

DRAFT MINUTES
MONONA PARK AND RECREATION
BOARD
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2021

The regular meeting of the Park and Recreation Board for the City of Monona was called to order by Chair Doug Wood at 6:33 pm.

Present: Chair Doug Wood, Co-Chair Molly Grupe, Thom Evans, Rachel Groman, Tony Gomez-Phillips, Jeff Hinz, Pat Howell, Jennifer Kahl, Kelly Slack, Parks & Recreation Director Jake Anderson

Also in Attendance: Mayor Mary O’Conner, Alder Kristie Goforth, City Planner Doug Plowman

Minutes: **Pat Howell made a motion seconded by Jeff Hinz to approve the minutes from December 8, 2020. Motion Carried.**

Appearances: A. There was approximately 20 families that appeared and voiced support for the installation of a mountain bike path in Monona Parks.
B. Alder Kristie Goforth appeared and asked if the warming shelter at Winnequah Dream Park would be open this Winter (Director Anderson noted it would not be open due to Public Health restrictions on indoor gatherings and distancing requirements, and also staffing was eliminated in the 2021 budget for the warming shelter)

Unfinished Business:

A. **Stone Bridge Park Final Design Review/Recommendation**

Director Anderson presented the final design and landscaping plan for the parks portion of improvements at Stone Bridge Park. Anderson noted changes from the previous conceptual plan included:

- pedestrian path realignment to meet ADA requirements for percentage grade
- addition of sloped entrance for kayak launch area
- final landscape details for tree plantings and restoration around the Pagoda.

The committee consensus was very favorable to the overall design of the park. After discussion, it was recommended to change the location of the park sign and include a concrete ribbon around the park sign landscaping area for ease of long term maintenance and also a request to install a seaweed removal tool rack similar to other lake front parks.

Thom Evans made a motion seconded by Pat Howell to recommend final design of Stone Bridge Park with location change of park sign and concrete edging around the park sign landscaping bed. Motion carried unanimously

New Business:

A. **Mountain Bike Park Presentation/Discussion**

Monona residents Miles Peterson, Jack Oliver, & Bennett Chapa presented for information purposes and a request for the installation of a mountain bike path with challenges in one of Monona parks. The 11 year boys informed the committee on the benefits of mountain biking and presented some opportunities in various parks and requested the city allow for some volunteers to help make this a reality.

Mayor Mary O’Conner was in attendance and congratulated the boys on an outstanding presentation and the Parks Board was incredibly complimentary on the attention to detail of the presentation. There were approximately 20 families on the Zoom meeting that expressed support for this project. Parks Staff will work with the group on identify a final proposal that will come back to Parks Board in form of a public hearing and

recommendation. No action was taken at this meeting. The chat comments from the meeting are attached to these minutes.

B. Discussion/Recommendation of Recording Park Board Meetings

Alder Wood introduced the request that came from City Council on a resolution to record and publish committee meetings. Alder Wood asked if there was any feedback or objection to the recording and publishing of Parks & Recreation Board meetings, and there was minimal discussion from the committee and no objections to the recording of meetings. No official action was taken.

Director Anderson presented committee recommended and Mayoral/Council approved Capital Budgets for 2021-2025 to illustrate the financial restrictions that will be in place over the coming years as the city is saving for a new Public Safety Building, paying down costs for the acquisition of San Damiano, and other major projects. Anderson asked the committee to start thinking about a longer capital budget plan of ten years and identifying top priorities.

Committee discussion looked at existing proposed projects and discussed the scheduling of improvements at Winnequah that could be part of a larger master plan or in lieu of a larger plan but needed maintenance items. No action was taken at this meeting.

C. Pilot Project – Floating Pier on Winnequah Park Lagoon Discussion

Director Anderson presented a project proposal to utilizing existing parts of an old pier and install a temporary floating bridge over the south lagoon in the Summer of 2021. Anderson indicated that in an effort for long term planning for a master plan, this would be an inexpensive opportunity to allow people to walk from one side of the park to the other and give feedback to the city on final location. Before coming up with additional costs to finish the pier, Anderson was looking for Parks Board feedback. The consensus from the committee was positive and they would like to see Anderson bring back a final cost proposal to the next meeting. No official action was taken but Anderson will bring back a proposal to the February meeting.

Director's Report & Questions to Staff from Committee

A. Jake Anderson – Parks & Recreation Director

Anderson provided a verbal report of department activities including the following:

Staff has been working on snow removal of area parks along with flooding the Winnequah Park lagoon for outdoor ice skating

B. Missy Miller – Recreation Supervisor

Miller shared 2020 financials from the Monona Bank RiverRink and that report is attached to these minutes

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn by Molly Grupe, seconded by Thom Evans was carried at 8:30 pm.

Saved comments from the Zoom Chat regarding Mountain Biking

18:30:58 From Kristie Goforth to Everyone : Good evening everyone!

18:31:14 From Molly Grupe to Everyone : Here but wrapping up pizza so video will be off for a few!

18:31:30 From Kristie Goforth to Everyone : Pizza night here too! :)

18:58:17 From Kristie Goforth to Everyone : Great job guys!

18:58:41 From Tony Gomez-Phillips to Everyone : excellent work!

18:59:13 From Elizabeth Tucker to Everyone : Great presentation! We learned so much, and fully support this idea!

18:59:29 From Julie's iPhone to Everyone : we can tell you did a lot of research. thank you for sharing these ideas !

19:00:10 From Kristie Goforth to Everyone : There are numerous opportunities for grant funds and I would be happy to tell you more

19:00:49 From Julie's iPhone to Everyone : and I know a lot of us would love to roll up our sleeves and do some of the work!

19:02:43 From Beth Esser to Everyone : Thank you Parks and Rec for giving the boys this opportunity. Jack, Miles and Bennett also worked hard to invite many of the people in attendance tonight to show their support for the project. Thanks to all who are here.

19:03:41 From Molly Grupe to Everyone : This is so awesome! I love how passionate these young people are and how hard they worked. It's so important to get involved in local government/these kinds of processes early. Thank you, parents, family (and fellow Parks Board members!) for letting them make their case tonight!

19:06:41 From Molly Grupe to Everyone : Nikki, you must be a FUN babysitter!

19:08:30 From Maureen to Everyone : It's so great to see the passion and leadership of this young team. Getting kids off screens and active in our wonderful natural environment is something I support.

19:09:01 From Beth Esser to Everyone : I'll add my comments in the chat. Mt biking is a sport that is really great for all ages and is growing in popularity rapidly. It would be great for Monona to get connected to the larger Mt biking community in the area.

19:09:08 From 698342 to Everyone : Here is what Madison is currently in process of doing right now and will likely start construction on some elements this summer at Aldo Leopold Park on southwest Madison.

19:09:10 From 698342 to Everyone : <https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/play/madbat/>

19:16:35 From Brie Chapa to Everyone : Thank you to the board, and to Jake and Missy for shepherding this idea. Boys - you are amazing. Well done. Off to put kids to bed...

20:07:50 From Kelly to Everyone : sorry I'm so quiet- i'm outta of town. love it and love inviting other to the back side.

20:20:10 From Molly Grupe to Everyone : Hear, hear! Second that emotion!