

Winona County Parks & Environment Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday April 4, 2023 - 4:30 p.m.

Location: County Office Building

Committee Members Present:	John Howard	George Howe
	Amanda Gentry	Kristin Dieterman
	Sadie Neuman	Beth Stanford
	Dave Eastep	Dwayne Voegeli
Staff Present:	Kay Qualley	Aaron Lafee
	Lew Overhaug	Ross Dunsmoor

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair John Howard.

2.0 Introductions

All committee members introduced themselves.

3.0 Approval of Agenda

On motion by Amanda Gentry and seconded by Dwayne Voegeli, the Parks & Environment Advisory Committee voted to approve the agenda. Vote: Yes – All.

4.0 Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2023, Meeting

On motion by Sadie Neuman and seconded by Kristin Dieterman, the Parks & Environment Advisory Committee voted to approve the minutes. Vote: Yes – All.

5.0 Apple Blossom Park Update

Kay Qualley gave a PowerPoint presentation which included mapping exhibits of the park and park plans with updates, 2021 Engage Winona survey response from the public indicating a desire for improved outdoor communal space, a re-cap on how parks projects get done and details outlining the park pavilion project at Apple Blossom. The Parks discussed the pavilion project donations and in-kind contributions. Additionally, they discussed a friends group subcommittee volunteer meeting.

Kay Qualley shared that she will be retiring Friday April 28th. The Parks Committee and staff thanked her for diligent work in improving the parks in Winona County and for her hard work as the Planning & Environmental Services Director.

6.0 Farmers Park Update

Aaron Lafee shared that all of the damaged zip line pieces have been replaced. The installation will happen later Spring/Summer. The location of installation will be discussed at the next Parks meeting, which will be held at Farmers Park. Sentenced-to-Serve and Maintenance will be going out to the park to get it ready for opening day, May 1st. The red pavilion/south pavilion has posts and shingles that need to be replaced. Quotes for repair will be collected but also looking at replacement instead of repair. Further discussion can occur at the Parks meeting at Farmers Park. The Parks committee discussed developing a park plan for Farmers Park, to include public input through surveys. The Parks committee asked if some demographic data and reservation information could be supplied to the committee to assist in decision making.

7.0 Stone Point Park Update

Ross Dunsmoor shared that 13 of the 20 Community Garden plots have been rented out this year. Most rentals from last year renewed their rental this year. A couple greenhouses are vacant as the gardeners have retired. A third greenhouse was independently purchased and owned, which the owners chose to donate to Winona County.

The 2022-2025 Stone Point Park DNR Grant enhancement is in final review, with the County Attorney's Office reviewing the contract. Ross Dunsmoor shared a map with the committee. Input was gathered from some Parks members. Native seeding costs are targeted to be under \$50,000 and hopefully pollinator mixes can be added. Ross Dunsmoor explained the necessary approvals for the native seeding/pollinator mixes. Review of the natural gas pipeline was shared with the committee. Two repairs need to take place, which will require about 100 feet of excavation.

The Winona County Solid Waste Management Plan is at the public comment phase with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Public comment closes April 21st. Following that process, information will be distributed to the committee. A resolution will then be drafted to adopt the plan for the next 10 years.

8.0 Environmental Planner/Recycling Coordinator Position

Kay Qualley shared the job duties/description for the Environmental Planner/Recycling Coordinator position. Interviews to be conducted the following week.

9.0 Member Updates

George Howe – Would like to have a prescribed burn at Apple Blossom in the middle of April. He will apply for a burn permit and explained the process involving County staff. He has volunteers that assist and typically the La Crescent Fire Department is on-site.

John Howard – City of Winona Earth Day Celebration will be held on April 22nd at 2pm at the Jaycee Pavilion.

Amanda Gentry – SWCD offers trees and shrubs for sale in bundles of 25.

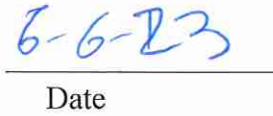
10.0 Next Meeting Date: June 6, 2023, at 4:30PM at Farmers Park

11.0 Adjourn

On motion by Sadie Neuman and seconded by Dwayne Voegeli, the Parks Committee adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Schwertel, Administrative Specialist

Signed by: 
Committee Chair/Vice Chair


Date