

City of Baraboo  
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting  
Feb. 14, 2022 – Minutes

Present: R. Franzen, C. Schlender, A. Witczak, J. Francisco, S. Mordini, A. Workman, H. Kierzek, M. Hardy

Others present: Mayor Nelson, Brian Simmert (Sauk County), Andy Zimmer (Jackson Bike Trail), Scott Dischler (community member), Carey Tripp (Baraboo Library) and Paul Wolter (Sauk County Historical Society)

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. Legal posting of the agenda has been met.

Witczak motioned and Kierzek seconded approval of the Jan. 10, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Witczak moved to approve the agenda as printed, seconded by Workman. Motion carried.

Action Items

a. Discuss and consider request from Sauk County Humane Society to hold “Paws Walk” fundraiser at Maxwell-Potter Conservancy in Wise Shelter and allow vendors (tents) along the outside fence of the dog park on May 14, 2022

Dana Madalon could not be present, but Hardy presented a summary of her written description of the event (requesting waiver of rental fee) and allowing vendors to sell items. Planned location of the vendors have been moved to the south side of the dog park and parking has been moved off of Mill Race Drive, at the request of Hardy. Witczak asked if fees are normally waived for walks; Franzen said no, but also said this is a great use of the Maxwell Potter Conservancy. Witczak motioned to allow vendors for the PAWS walk event with normal fees, seconded by Franzen. Motion carried.

b. Discuss and consider Great Sauk State Trail (Baraboo segment) route recommendation from the Bicycle Advisory Committee and recommend route to City Council

Workman presented the Bicycle Advisory Committee’s preferred route recommendation for the GSST. Franzen asked for comment on the route from members of the public in attendance. Paul Wolter of the Sauk County Historical Society thanked the committee for keeping the GSST going past the Train Depot. His current concern is negotiations with the RR for land around the Depot. Wolter expressed the need to know if the trail is going to cross at Vine St or not. He likes the Vine St crossing idea if it’s being closed, but is not in favor of Lynn St as the path because it would wipe out on-street parking options. Brian Simmert spoke from the county’s perspective: they have an adopted planning process and the route from Burma Rd. to Devils Lake State Park is set. One area still unknown is the connection point from City of Baraboo to Village of West Baraboo; this intersection will lead information to favored vs. alternate routes. Hardy suggested that the City end the recommendation at the Shaw St, bridge as that is the border with Village and City should wait to see where the Village takes it from there before spending additional time on further routes north.

Simmert will put out a proposal for a public participation plan so the public can give feedback, as he is still now in the pre-planning stage with communities. He is also in negotiations for a maintenance inter-governmental agreement for how to maintain the trail. The Transportation Alternatives Program will accept 80/20 funding program proposals for 2024. Franzen voiced support for the preferred route. Also voiced concern with the secondary route having overlap with Riverwalk, and would want to minimize overlap with Riverwalk as much as possible. Schlender expressed that he understands there are obstacles with the preferred route, but the focus should be on how to overcome them. He observed that while he does not walk the Riverwalk often, he does spend time at Mary Rountree

Evans Park and sees lots of people with strollers and bicycles; he would not be in favor of the GSST following the Riverwalk. Witczak voiced support for the preferred route but voiced concern about the trail going through the Attridge Park splashpad area because of traffic from toddlers/bathrooms/etc. Franzen motioned that we follow the recommended preferred route from the BAC ending at the Shaw St. bridge, seconded by Witczak. Motion carried.

