

# TOWN OF SHELBY

County of La Crosse

State of Wisconsin



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## APPROVED

### Park and Vacant Land Committee Draft Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, November 8, 2021

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: 2800 Ward Ave, La Crosse, WI 54601

**Commissioners Present:** Co-Chairperson Renee Knutson, Co-Chairperson Tim Ehler, Commissioners Jeffrey Butler, Josh Blum, Brad Reinhart, Meredith Tomesh, Public Works Supervisor Terry Wright, and Town Clerk Fortune Weaver.

**Commissioners Excused:** Jean Wiggert, Monica Redmond

**Attendance List:** None

1. Meeting called to order by Knutson at 5:32 p.m.
2. Minutes from 10/4/2021. Motion by Butler to approve minutes from 10/4/2021, second by Blum. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Citizens' Concerns. None.
4. Update on Well Contact for Nolop Estates Park. Status of Well. Knutson noted that she and Weaver have done some research on the well on Nolop Estates Park. Knutson found a phone number for the original owner (Mary Nolop). Nolop thought it was being maintained and still being used. DNR does not have a record of it. At a previous Town Board meeting, Tim Padesky noted a previous person responsible for maintaining the well. Nolop also gave a lot of names, but none are currently responsible. Blum noted that well manager will be identified quickly if a problem arises. Tomesh noted that she spoke to a resident nearby that noted the well is still up and running. Tomesh will identify neighbor who stated the well services their home, Knutson and Weaver will make contact. Warranty deed obtained by Weaver confirms that the park is owned by Shelby. Parks and Vacant Land Committee needs to give direction on cleanup.
5. Frisbee Golf Signage Update. Wright noted Frisbee Golf Club of La Crosse put up vinyl signs, thought that metal signs that are screen painted would be longer lasting. Vinyl signs with less lifespan are \$14.00/sign, metal signs are going to be priced for him. Wright also requested a sign indicating the course location and the rules, walker's right-of-way, etc. Wright asked for a design proposal, price estimate, and list of colors and fonts to give the Committee a better idea of what the signs will look like. Wright noted different parks in the area that have similar signs. Knutson asked for a timeline, Wright stated that no timeline has been given. Ehler noted that there could be an app or online way to track score to avoid littering. Knutson noted QR code could be potentially used, Tomesh confirmed Onalaska uses QR codes.
6. Tennis Court/Pickleball Quotes. Ehler put out a few requests, no responses yet. Will bring information from the Town's Association Conference next meeting and will hopefully have more information on available options and pricing. Blum and Ehler agreed there would need to be a fence to contain the court.
7. Bench Options for Trails and Parks & Prices (see attached). Knutson gave overview of information for the benches that were donated for the butterfly trail. Is a similar style to what La Crosse is using on the trails (Belson Bench). Noted that the committee has previously discussed consistency in what the benches look like. Knutson also noted that different options are less cost effective. The positive for the Belson benches on the trails is they offer more protection against tipping. Sticking with the style of the donated benches wouldn't be a bad thing for Shelby. Functional, relatively easy installation, etc. makes for a huge benefit to users of parks and trails. Blum noted that there will be

little to no maintenance on the benches. Prices range from \$500-\$623, Knutson noted that Committee will plan for that price.

