

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

May 7, 2008

1. Call to order at 5:35 pm.

Members Present: Ken Sipsma, Terry Enge, Sheldon Schall, Mick Holm, Judy Borke, Fran Bridge. Also present Tom Wilson, Chris James, Jim Stephenson.
Members Absent: None

2. Approve Minutes: April's Park Committee meeting minutes approved Schall, 2nd Bridge
3. Public Comments On Matters Not On Agenda: No public comments.
4. Park Maintenance and Development Discussion/Recommendations: Chris James, Planner for Dane Co. Parks gave a presentation of the Dane Co. Parks plan of linking parks and open spaces by way of regional trails as well as linking to other regional trails. He mentioned many areas they are working on in Dane Co. Hwy 12 to Sauk City. The lower Yahara River from Lake Farm Park in McFarland to Stoughton, as well as our North Mendota trail from Schumacher farm to Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Middleton and the steps in the process to eventually build the trail.

Once the conceptual idea is in the Dane Co. Parks plan can acquisition for grants for purchasing easements or acreage. Where the trail goes follows many criteria.

1. Will look at local government plans.
2. Parcel ownership and sometimes better to purchase whole areas then easements.
3. Slopes no more than 5% for safety reasons.
4. Use utility corridors including maintenance roads.
5. Try to avoid wetlands as boardwalk is expensive.
6. Traffic counts on roadways to avoid busy intersections
7. Schools proximity for K to 9 as can ask for federal dollars.
8. Residential connecting neighborhoods with regional trails.

There will be a 2008 budget process with public input for the North Mendota trail. Will put together draft alignments, secure funding either budgeted or receiving grants.

Trails are built when they have start and stop points as mentioned above. Main surface is usually crushed limestone or paved if they can get the funding. Local governments can apply for phase one planning through Dane Co Parks with Pam Dunphy. Also through their public works as transportation could also consider projects.

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Jim Stephenson, coordinator for Jackson landing mentioned the Westshire trails are being used. The boardwalk is in amazingly good shape. Could use an additional 15 to 20 sections to add to Westshire trails. There will be a watershed walk through the area on 5/14/08 at 6:30 meeting at Willows parking lot. Also would like to be able to remove more buckthorn and possible use of Town employees to help with boardwalk installments. Park Committee advised to have Tom Wilson direct staff as to working with Jim. Schall mentioned Oregon Correctional Facility is helping with Pheasant Branch cleanup and to inquire. Jim will contact and gather info to present to Park Committee. Also, Westshire could use more wood chips and will contact our staff when available.

5. Miscellaneous Business/Forthcoming Events: Judy commented that the state architect John Broihahm did a site review along the Military trail. She also mentioned that the survey map may not be accurate.
6. Meeting adjourned 6:35 pm by Schall, 2nd Enge.

Terry Enge, Acting Secretary