

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, March 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, Jean Wiggert, and Brad Reinhart, Public Works Director Terry Wright, Administrator Christina Peterson, and Town Clerk Fortune Weaver.

Commissioners Excused: Josh Blum and Meredith Tomesh

Attendance List: None.

1. Meeting called to order by Knutson at 5:30 p.m.
2. Minutes from 2/7/2022. Motion by Butler to approve minutes from 2/7/2022 with suggested corrections, second by Redmond. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Citizens' Concerns.
4. Logo Update – Committee Interest? Knutson noted Town Board agrees that a subcommittee should pursue updating the logos for the town, sanitary district, and parks. The logos are currently disjointed and need more consistency. Knutson described the current logos. Knutson noted that the park's logo is more time sensitive because of the disc golf signs that are going to be put in Mormon Coulee Park. Peterson noted if the Town logo sufficiently pictures nature or more natural features, could it serve as a logo for more than one entity. Knutson reiterated the idea of a subcommittee or if no one is interested, the Board can pursue it and bring back ideas for this Committee to review. Redmond and Reinhart agree that one logo that spans over multiple entities would be most desirable and would work towards consistency. Knutson called for ideas about what attributes of Shelby should be included in the logo and suggested committee members send their ideas and thoughts to Knutson or Weaver. Knutson will send out an email to those not in attendance asking them to send ideas and thoughts about the logo to Knutson. Knutson asked that all input is received by the end of the week of March 18th.
5. Wyatt Moe – Eagle Scout Project. Knutson provided background information on Wyatt Moe's project; a little free library with a bench and some trees that will be in Mormon Coulee Park. Knutson provided the following information about the fundraiser, Fundraiser Village Festival Foods on April 9, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This event will be promoted on Facebook. Knutson noted that the project is set to begin in April or May, weather permitting.
6. Review and Discuss Parks Comprehensive Plan Draft – Chapter Title, Goals, Objectives, Definitions and Recommendations. Weaver reviewed the parks draft of the plan. Discussion on proposed changes. Weaver made real time updates based on discussion. Additional updates should be sent to Weaver via email as soon as possible. New draft will be provided to the Committee for review before the next meeting.
7. Stry Foundation Bridge. Peterson gave background information on the Stry Foundation Bridge. Ehler mentioned Breidel Coulee Park and potential crossing of marshland. Knutson and Redmond made additional comments about Breidel Coulee. Peterson commented on expenses and other issues that would need to be addressed for the bridge to be useable. Discussion on the bridge being too large for Birnbaum property. Butler asked how much it would be to move the bridge. Peterson commented that this would be similar to the bridge over chipmunk creek and asked Wright how much that cost? Wright noted that the chipmunk creek bridge was destroyed. Wright was unsure

about a cost estimate for this project but noted the wood would be unusable and would need replacing and likely only the steel beams would be salvageable. Reinhart and Wright agreed that it would take a crane to move the bridge, and a majority of the bridge would be destroyed in the process. Reinhart reiterated that the decking and railings would be destroyed. Peterson noted good discussion, nice offer but it doesn't seem like the right fit. Committee agrees it would be too much money to make the bridge useable elsewhere. Peterson will let Stry know the town is not interested.

