,** to approve the location and design of the building, subject to staff reviewing the wing wall feature and not include them in the design, if they serve no purpose. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0

5. Review, discussion and possible recommendation concerning a memorandum of understanding between Racine County and the Village of Waterford regarding engineering services for the Fox River canoe/kayak launches design project

Two of the proposed launches will be located in Case Eagle Park in the Village of Rochester and two will be located near the Village Hall in Waterford. Ms. Anderson noted that the Village of Waterford has already approved the agreement with the County. The cost for the design work by Baxter Woodman (\$8200-\$8300) will be split between the Village of Waterford and Racine County. Ms. Anderson indicated that grants will be sought through the DNR to help with future construction costs.

Supervisor Halbach asked if this project includes rentals of kayaks/canoes. Ms. Anderson replied that there will be no rentals. Supervisor Dawson suggested that a good location for a launch below the dam would be the area that is frequented by fishermen, where there are no trees and that wouldn't require much construction. Ms. Anderson noted that the locations shown on the map distributed to the Committee are very general; specific locations haven't yet been determined.

HALBACH MOVED, seconded by Grove, to continue with the engineering work, secure costs and report back to the Committee. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0

6. Review, discussion and possible recommendation concerning a proposal from Marty Johnson, DNR Wildlife Biologist, to install an osprey platform in Bushnell Park

The Committee agreed to consider this petition out of order, immediately following Agenda Item #3, as a courtesy to Marty Johnson, who was present tonight from the WDNR to speak about the osprey nesting boxes.

Julie Anderson introduced Marty Johnson. Mr. Johnson stated that Bushnell Park would be a good location in which to install an osprey platform. The park is close to where osprey have tried to nest in the past and it's between several large lakes where the birds feed on fish. Nests may be anywhere from 3-6 feet in diameter, growing in size as osprey add to the previous year's nest each Spring. Mr. Johnson noted that osprey seem to be tolerant of people and they don't pester people. He further noted that poles should be located in open spaces, away from wooded areas. Once the pole is installed, he doesn't anticipate any long-term maintenance. An exact location for the platform hasn't yet been determined. If the platform installation is approved by the Committee, Mr. Johnson will contact Wisconsin Electric to seek an arrangement to install the pole in the right-of-way.

HALBACH MOVED, seconded by Grove, to approve the installation of an osprey platform in Bushnell Park. Discussion followed. Supervisor Dawson asked if the location has been determined. Mr. Johnson replied that the best location would be on the north side of the park, where it's more open and not close to a wooded area. Ms. Anderson suggested that the Committee be informed once the location is determined. Supervisor Dawson asked about the likelihood of vandalism, if the nest is an open area. Mr. Johnson indicated that the poles are 20'-30' high; he doesn't anticipate any problems with vandalism. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0

7. Communications and Referrals

Special Use Request

- Burlington Jaycees Ice-Fishing Derby at Fischer Park on Saturday, February 8, 2014, 7:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m.

Supervisor Dawson asked the Committee if they would consider waiving the \$300 fee for the Jaycees because it is a community non-profit organization. Supervisor Halbach asked if the County typically waives park rental fees for non-profit organizations. Ms. Anderson indicated that a reduced fee is generally granted to such organizations. She stated that the Jaycees are being charged less than half of the \$700 exclusive use fee. When reviewing the fee for this event, staff considered the cost of plowing/salting the parking lot by Racine County Public Works crew if needed. Supervisor Dawson had no objection to charging a reduced fee. **HALBACH MOVED, seconded by Johnson**, to approve the special use request from the Jaycees, with a letter being sent to the Jaycees explaining that the fee has already been reduced by more than half and stating that the County will be glad to assist them in any way possible and thank them for serving the community. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0

8. Communications and Referrals

There were no communications or referrals.

9. Miscellaneous Public Works Business

- An e-mail transmittal dated December 9, 2013, from Martha Hutsick, chair of the Adopt-a-Park group that helps maintain the lower part of Quarry Lake Park, describing current conditions in Quarry Lake Park and asking that the Committee "take an interest in improving the facility for the public good."
- At the request of Supervisor Halbach at the November 14, 2013, PWPFC meeting, staff investigated an observation made that the metal roof on one of the building on the fairgrounds was rusting. Staff staining from a tree that is hanging over the top of the pavilion=staff will clean and perhaps trim the tree in 2014.
- There will be no additional PWPFC meetings in December 2013. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be January 9, 2014, unless a special meeting is requested by PWPFC Chair Buske prior to that date.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business, **HALABACH MOVED, seconded by Dawson**, to adjourn at 6:26 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0