

Winona County Park & Environment Advisory Committee Agenda

Tuesday September 7, 2021 - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Apple Blossom Park picnic tables

33642 County Road 1, La Crescent, MN

Rain backup: RingCentral on-line meeting

- 1.0 Call to Order
- 2.0 Approval of Agenda
- 3.0 Approval of Minutes of August 3, 2021 Meeting
- 4.0 Stone Point Park Update
- 5.0 Apple Blossom Park Update, for paving, A. LaFee
- 6.0 Farmers Park Update
- 7.0 Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Update
- 8.0 Member Updates
- 9.0 Adjourn – next meeting date: November 2, 2021, RingCentral meeting

Point Park. The township, a private company for the State and the County assists with plowing Stone Point Road into Stone Point Park as well as areas by the County buildings. The Parks Committee discussed using Stone Point Road only for public access to the park, updating the park information on the Winona County website and the practicality of signage regarding motorized vehicles be posted at the park. Also discussed were entrance signs. Staff will come back with some signage examples.

On motion by K. Dieterman and seconded by Amanda Gentry, the Parks Committee voted to remove the statement on the Winona County website that Stone Point Park is closed to the public and look into options for sign funding for both entrances to Stone Point. Vote: Yes – All.

5.0 Apple Blossom Park Update

K. Qualley shared that all has been going well with volunteers watering the trees and Goodies Lawn Care, out of Altura, MN, mowing the lawn. Although the fire ring had been previously removed, there had been some evidence of campfires still occurring at the park. K. Dieterman suggested a laminated burn ban sign be posted at Apple Blossom near the area where the fires have occurred.

K. Qualley shared information about paving the Apple Blossom parking area, an access leading to the picnic table and possibly to the lawn panel. It may be good timing to “add on” this small project with a contractor that is already paving the main road in the next two years.

On motion by D. Hadler and J. Howard, the Parks Committee voted to have staff look into cost estimates for the paving of the Apple Blossom parking lot. Vote: Yes – All.

The Parks Committee discussed trash can options and feasibility for Apple Blossom.

6.0 Farmers Park Update

Aaron Lafee said the basketball court and hoops were removed, replaced with black dirt and seeded for a cost of \$1,000. The two bathrooms discussed to be removed have been done and the cost was \$4980, much less than original estimates. Staff is still looking into bids for tuckpointing at the women’s lodge.

Richard Pollema has graciously been donating his time and materials to pressure wash and clean the stones and archways as well as painting, where needed, at the park. Pictures of the improvements were shared with the committee. A formal thank you to Richard Pollema was discussed for a future County Board meeting.

Staff shared that an ADA accessible merry-go-round will not work for Farmer’s Park due the water table and the fact that the park is prone to flooding. Other types of swings, including those ADA accessible, will be looked into by staff to bring to the committee. Contractors for pavilion work have been hard to line up due to the time of the year. Sentence-to-serve individuals with their supervisors have sealed up some holes in the tin over the pavilions and have been eradicating weeds along the creek. All agreed that the creek area is looking much better than previous seasons.

K. Qualley shared that OpenGov will be used for booking the county parks and the new permitting software will add the amenities available along with a map on the new County website. Pricing for booking will not change this year but a modest increase, mostly to cover cleaning and extra trash removals will take effect in the 2022 Fee Schedule.

Committee members and staff discussed requiring a deposit with contract or fee schedule language stating the return of deposit is dependent on the verification of clean up. Staff can add that. A. LaFee gave examples of messes left and staff cleanup time required when this occurs.

7.0 Recycling Update

K. Qualley shared that Anne Morse, although retired, intends to volunteer for invasives work to help complete the 2-year grant with the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture. K. Qualley is in the process of revising the Recycling Coordinator job description to send to Personnel and Administration for hire. The Parks Committee discussed recycling contamination and ways to educate the public, potentially working collaboratively with Harter's.

8.0 Member Updates

Amanda Gentry shared that the Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring a District Manager.

9.0 Adjourn

On motion by K. Dieterman and seconded by D. Hadler, the Parks Committee adjourned at 5:43pm.

Next meeting date: September 7, 2021, at Farmers Park, weather-dependent.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Schwertel
Administrative Specialist

Signed by: _____
Committee Chair/Vice Chair

Date



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**Planning &
Environmental Services**

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Apple Blossom Parking Lot Pavement Estimate

- It's about 14,500 sq ft for parking and handicap picnic table approach.
- 4" depth asphalt
- 351 tons of asphalt; about \$80/ton
- May need some gravel added and parking lot smoothed out before black top

Estimate is \$35,000