

**VILLAGE OF PLOVER
PARKS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
June 19th, 2023
5:20 PM**

Members Present: Steve Fritz, Larry Schweitz, Adam Raabe, Mike Helmrick, and Sara Luchini

Members Unexcused: Darcy Grabski

Members Excused: Kraig Brooks

Others Present: Steve Kunst, Dominique Swangstu

- 1. Mr. Fritz called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.**
- 2. Approval of the minutes of the Parks Development Committee meeting of April 3, 2023 as printed**

Mr. Helmrick moved and Mr. Schweitz seconded approval of the minutes of the Parks Development Committee meeting of April 3rd, 2023 as printed. Motion carried.

The committee and staff introduced themselves.

- 3. There were no persons wishing to address the Committee.**

Mark Scotch (Resident)– Mr. Scotch provided input to the committee regarding the possibility of establishing a mountain bike park or trail within the Village of Plover. He indicated there is a great deal of interest in the sport and there are youth groups already having meets and activities at Standing Rocks Park. He indicated there are several professionals and experts in the area and within Wisconsin that would be willing to assist in site assessment and creating a new program within the Village of Plover such as those at the Hostel Shop located in Stevens Point. The committee asked Mr. Scotch questions about the use and interest regarding mountain biking options and the space needs. There was discussion regarding finding a location for a skills course for children which would be temporary or permanent in nature to help youth improve confidence and experience. Staff and the committee agreed there are opportunities to explore space needs as well as possible grants to establish some programs or activities in the area. The committee thanked Mr. Scotch for his input and information.

Jean Diedrich (Resident)– Mrs. Diedrich provided comments and input regarding why the Village of Plover should reconsider their “no pets or dogs” in the parks policy. She indicated that given there has been significant growth in the Village over the years it is time to allow dogs and other animals in the parks. There would be a great benefit for the Village and its residents not only for residential animals but also for training service animals. She discussed options to allow dogs in some parks or all the parks which would eliminate the need to establish a new dog park on new land. She understands there are concerns with dogs and their users, yet allowing the animals in the parks wouldn’t have a significant impact on public safety or maintenance of the parks. She indicated given there are no parks in the Village that allow dogs (outside of the trails) she has to

go to Stevens Point for her dog training, if she could, she would prefer to stay in the Village of Plover. Additional discussions continued regarding the logistics of establishing a dog park or allowing animals in the existing park. The Village staff and committee recognize there is a need to explore options regarding meeting the needs of its residents and visitors and their animals. Staff thanked Mrs. Dietrich for her input and experiences related to dog parks and allowing animals in the parks given the increased need and interest.

4. (DRAFT) Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan Review – Part 2

- a. Introduction and Summary
- b. Section 1 – Planning Process
- c. Section 2 – Goals, Objectives, and Policies
- d. Section 3 – Community Background and Analysis
- e. Section 4 – Inventory of Park and Recreation Facilities

Mr. Swangstu reviewed the overall process for the plan review as well as informed the committee that the final formatting and design work would be completed prior to the plan going to a formal public hearing in the coming weeks. Staff and the committee discussed the draft plan and the content and proposed goals, sections, etc. Mr. Swangstu introduced the idea of proposing a few additional goals and objectives within the plan related to pets in parks, trail systems, etc. The committee provided input on the draft plan including but not limited to the following:

- Mr. Helmrick provided input to staff regarding having consistency for the order and format of the specific parks and tables within the plan based on the park types, size, etc.
- Mrs. Luchini suggested that the goals and objectives should be created with specific timelines in mind so we can track the progress while also prioritizing the goals, objectives and policies related to the plan.
- Mr. Schweitz suggested that some of the trails in the existing parks and when exploring establishing new trails, they could be designed to be multi use trails to save money on property acquisition as well as minimize the space needs for trails for different user types.

Staff indicated that they will email out the draft plan sections to the committee with the proposed changes and suggestions referenced previously so that prior to reviewing the whole draft plan they have a chance to review the changes. Staff continued to review the plan with the committee and indicated there are some new interactive virtual maps the Village is working on that can help residents and visitor explore the parks, their amenities, as well as trails throughout the community (mapping being developed by the Village GIS Manager – Brenda Voelker). Mr. Kunst introduced the different opportunities throughout the Village of Plover as it relates to parks and recreation but also provided background regarding the Village’s growth to ensure those areas of growth are connected to the park facilities through safe and efficient means of transportation infrastructure.

5. (Update) Springville Pond – Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant

Mr. Swangstu informed the committee that staff were working with nurseries in the area and across Wisconsin to meet the plant (plug) requirements and needs for the native planting. There has been a struggle to find all the species variations and quantity of the planting request with nurseries within the Village, therefore staff will be working with Agrecol to meet the majority of the planting needs. Staff have met with County staff regarding the possible

planting locations and sizes, yet staff will keep the committee informed as updates are available. Staff intend to have a volunteer day for the community and committee members to help plant the plugs as well as further beautify the park. There will be signage installed near the planting areas to educate the public about the importance of the vegetative buffers and native species. Depending on the availability of plant species the planting may be delayed till spring 2024.

Mr. Fritz asked the rest of the committee if they would like to receive the agendas from the Springville Pond Management Committee given there is a Village park along the pond. Staff indicated they will send out the Springville Pond Management Committee materials over to the Parks Development Committee members so they are informed about projects and updates.

6. Such other business as is authorized by law.

Mr. Kunst informed the committee that due to the July 4th holiday there will be only one meeting week in July for the committees therefore the next meeting (if proposed) would be during the week of July 10th.

Mr. Fritz updated the committee on hot air balloons in the Village and informed everyone that the Celebrate Plover Committee secured six hot air balloons for a balloon glow during the celebrate plover event July 29th – 30th, 2023.

Mr. Schweitz asked staff about the intent of the Villages policy of not allowing dogs in the parks and staff provide insight regarding the potential reasoning behind the policy and some potential options to address the concerns and interests related to dog parks and allowing dogs in parks.

7. Adjournment subject to call of the chair

Mr. Raabe motioned and **Mr. Helmrich** seconded to adjourn at 6:26 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by Dominique Swangstu