

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY  
COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND FOREST**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 7:00 p.m.  
Ayres Associates, 3433 Oakwood Hills Parkway, Eau Claire WI 54701

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Gibson, Patrick LaVelle, Paul Lokken, and Bruce Willett

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin Stelljes

OTHERS PRESENT: Phil Johnson, Ayres Associates; Peter Vaughan, Bob Fitzwilliam, Larry Jost, and Bruce Moss, West Wisconsin Land Trust; Doug Burrows, and Emily St. Aubin and Fred Turk, Fitz Property Working Committee members; Glory Adams, Brian Anderson Colleen Bates, Betty and Mike Bogstad, Ron Bohl, Matt Brantner, Steve Creviston, Arlene and Neil Dittner, Shane Harlison, Pam Ida, Linda John, Mike & Angie Larrabee, Dale & Carol Lunderville, Amy & Dustin Marsh, Jim Ruppelt, Jared Simon, Mark Steil, Jerry Vetterkind, and Brooke Weiss, interested neighbors and citizens.

STAFF PRESENT: Josh Pedersen and Bobbi Barone

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Patrick LaVelle at 7:00 p.m.

1. Confirmation of meeting notice – Meeting notice was confirmed.
2. Fitz Property Master Plan Draft presentation – Phil Johnson of Ayres Associates presented the concept which the public has given input. He explained the four concepts embraced with preparing the plan were environmental, economic, community and aesthetics. The property was split into three areas: North Day Use, Mid Overnight, and South Natural/Adventure Area. Gary Gibson added that the Boy Scout organization had built trails and bridges in parks as Eagle Scout projects in neighboring counties and included them in their educational activities and perhaps they should be contacted about the possibility for helping develop this area. Pat LaVelle suggested may be there are too many structures/activities planned for the area. Bruce Willett was concerned that Mrs. Fitz's wishes may not be accomplished. With the overnight uses Phil had proposed, neighbors were concerned about water uses and Phil suggested that the use would be low. Bob Fitzwilliam from West Wisconsin Land Trust reiterated their charge as trustees of the property and that this property was not typical conservation property they normally manage. Phil suggested there may be somebody the land trust could partner with to develop the property. Bob suggested this could be a partnership taking 15-years of development to make it a special place or to simply add some trails thru the property. Pat stated the Lowes Creek Park and Tower Ridge Recreation areas were developed over a number of years thru volunteer involvement. Members of the land trust thought the plan was a good basis for a starting point but questioned Phil as to how it would be phased in. Phil explained phase 1 would be the day use area; phase 2 overnight area; and phase 3 natural area. Bruce suggested the Parks & Forest Committee and the West Wisconsin Land Trust have a joint meeting and discuss/imagine how the partnership would work both short and long term. Amy Marsh stated the snowmobile club had thought about possibly using the Fitz Property as a connector. Also, adding trails that

could be multi-use in the winter for fat tire bikes, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing.

3. Adjournment – Bruce made a motion to adjourn the committee meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Barone  
Committee Clerk