

# 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, February 7, 2022

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, Monica Redmond and Josh Blum, Public Works Director Terry Wright, Administrator Christina Peterson, and Town Clerk Fortune Weaver.

**Commissioners Excused:** Brad Reinhart, Meredith Tomesh, and Jean Wiggert

**Attendance List:** None.

1. Meeting called to order by Knutson at 5:31 p.m.
2. Minutes from 1/3/2022. Motion by Butler to approve minutes from 1/3/2022 with suggested corrections, second by Blum. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Citizens' Concerns.
4. Frisbee Golf Signage – Follow Up with Jason Keeny. Wright reviewed the proposal for the designs for the signs for the frisbee/disc golf course in Mormon Coulee Park. Designs received for the entire course and for each individual hole. See attached. Knutson asked about mapping fees, Wright explained the process for updating and mapping out the course. Knutson mentioned QR code for scoring, game rules, and other information for players as seen on other frisbee golf courses in the area. Redmond commented the app U-Disc can be used by players to track their scores. Blum noted past concerns received from residents living near the frisbee golf course like concerns received from residents surrounding other trails or parks that get added in the neighborhoods. Committee agreed that putting information in the Summer 2022 Newsletter about the frisbee golf course would help encourage residents to utilize the course or at the very least alleviate any concerns from nearby residents. Knutson redirected conversation to the signage. Knutson reviewed the design for the signs is \$700.00 and Keeny will get quotes for local businesses to make the signs. Keeny will get information for the committee to compare prices and determine what would be most favorable. Wright noted it will likely be \$30.00-\$200.00 per sign depending on sizes chosen and what materials are used to make the signs. The signage can be connected to the existing posts. Motion to move forward with sign design submitted by Jason Keeny by Ehler, second by Butler. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Gazebo Park. Redmond noted the volunteers that currently maintain and decorate the gazebo will not be volunteering forever. In the event the current volunteers stop contributing, it would be a good idea to have a plan for the future. Knutson noted options for plants that could be placed there that require less maintenance. Ehler and Redmond discussed garden club in the neighborhood that would likely be willing to help in the future. Knutson noted importance of the open space that can be used for a variety of activities. Redmond and Ehler agree that the park is used very frequently by different ages and groups. Ehler noted the importance of adding bike racks for park users. Knutson noted the frequent use of the benches along the area. Wright noted the bench company makes a bench that has a bike rack attached. Blum mentioned beer by bike brigade and their locally made bike racks. Redmond asked about no parking along the road, typically any parking is short-term to check out the little free library. Knutson and Ehler noted that there is a major problem with speeding there and anyone parked on the road slows down traffic. Butler noted he enjoyed the

connectivity of the park and walking paths in the area. Ehler noted potential for the paved area near Drive-In Road.

6. Skyline Park. Butler stated he enjoyed the park. Redmond commented how large the park is. Butler and Knutson noted the increased use of the park for sledding in the winter. Redmond noted the park is used a lot by the school and basketball court is well loved. Knutson wants to discuss landscaping to camouflage the wellhouse. Knutson asked if a trail can be placed on an Xcel easement. Wright noted private property near there that blurs lines between public and private lands. Blum noted that other communities use utility easements for trails and pathways. Committee discussed options for path/ trail placement. Wright and Knutson discussed other vegetation that could be planted around the wellhouse that wouldn't require extensive maintenance.
7. Administrator Report.
  - a. Peterson noted upcoming Bluffland Coalition meetings for potential purchase/donation of lands. More information will be provided soon.
  - b. Peterson reported the grant application for the Highway 35 Trail has been completed and submitted.
8. Public Works Report
  - a. Wright stated rain gutters on the enclosed shelter in Mormon Coulee Park will be completed at the end of the month.
  - b. Wright is reaching out to the concrete company for the patio project coming this spring in Mormon Coulee Park.
  - c. Wright noted the retaining wall in Mormon Coulee Park will be completed this spring.
9. Co-Chairperson/Commissioner Reports.
  - a. Redmond asked if there could be a grand opening for the frisbee golf course. Some sort of marketable event. Peterson reiterated it could be mentioned in the Summer Newsletter. Knutson noted the summer can be used to troubleshoot major issues with the course before a grand opening of the course and the grand opening could be held in the fall. The fall event would also lessen the chance the grand opening would interfere with work the crew would be doing in the park or surrounding areas.
  - b. Ehler will start getting information for potential pickleball courts in town. A lot of residents eager to see pickleball courts in the future.
  - c. Knutson and Wright discussed walking trail options and potential for park on Drive-In Road.
  - d. Knutson wants regular reports on what is left in the budget to keep the committee on track with project decisions throughout the year. Weaver will ask Town Treasurer to prepare reports for each meeting. Wright noted some projects for 2022 have already used funds. Wright overviewed what was spent from 2021. Treasurer's report will be provided for the next meeting detailing what was allocated for the year, what has been spent and what remains.
  - e. Discussion on projects and how that will relate to future maintenance budgets, time and care that would be required. Redmond noted that should be well thought out before a project begins to make sure the budget will have room to allow the areas to be well maintained.
10. Review and Discuss Parks Comprehensive Plan- Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations. Knutson noted that Peterson had the idea to create a separate element for parks, trails, and vacant land. Knutson noted title ideas that have been brainstormed, emphasizing the importance of recreation being in the title of the element. Ehler noted importance of indoor recreation activities in Shelby. Peterson noted places like All Star Lanes (bowling alley) can be included in community facilities and will be mentioned as a local business. Knutson wants to focus this element on outdoor recreation. Peterson noted the difference between pathways versus corridors in the title. Peterson reviewed the element (see attached). Peterson noted the importance of mentioning stormwater management. Redmond noted the importance of the wording for Objective 6-1 being more active