8. Action Item Discussion – Pammel Creek and Smyth Parks.

- a. Pammel Creek Park. Knutson called for thoughts, ideas, suggestions from the committee members. Redmond confirmed that the park is used regularly and is almost a destination park. Park goes travel from all over to be there. Butler noted walkway to park is needed. Knutson noted the walkway was not completed to the parking lot. Wright stated the walking path was put on hold due to the water line being put there. Ehler and Wright reiterated the water and the parking lot or sidewalks needed to be dug up for that which would have destroyed the walking path. Power line also needs to be addressed in this park. Knutson inquired if completing the walking path would be possible, Ehler and Wright confirmed if properly planned out. Aquinas investigated pitching machines and scoreboards for use at one time if power could be available. Knutson noted that she will make note of the needs and suggestions to aide in future planning for that park. Ehler and Reinhart explained that it can be done, but there will be a substantial expense. Knutson noted Padesky can be contacted to see what options are available. Knutson wants a timeline and a goal in mind. Peterson wanted clarification of plan for only a new sidewalk or for the sidewalk, shelter, power, etc. Knutson wants to know how feasible this project could be. Wright noted that the power company will run 300 feet for free, the park would need two posts and a bump to get them to the meter. They will bore underground, whatever is necessary to get power in there. Wright reiterated the need for a plan for where the power would be run. Knutson wants to know how to evaluate the draw that would be needed. Padesky will be able to give an idea of what is needed. Wright recommends a 200-amp service, Shelby Youth Ball runs on 100 amps, so 200 would be more than enough. Wright noted history of the park and the bubbler that is going in. The total cost of the bubbler up to this point is around \$5,000.00 already. Wright explained necessary meter installation in case water goes into a shelter. Committee will investigate donation from Aquinas to help combat some of the cost for the bubbler. To build a shelter would be too expensive currently so a shelter will be revisited once material prices go down. Wright noted the bubbler also has a faucet for dogs because a lot of dog walkers use that park. The bubbler will be in place by April 15th when parks open. Conversation about paved trails and walkways or tracks. Knutson noted popularity of the Chad Erickson trail and the accessibility and versatility of the trail due to it being paved. Knutson reiterated COVID encouraged increased use of trails. Reinhart reiterated the need for accessibility of trails. Reinhart noted previous experience with parks and the need for sidewalks to all the amenities the parks offer. Knutson noted sidewalks are being seen more and more within parks. Ehler noted increase in price of asphalt now. Redmond noted Rainwater/ floodwater that washes out of the park. Ehler and Knutson agree that the park itself does not have as many issues with water as the wetlands on the borders of the park. Ehler noted the DNR has wanted the bridge out of this park for a while, adding that there are rattlesnakes and other creatures in the area that present issues. Knutson and Redmond agree that the bridge is failing and needs attention. Reinhart noted washouts from the gravel to the bridge and is unsure if something can be done to wood surfacing because it is very slick when damp. Ehler questioned options to reduce slickness, Wright noted strips can be placed on the boards to provide additional grip (costs approximately \$4 per strip), however, it would be

removed by shoveling in the Winter. Wright reiterated the bridge doesn't have a lot of time left. Wright noted it can be left in the current condition for while as it is over a dry ditch.

