

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 5:00 p.m.  
Lake Altoona County Park  
604 Beach Rd, Altoona

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Gibson, Patrick LaVelle, Kevin Stelljes, and Bruce Willett

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tami Schraufnagel

OTHERS PRESENT: Laura Plummer, Chippewa Off-Road Bike Association; Tom Paine and Tim McManus, Hash House Harriers; Matt Weber, Eau Claire Ski Sprites; and Paul Johnson, Altoona Lake District President.

STAFF PRESENT: Jamie Kuhl, Josh Pedersen and Bobbi Barone

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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 May 24, 2016 meeting – Gary moved to approve the minutes; motion carried 4-0.
3. Public Input – No members of the public were present for this item.
4. Expo Center Status Report – Committee members were provided the report as requested at the last meeting. This will be discussed at a later meeting date.
5. Lake Altoona Dredging Project Report by Lake Altoona District representative – Paul Johnson was present. He reported that the project came in \$103,000 over budget. 40,000 cubic yards of sediment were removed. There is still some dredging activity on the river.
6. Eau Claire Ski Sprites planned 2016 activities at Lake Eau Claire – Matt Weber was present and thanked the committee and Eau Claire County for the opportunity for the Ski Sprites to use Lake Altoona Park for their shows. He said basically the same activities will occur as in the past – Sunday and Wednesday evening shows, learn to ski, Labor Day Weekend rental of all facilities and Sunday night show.
7. Runner Club Request for race at Tower Ridge – Tim McManus and Tom Paine, members of the Hash House Harriers were present. Tim explained that the Hash House Harriers are a social running group and are sponsored by four bars. The request for the beer race is to use the area by the 18<sup>th</sup> basket of disc golf and would mean disc golfers might be required to wait until the heats are completed in order to play that basket. The club will provide a \$1,000,000 liability policy, shuttle service, and will check ID's. The race is scheduled for 5:30 to 7:30, June 25. They don't charge an entry fee. Kevin made a motion to allow the run with requirement to have a liability insurance policy; motion carried 4-0. The club will work out details with Josh.

8. Request to place a Memorial Bench from Chippewa Off-Road Bike Association (CORBA) at Lowes Creek Park – Laura Plummer was present representing CORBA. She said CORBA is making a request to place a memorial bench at Lowes Creek which CORBA will pay for in memory of Don Nelson, CORBA member. Bruce made a motion to approve the request; motion carried 4-0. Laura reported the Firecracker Race is scheduled for the last weekend in June and that they are adding a beer tent out on the course. All required permits will be secured. They are trying to get more community participation on the event. The “Take a Kid Mountain Biking” event is taking place on Saturday, June 11 and nearly all available spots are filled.
9. 2017 Budget Process – Josh felt the committee should be aware of the changes in the budget process particularly capital improvement which will go to a committee for approval than then the Parks & Forest committee. Josh stated the major projects being requested are the bulldozer needs replacement and new office at Coon Forks with attached restrooms. He added the outlay is extended to 10 years outlay rather than 5 years as in previous years. Projects at both Pinter Pines and Lake Altoona Park will be incorporated in the longer range.
  - a. Program Priorities – Gary moved to approve the program priorities as listed. After discussion, motion carried 4-0.
10. Fitz-West Wisconsin Land Trust Property in the Town of Brunswick – Kevin reported Doug Burrows, chair of the working committee, met with the Land Trust. The land trust is considering opening a seat on their board of directors for a county representative. Kevin requested this item be brought back in the fall for further discussion.
11. Correspondence – Josh reported he had been in contact with Marlo Orth of the Lake Eau Claire District and that they may be asking the committee for a new spoils site for the Troubled Waters project.
12. Staff and committee reports – Staff reported Dan Schaumberger of UW-EC requested holding an Alumni Run on September 10 and will rent the picnic shelter on the west side of Lowes Creek Park as well as secure a liability insurance policy. Josh and Jody will be attending the WCFA Summer Conference in Crandon June 16 and 17. Josh reported construction of an equestrian area with a hitching wall, water, and manure bunker at Tower Ridge which was listed in the 5-Year County Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). The former Bredesen property was appraised and will be discussed by the Stewardship Committee as a potential addition to the county forest.
13. Parks and Forest Advisory Committee input and assignments: nothing to report.
14. Expo Advisory Committee input and assignments: nothing to report.
15. Committee Meeting Dates/places Summer 2016 - The Lake Eau Claire Park Ranger requested the meeting at Lake Eau Claire be switched to July 13 and Lowes Creek meeting to July 27. The committee agreed. Schedule: Wednesday, July 13, 5:30 p.m. Lake Eau Claire Park; Wednesday, July 27, 5:00 p.m. Lowes Creek Park; Wednesday, August 10, 5:00 p.m. Ag & Resource Center; and Wednesday, August 24, 5:00 p.m. Tower Ridge.

16. Park Tour – Jamie Kuhl, Lake Altoona Park Ranger, lead the tour and pointed out improvements that have been done prior to the park opening. He also answered questions of the committee about goose problems on the beach and what action was being taken to alleviate the problem.

Motion by Pat to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Barone  
Committee Clerk

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