- c. Discuss and consider phased bicycle and walking trails plan for the Jackson Conservancy  
Workman gave background on the creation of the Jackson Conservancy Mountain Bike Trail phased plan. Andy Zimmer spoke to planned hiking trails as well as perimeter access trails. Connectivity of a combined use trail exists on the west side of the property. Layout would be done for more difficult trails for experienced riders at a later point once fundraising is completed. Zimmer said 3-3.5 miles of trail lengths is the minimum for a family to consider a destination worth visiting. Franzen said this is a fantastic use for the property. He recommended starting with what can be accomplished first. Witczak also expressed approval and the hope that it will bring in families and larger entities and constitute a great asset for our community. Francisco voiced support but had a question on parking. Hardy said the area west of the cell tower to the edge of the park could accommodate a parking lot with up to 30 spots. Hardy also spoke of a planned cul-de-sac on the south end of the property which would provide access to the south end of the trail network, but no parking other than on streets exists. If/when the west side is annexed it may be possible to add on to the west end of the park and add additional parking and access points. Two trailheads are possible (one near park restrooms, one near proposed parking). Zimmer asked if there is an expectation for the bike group to also construct the hiking trails. Franzen said he did not know how to answer this; ideally there would be crossover between groups. Witczak asked if cross country skiing or snowshoeing would be included. Zimmer said areas may be too steep for cross country skiing, but snowshoeing would be possible. Witczak motioned to approve phase I of the Jackson Reserve trail plan, Workman seconded. Motion carried.
- d. Discuss and consider allowing the Baraboo Library to hold a canoe building program at Campbell Park Swimming Pool on July 30 for a cost of \$88  
Hardy had already discussed the event with the Aquatics Coordinator and neither he nor Ryan saw any issues as long as safety rules were followed. The event is to build canoes using cardboard boxes and duct tape, then test flotation. Concerns were safety in the pool area; all participants will wear PFD's and clean up all materials. Kierzek asked about a back up rain date; Tripp said none has been designated but the plan is to scale back the event in the case of inclement weather. Workman motioned to approve the Baraboo Library holding a canoe building program at Campbell Park Swimming Pool on July 30 for a cost of \$88, Schlender seconded. Motion carried.
- e. Discuss and consider request from Baraboo Soccer Club to add City View Park on their co-sponsor agreement for soccer activities during the spring and fall seasons  
A letter sent on behalf of the organization showed a graph of doubling of participation leading to the need for an additional field. Steinhorst field #1 has been taken off rotation to "rest" from wear and tear of continual use. Hardy proposed a location at City View is south of new basketball courts. Franzen voiced support for putting in permanent goals. Franzen moved to approve the Baraboo Soccer Club to add City View Park on their co-sponsor agreement for soccer activities during the spring and fall seasons, seconded by Witczak. Motion carried.
- f. Discuss and consider donor request to not allow any advertising in Statz Park in exchange for the donation of a new scoreboard at the park

Franzen said the City doesn't really permit advertising, other than same day advertising, i.e. for a tournament at a park with banners printed by a corporate sponsor. Mordini asked if the donor was asking for a 'no compete' clause; Franzen said usually the scoreboard donor gets their name on the board for the life of the board. The cost of the scoreboard went up \$850 over the last year, so the donor requested BABA pick up some of the tab. Witczak motioned to accept the Statz donation of \$4,150, plus \$850 paid for from the BABA co-sponsorship fees, seconded by Mordini. Motion carried.

### Informational Items

#### a. Staff Report submitted by Hardy.

Revenues were \$18,123.99 for the month of January 2022

##### 1) 2023 Budget preparations

Hardy noted the City Council asked Department Heads to cut \$825,000 from the 2023 operating budget (\$112,000 is the Park Department's share). Council asked for recommendations for what/where to cut in May. Hardy has been meeting with staff members and revisiting the community survey, and would like Commission input as well before making his recommendation on cuts. Hardy went through potential cut areas and asked for input from members after looking through the options for the next meeting.

##### 2) Upcoming projects & programs

New development is being platted out off of Spruce and Mine road, ~1 mile south of Pierce Park. Hardy has proposed a .9 acre park to go in adjacent to the 2 acre wetland/detention area to include a playground, picnic shelter, Basketball or Volleyball court, as well as a nature trail around the existing detention basin. Plan is to build it in 2023, covered by impact fees to build, but would include some future minimal costs to maintain.

Hardy noted that the Commission had approved an easement for a buried Alliant Energy line at the Maxwell Park Conservancy, but the route had to be abandoned due to hard bedrock. The new path works in the park's favor as it allows for more open space if a gazebo is ever put in south of the bridge.

The Department will hold a Winter Candlelight Walk, Saturday, Feb. 19, 6-8 pm at Maxwell-Potter.

#### b. Subcommittee reports

##### 1) Friends of Baraboo Parks (Witczak)

They are co-hosting the candlelight walk, with treats donated from Neato's Bakery. Some members met with LSI who installed the Middle School Challenge Park. Budget modified to \$43,000 instead of \$70,000. The goal is to have a new playground put in this summer.

##### 2) Bicycle Advisory Committee (Workman)

The Committee met Thursday, Feb. 10 to discuss the GSST route recommendation, Jackson Conservancy trails plan, the DOT 2024 Hwy 33 road reconstruction and a potential bike to school/work event in May 2022. The committee's next meeting will be Wed, Feb. 23.

**Next scheduled meeting:** March 14, 2022 at 5:30 pm

Franzen motioned and Mordini seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Workman, Secretary, Parks & Recreation Commission