

**TOWN OF WESTPORT  
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Kennedy Administration Building  
Community Meeting Room  
5387 Mary Lake Road  
Waunakee, WI 53597

**Minutes**—May 3, 2023 6:00 p.m.

Present: Deanna Loewenhagen, Amy Freidig, Michelle Wing, Ben Buss, Mick Holm  
Absent: none

Meeting called to order 6:01 p.m.

April minutes approved by motion by Loewenhagen, 2nd Buss.

**Town Park Center:**

The committee previewed designs Gerber Leisure Products is starting to put together. The committee would like to know if there is a local park w/ the Global Motion Rotating Climber that members could visit to see the actual product. The committee hopes to have three different plan options from Gerber to consider for play equipment arrangements.

Shade options are still needed for the concrete area in front of the shelter. Would it be possible to install a stand-alone shelter such as at the Jackson Landing parking lot? The Park Committee would like the Plan Commission's feedback, as the committee has considered all other shade options.

**Tree Planting Plan:**

Possible areas for future trees would be underplanting trees at the Jackson Landing welcome area and willows around the town center pond. Freidig would like to trial a few street-friendly trees along the Woodland Drive bike path, as has been requested by residents. Freidig asked the committee to consider where native shrubs, such as dogwood, can be effectively used.

Loewenhagen emphasized the oak tree both as a long-living native tree and as the new Westport symbol. When a new town sign is put out after Hwy M construction, the Town should consider also planting oaks.

Next meeting's tree discussion focus will be on a tree path/arboretum master plan for a welcome area of the conservancy land. The committee will walk the area to start developing ideas.

**Mary Lake Park Safety Issues:** The rocker is still broken and safe levels of playground surfacing is still needed. The orange snow fencing that was put around the rocker last year fell down over the winter and was left at the base of the rocker—this not only allowed access to the broken equipment, but it also introduced a tripping hazard that had the sharp ends of broken stakes attached. Wing has received complaints from residents who are frustrated that the rocker is still not fixed.

**Bishop's Bay:** The committee would like to see park development prioritized. Could its development be a contingency attached to beginning construction on a future phase?

**Miscellaneous:**

Wing talked to a member of the Schall family about the memorial to Sheldon. The family is interested in either a bench or a tree. Wing suggested the conservancy area might be a good place.

Yahara Estates development is on the May Plan Commission agenda. Park land would probably be trails. The Park Committee would like to see sidewalks/bike path along Kennedy Drive for walker safety.

Dane County is working toward purchasing Kennedy land, which would include an easement to allow access to the Waakikižu Natural Resource area from Mary Lake neighborhood.

Motion to adjourn by Wing, 2<sup>nd</sup> Holm. Meeting adjourned 7:17 p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Wing.