

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

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 5:00 p.m.
Agriculture & Resource Center (2nd Floor meeting room)

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin Stelljes

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Anderson; Matt Michels, Senior Planner with Planning & Development Dept.; Brooke Ludwig, WDNR Forester; Jed Kaurich, WDNR Fire Ranger

STAFF PRESENT: Jody Gindt, Josh Pedersen and Bobbi Barone

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patrick LaVelle at 5:00 p.m.

1. Confirmation of meeting notice – Meeting notice was confirmed.
2. Approval of minutes from February 23, 2016 meeting – Paul made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed for February 23, 2016 Committee Meeting; motion carried 4-0.
3. Public Input – No members of the public were present for this item.
4. Pinter Pines/Coon Gut Property Future Plan – As Kevin as not present at the meeting, discussion on this item was postponed to a future meeting.
5. Request to place a memorial bench – Mark Anderson was present for this item and explained that the bench he and his wife wish to place at Lowes Creek Park was to honor his sister-in-law who died at the age of 22. The family hikes regularly at the park. The placement would be on the east side of the park just off the intersection of split rock, red flint, and the pines trails. Bruce made a motion to approve placement of the bench; motion carried 4-0.
7. Presentation/approval of Emergency Fire Wardens for 2016 by Jed Kaurich, WDNR Fire Ranger – Jed passed around the listing of fire wardens to be approved by the committee. Gary made a motion to approve the fire wardens as presented; motion carried. Jed also discussed the fire tower issue and the rational for removing them.
6. Approve 2016-2020 County Outdoor Recreation Plan/resolution 15-16/137 – Matt Michels was present for this item. Josh explained the need for the plan to be eligible for grant funding if listed in plan. He further explained that kayaking and canoeing the Eau Claire River and Equestrian opportunities were focused on which the survey had indicated a need for expanding. Gary suggested something about shooting be included for the county forest and also trash dumping as he felt that was lacking. Matt will work on adding that to the plan. Paul made a motion to approve the recreation plan with the addition of the items Gary suggested; motion carried 4-0.

8. Resolution 15-16/144 offering free camping night May 19, 2016 – After some discussion, Bruce made a motion to change the resolution offering free camping to a camping weekend, not single night, and the weekend to be May 13 and 14, 2016. Motion carried 4-0. More clarification was needed on what fees would be waived and the committee agreed electricity fees should be borne by the camper.
9. Correspondence – Josh read an email from Amber Borton requesting donation of an annual vehicle sticker for a drawing at Northstar Middle School for the PTO sponsored “Family Fun Run”. The committee consensus was to donate. CORBA will be meeting with Josh about rerouting “Onion”. A neighbor of the Guettinger Woods & Wildlife called and complained about dogs off-leash. Josh will have permanent signs made and posted at Guettinger.
10. Staff and committee reports – Jody stated the spring Timber Sale bid opening will be April 12 and the committee will have the sale maps to approve at the next meeting. Josh reported dam workers moving onto the Dam Site yesterday and had begun demoing two of the piers. The early spring-like weather has staff concerned about the project and that the contractors will need to stay on track of repairs in order to complete the job by the March 31 deadline. Pat requested a dam report from Josh for the next county board meeting. Bruce read a letter from Tim Sullivan with Tim’s opinion that management of the Fitz Property would not be legal. Pat suggested Doug Burrows be requested to give a recommendation from the Fitz Working Committee at the next meeting. Josh will contact Doug and try to confirm his appearance.
11. Advisory Committee input and assignments: The Advisory Committee didn’t have a quorum at their March 2 scheduled meeting but had an informal discussion of the forest camping policy and the “pay to play” option for disc golf. The Parks & Forest committee requested the county forest camping policy be on an agenda in the near future.
12. Exposition Center Advisory Committee Input/Assignments – Nothing to report.
13. Committee Education – Time did not allow.
14. Future and pending items: Next meeting date March 22, 2016, 5:00 p.m. at the Ag Center.

Paul made a motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Barone
Committee Clerk