instead of passive. Peterson mentioned Goal 4 should mention something to note cooperation with MVC, Blufflands Coalitions, City of La Crosse, etc. Goal 5 should incorporate maps and historic information for trails and parks. Weaver noted maps created by Nicewander and MRRPC will be added as appropriate to each chapter. Knutson noted updating of trail signs should be a goal or action item. Knutson noted there are two class 1 trout streams and one class 2 trout stream. Redmond questioned if a goal should be to do a complete inventory of the parks and land and the goals for each parcel. Peterson mentioned it could be an objective to maintain an up-to-date inventory of parks, trails, and vacant lands in Shelby. Waterways could be under Goal 4. Knutson mentioned Highway 35 access point to get to the refuge, which would be mentioned in both natural resources section and this section. Blum noted waterways should note kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, basically just water trails, shouldn't be neglected or ignored in this element. Knutson agreed and mentioned fishing, boating and trout fishing should be highlighted as well. Redmond reiterated importance of having an inventory. Knutson listed out activities in Shelby; tennis courts, softball and baseball fields, trails, walkways, disc golf, trout fishing, boating, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, parks, greenspaces and greenways, hunting, skiing, and nature preserves. Wright noted restrictions on hunting on Town owned land, so hunting shouldn't be mentioned in this element. Knutson asked if there needs to be descriptions and definitions. Peterson discussed the parks listed, can be as extensive or not as the committee would like. Knutson wants to know if this committee would like to mention trails that are owned/maintained by other entities but are in Shelby. Should those be included in the list? Committee agrees that there should be some mention of it. Peterson noted that Shelby can ask MRRPC to create a map of trails and other open lands that can be used by the public that are in Shelby and that are not in Shelby but are Shelby adjacent. Knutson mentioned "unofficial trails" aka "goat paths" that exist, but no maps can be made to show existing paths in the area. Redmond asked about recreational opportunities that are adjacent to Shelby. Weaver pointed out other elements mention areas adjacent to Shelby. Redmond noted anything that would affect the planning in the future whether in Shelby or not should be mentioned to assist with the planning process. Knutson and Butler agree that that is part of the goal for working with other entities to improve and plan for the facilities in Shelby. Peterson proposed creating a separate binder that has an inventory of the adjacent parks, trails, and lands. Knutson noted she was going to add to the trail section and that might include adjacent trails. Peterson noted that the action item is continue planning for future trails and make a list that would be able to be more general. Weaver mentioned strengths and weaknesses. Peterson noted parts of the City of La Crescent Plan that is similar uses issues and opportunities. Butler asked about what issues and opportunities La Crescent developed. This Committee prefers the verbiage issues and opportunities. Opportunities: residents rate parks as good/excellent, surrounded by bluffs and rivers, strong supports for bluffs and river, issues stormwater runoff, erosion, and flooding. Redmond likes the idea of incorporating the issues and opportunities into the introduction paragraph.

11. Action Items for March.

a. Visit both sides of Pammel Creek Park and Smyth Park.

12. Future Agenda Items. None.

13. Adjournment. Motion by Butler, second by Redmond to adjourn at 6:59 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting on March 7, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall (2800 Ward Ave, La Crosse, WI 54601)

Respectfully Submitted, Fortune M. Weaver