- b. Smyth Park. Redmond noted she saw snowboarders there. Wright noted soccer nets used to be there and were never used, since moving to Pammel Creek Park, they are used all the time. Knutson called for thoughts, ideas, suggestions, questions. Ehler provided background information on the park and some contentious issues that have come to the committee in the past. Ehler provided history about the shelter. Wright noted 300 feet for free as mentioned above does not apply to hooking power up to the building. Knutson noted requests for a pathway from handicapped parking to the shelter. Peterson noted that playground upgrades was another request received. Wright reiterated the residents' concerns about preserving greenspace. Wright noted where the sign sits, allows room for 4 cars to be parked. Wright noted manhole could be lowered to the height of parking lot and there would be a road leading down to it without compromising greenspace. Knutson and Ehler agreed that would be a good solution for accessibility. Wright reiterated water flow issues. Committee agrees shelter with picnic tables is a great asset, Ehler noted power would be great addition as well, committee agreed. Ehler stated Meredith Tomesh can offer a great perspective because she lives in the area. Knutson reiterated importance of sending feedback and questions via email if committee members cannot be at meetings.
9. Budget Discussion. Peterson gave overview of Parks Budget Transactions from 2021 and stated that 2022 still retains an untouched budget aside from the money allocated for frisbee golf signage. Peterson noted differences in projects set for 2021 and what was actually accomplished such as, \$10,000.00 was set to be spent on a shelter/gazebo in Battlestone Station Road Park but was pushed off because of cost of materials. Instead, Mormon Coulee Park had repairs on the retaining wall and other expenses were pursued. Wright noted general maintenance absorbed the fence that was replaced, not the parks budget. Wright provided details about use of funds in 2021.
10. 2022 Project List
 - a. Knutson noted the Boy Scout project occurring in Mormon Coulee Park this spring needs to include plants that are consistent with what already exists.
 - b. Ehler introduced the idea of returning the volleyball courts. Sand courts at Features were purchased leaving 70 teams looking for places to go. Wright noted there is still a net, Ehler noted that it might be a short-term solution that could increase the use of our parks. Wright stated sand is free from the City of La Crosse. Knutson reminded the committee that it cannot interfere with disc golf if placed in Mormon Coulee Park. Knutson suggested the Brookwood parcel adjacent to Timmer's 10 Mile Pub.
 - c. Ehler noted the interest in pickleball courts, one thing that needs to be addressed is the noise in residential areas. Drive In Road would be an ideal potential location since there is space that would lessen any noise complaints. Ehler reiterated that new fencing and painting of lines and that old road that will never be used again could be the pickleball court. Reinhart noted difference between competitive and playable. Wright noted the condition of some of the tennis courts and what they need. Wright noted the cost of fencing around the area to create a pickleball court would be approximately \$4,500.00.
 - d. Ehler stated John Wettstein brought up the idea of placing benches and walkway on the back of Drive In Road. Wildflowers and solar panels could be placed going up the southern bluff. Ehler stated the Town owns the land, and nothing can go back there because of easements with the power companies. Questions on what would it cost versus what it would bring in? Wright noted wildflowers would be a large project, with quite a lot of maintenance. Ehler stated Wettstein suggested nicer lighting in the terraces, solar panels could take some cost off that project, or could pay for electricity usage in the parks. Wright and Knutson agree that solar

panels and wildflowers would be more labor intensive than people think. Knutson noted that landscaping around solar panels is that much more effort than standard landscaping. Knutson thinks rooftops make more sense for solar panels. Knutson wouldn't push it for that area specifically. Knutson worked with a team from Viroqua previously on a solar project, Knutson can reach out for answers and a potential assessment for options.

- e. The Alpine Inn is connecting their parking lot to the trails behind the Arbor Hills wellhouse. Ehler can reach out and see what existing plans are. Ehler noted more trail usage can mean more increased business for the Alpine Inn. Discussion on areas owned by the City of La Crosse, Ehler noted it shouldn't be an issue to work together since the City wants those trails to be used. Ehler noted there is potential for a youth biking path. Ehler noted the 40-acre parcel has a lot of potential. And if the trail starts from the Alpine Inn and not from Thistledown (having to pass through Arbor Hills) it would be easier to access and find. Ehler stated previously there was some discussion, but nothing concrete. Wright noted large ravine back there and suggested a walking bridge can be added.
 - f. Ehler noted that Shelby is not mentioned at all in the Explore La Crosse magazine. Ehler is unsure about membership fees or how to get Shelby mentioned. Committee agrees that PR is needed.
11. Administrator Report. None.
12. Public Works Report
- a. Wright stated a well was drilled in Nolop Park. Whoever drilled the well took the fence apart and never put it back together. Knutson questioned who drilled the well, Wright was unsure. Wright noted that the well went dry, Sara has the billing information from December/January when the Town provided water for the residences served by the well. Individual responsible for running the well no longer lives in that area, he lives in West Salem. Redmond asked if whoever drilled the well is waiting for the ground to thaw before replacing the fence. Wright will provide Knutson with contact information so that issues can be addressed, and questions answered.
13. Co-Chairperson/Commissioner Reports. None.
14. Action Items for April.
- a. Visit Upper and Lower Wedgewood Terrace Parks
15. Future Agenda Items.
- a. Draft Project Budget
 - b. Draft Project Priority List
16. Adjournment. Motion by Reinhart, second by Butler to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting on April 4, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall (2800 Ward Ave, La Crosse, WI 54601)

Respectfully Submitted, Fortune M. Weaver