

Due to retirement and personnel medical concerns, some of the annual community gardeners did not rent this year. He believed some may return next year. Both greenhouse operators retired and one of the greenhouses was donated to the County. He will schedule some maintenance of the greenhouses. The Parks Committee discussed greenhouses and garden plot rental long term and park guidelines. Additional discussion took place regarding park development and sharing the park space with the Sheriff's Office. Ross Dunsmoor shared the established park missions and future work plans.

6.0 Farmers Park Update

6.1 Park Planning

6.2 Facility Needs Discussion

Ross Dunsmoor shared that \$6400 was appropriated for a lawn panel at Stone Point Park but that is on hold as trails have not been developed. Administration has approved applying it to parks elsewhere so some funds may be reapplied to fix up the greenhouse at Stone Point. Per Aaron Lafée, funds could also be used to repair/replace two pavilions at Farmers Park, the South Pavilion (red in color) and #3 (first one on the right when you enter the park). The posts are rotten, and one was chewed by a beaver. For safety reasons, the posts need to be replaced or could tear down the pavilions and start over. Another consideration is how many pavilions should the park maintain. Aaron Lafée and Lew Overhaug shared site maps showing the pavilion locations and a flood zone map of the park. Committee members discussed gathering park usage information, whether in-house or contracting out, gathering public input and collaborating with community partners to help with the parks. A park master plan is needed and subcommittees can assist with park work plans.

Kristin Dieterman made a motion to make it a priority to develop a park plan for Farmers Park and look at more staff time in terms of park oversight; seconded by John Howard.

Per Lew Overhaug, information on the cost of hiring a consultant to develop a park plan can be brought back to the next Parks meeting. Kristin Dieterman will set up a sign up for parks committee members to assist in gathering data for Farmers Park usage.

Vote: Yes – All. Motion passed.

Pavilion #3 will most likely be torn down due to safety concerns. Matt Neil will look into labor for pavilion construction. Discussion ensued about the parks budget, including 2024 budget for park plans.

7.0 Member Updates

John Howard – Recently learned about a movement to have a Driftless National Park, which would convert the Whitewater River Valley into a National Park.

Beth Stanford – Offered the suggestion of using the volunteer hub through Live Well Winona for park assistance. Parks Committee members discussed school age, whether high school or college, volunteers to assist with park work plans.

8.0 **Next Meeting Date: August 1, 2023, location – TBD**

The location will be Stone Point Park.

9.0 **Adjourn**

On motion by Kristin Dieterman and seconded by Dwayne Voegeli, the Parks Committee voted to adjourn at 6:10pm. Vote: Yes – All.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Schwertel, Administrative Specialist

Signed by: 
Committee Chair/Vice Chair

8/1/23
Date