8. Grant Sources. Knutson noted that Peterson has previous knowledge on the grant application process. Reiterated that there is a critical need for grants due to the lack of Town funding available for parks and trails. Blum noted that having a plan in place ahead of time makes getting funding more realistic. Knutson agreed that the Committee should start having those conversations and making those plans to assist in obtaining funding. Ehler and Blum noted that funds exist for multi-use trails but that could open the trails to snowmobiles and four wheelers. Knutson noted that residents are asking for walking and biking trails. Discussion on the history of the trail extension options. Tomesh noted that it would also benefit the school district offering a safe path for students to travel to and from school.
9. October Action Item Discussion.
  - a. River Hills Park: Knutson asked for comments, concerns, wish lists, general discussion. Butler referenced photos sent to Knutson earlier, stating it's a nice little park, there is a large sinkhole in the park and a piece of the park equipment sunk into the concrete, concerned about a safety issue and liability. Butler reiterated having neighborhood involvement to keep the committee up to date on the conditions. Ehler noted that when Vanity Drive takes on water, it floods the park. Large, privately owned, pond off the park. Ehler noted that maintaining is all the committee could do as the parcel that is unable to be built on becomes the park in most developments, River Hills Park included. Tomesh agreed residents should take pride, raised the idea of a neighborhood cleanup day. Knutson noted there are basics the Town needs to address in each park, such as the accessibility of all parks. Focus on some of the smaller things and keep the big goals in discussion for when it becomes more attainable. Tomesh noted that there can be information in the Newsletter for residents to take ownership of their neighborhood parks. Butler noted it could be more of a neighborhood watch type of enlistment.
  - b. Wedgewood Valley Park: Ehler noted that this park also has issues with washing out during large storms. Wright noted that years ago the Town suggested putting in a pipe and bury the stream and residents resisted. Knutson suggested to dig deeper and rip rap so that it controls and directs water. Wright noted that Public Works plans to dig the creek and put in rip rap, all rip rap on public property above the area has been slurried. Winter weather will prevent any further slurry this year. The pond area will be stabilized with rip rap. Ehler noted that previous board rejected expansion of the stream. Wright noted that just below the area, is a protected trout stream and Public Works has even had to trap beavers for interrupting the flow. Blum and Wright agree that slurry will reduce sediment issues. Knutson noted the water feature is one of the most attractive parts of the park and controlling that flow would add to the beauty of the area. Potentially will need a permit from the DNR to do rip rap. Knutson noted walking bridge needs attention for safety reason. Wright noted despite the bridge's appearance, it's stable.
  - c. Walking Trail Map Signs: Blum noted signs are likely 20+ years old. Knutson added signs are out of date and in disrepair. Butler noted this project is the simplest and least expensive project mentioned to date. Knutson said signs should either be fixed or removed. Committee agrees that the signs need to be replaced and updated. Knutson noted park names are incorrect and maps may no longer be accurate. Blum noted the committee should create a new sign and get it replaced before spring. Including changes of which landmarks are mentioned. Locations of the signs will likely remain the same with some additions.
10. Park/Trail/Green Space Vision. Knutson noted getting something in writing from each member would really help the Planning Commission with their discussion on the Comprehensive Plan. Making sure that everyone has a voice which will also help this committee understand each other's

vision and will help guide discussions and decisions. Knutson mentioned importance of accessibility where allowed for the trails. Knutson asked if members could communicate their vision via email to Renee before the end of the week.

11. 2022 Budget Discussion Continued. Ehler noted the budget is tight, grants, donations, etc. will need to be obtained for large strides to be made. Blum asked if there are ARPA funds available. Ehler noted that the Town has received half the money, but there has been no concrete guidance on how the money can be spent.
12. Administrator Report. None.
13. Public Works Report
  - a. Wright noted all parks are now closed.
  - b. Patio is set for the Bloomer Mill side of Mormon Coulee Park, that will set over winter.
  - c. Rain gutters should be on the Shelter in Mormon Coulee Park by the end of the week.
  - d. Vinyl fence ordered for the Terrace Park by the Tennis Courts, will be temporary until fence can be replaced, material is 16 weeks out.
14. Co-Chairperson/Commissioner Reports.
  - a. Ehler noted Outdoor alliance did a great job on Buckthorn.
  - b. Can posts be put in to stop traffic up near the Nelson Property and Losen property. Big metal gate would be replaced.
  - c. The old well up on the nelson property- is there any 1:25- cap is new, is there any potential for water. Terry noted it's unlikely. Wright noted information on Wells.
  - d. No motorized vehicles on Shelby trails (including segways). Blum asked if there should be an ordinance to make it enforceable.
  - e. Knutson added that she went on a tour with Chairman Candahl on the Butterfly Trail, they would like to see a porta-potty at the trail head for hikers, more by the Birnbaum side. Wright noted that a slab should be poured for that to prevent tipping.
  - f. Candahl also asked Knutson to investigate how the field at the top of the trail can be redone to allow native plants that are beneficial. Knutson found guidance that is should be annually burned for 5 years. Blum noted that Friends of the Blufflands typically assists la crosse with that. Wright noted that the trail is mowed. Candahl recommends the crew mow the entire field in preparation for the burn.
  - g. Knutson also noted survey results and comments being returned. The consensus is to maintain what the town already has, and to improve parks. Some comments read verbatim to give the Committee an idea of what responses are looking like from the public.
15. Action Items for December.
  - a. Visit Breidel Coulee Park and Brookwood Park- Knutson will send materials.
  - b. Garbage cans for parks and trails- Knutson will send materials. Ehler noted that disposable bags for dogs being provided would benefit the residents.
16. Future Agenda Items.
  - a. None.
17. Adjournment. Motion by Butler, second by Blum to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting on December 6, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall (2800 Ward Ave, La Crosse, WI 54601)

Respectfully Submitted, Fortune M. Weaver