City of Mequon

11333 N. Cedarburg Rd 60W
Mequon, WI 53092-1930
Phone: 262/236-2944
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www.ci.mequon.wi.us

Parks Department

PARK BOARD
Wednesday, March 16, 2016
Mequon City Hall
South Conference Room
6:30 PM

Call to Order, Roll Call

1. Approval of the February 17, 2016 Park Board Minutes
   Action Requested: Review and Approve

2. Visitor Participation/Recognition (residents addressing the Park Board should clearly state their name and address and should limit their comments to three minutes)

3. Park Improvements and Projects
   Action Requested: Review and Approve

4. Chairperson's Report

5. Director's Report
   •Report on current Park Projects and Events

6. Future meeting date.....April 20, 2016

7. Adjourn.....Thank you for attending

Dated: March 11, 2016 /s/ Bruce Barnes, Chairman

Notice is hereby given that a quorum of other governmental bodies may be present at this meeting to present, discuss and/or gather information about a subject over which they have decision making responsibility, although they will not take formal action thereto at this meeting.

Any questions regarding this agenda may be directed to the Parks Dept. office at 262-236-2945
Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations for attendance at this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at 262-236-2914, twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting.

CITY OF MEQUON
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PARK BOARD MEETING
February 17, 2016
Mequon City Hall
11333 N. Cedarburg Rd.
6:30 PM

Board Member Walerstein called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm with roll call as follows:

Members present: Bruce Barnes (6:34pm), Mary Glenn Fuchs, Ald. John Leszczynski, Jim Lysaught, Tom Menzel, Fran Rechcygl, and Robert Walerstein

Members absent: Susan Chich

Also present: Parks Director Curran and Staff Liaison Szymanski

1. **Approval of Park Board Minutes:**
Moved by Jim Lysaught and seconded by Fran Rechcygl to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2015 meeting. The motion passed by voice acclamation.

2. **Visitor Participation/Recognition:**
None

3. **Lemke Park Improvements:**
Director Curran recently met with a representative of the Cardinal Football program to discuss potential improvements that will benefit their program as well as other users and residents. Lemke Park has been used for practices during the fall season. Temporary lighting has been used for several years to illuminate the practice areas during limited daylight hours. Cardinal Football requested the Park Board review their plans for installing permanent sports lighting at the park. While the goal is to support Cardinal Football, there is also an interest in assisting other groups such as BOSS Baseball and the Ozaukee Lacrosse programs that take place at the park.

Depending on the location of the lights several groups could benefit from the project. If water became available an illuminated ice skating rink was suggested.

Handouts showing the possible location and design were distributed. The project could be completed for approximately $175,000 - $195,000 which would be funded from private and public funding sources secured by Cardinal Football. Support from the Parks Department budget would also be accepted if available. Planning Commission approval would be required to approve this project along with Common Council approval due to the dollar amount of the donated project. Neighboring property owners would also be addressed.

A motion made by Fran Rechcygl and seconded by Mary Glen Fuchs to move forward with additional discussion and additional pricing quotes of the lighting project at Lemke Park passed by voice acclamation.

4. **Chairperson's Report:**
Chairperson Barnes mentioned he would like to see more focus on funding capital improvement projects.

5. **Director's Report:**
Director Curran mentioned the discussion of the acquired land at Shoreland Nature Preserve is ongoing.
The Mequon Parks will be featured in the upcoming issue of the Mequon - Thiensville Today quarterly magazine.

6. **Adjourn:**
A motion by Jim Lysaught and seconded by Robert Walerstein to adjourn at 7:28 pm passed by voice acclamation.

Future meeting date.....March 16, 2016

Respectfully submitted, CITY OF MEQUON PARK BOARD

City of Mequon

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Office of the Parks & Operations Director

TO: Mequon Park Board
FROM: Don Curran, Director of Parks and Operations
DATE: March 11, 2016
SUBJECT: Park Improvements and Projects

As requested at the February Park Board meeting I have compiled a list of potential projects and improvements for various parks and nature preserves. There was an interest in discussing these projects in an effort to prioritize them and also determine what level of funding might be required to support these efforts. The Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan references the majority of these ideas, however as in previous years annual budgets most often do not include the funding needed to move the projects forward. Listed below are projects that could be considered and presented for consideration when future budgets are submitted. Actual budget amounts are not included as additional information and research will be required to get accurate estimates. Prices will also fluctuate depending on the amount of time these projects are delayed. To assist with this discussion I would suggest that members bring there Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan to the meeting.

Garrison's Glen
Continue with the removal of invasive species and the maintenance of the trails and parking areas. Funds are currently being held by the Mequon Community Foundation that could be applied towards improvements or future maintenance if needed. Family members will need to be included in any decisions regarding the use of these funds.

Grasslyn Natnre Preserve
The majority of the maintenance including the planting of new trees, removal of invasive species and trail improvements are addressed by volunteers. I do not anticipate any requests for funding for this location other than what we currently apply.

Highland Woods
Continue the removal of invasive species in all areas of the woods. Garlic Mustard continues to spread at an alarming rate in the southern and central part of the woods. Volunteers are utilized when available however due to the large area involved Garlic Mustard is very prevalent during the early spring months. Buckthorn also remains a concern as it is spreading almost as quickly as the Garlic Mustard. Fallen trees were recently removed and an Eagle Scout project that was completed last fall was very helpful in identifying the different trail locations.

Katherine Kearney Carpenter Park
This location supports year round activity and is one of our most popular sites. There are ongoing questions about improving the drainage and providing a higher quality walking path. Another area of concern is the condition of the asphalt in both parking areas. Both parking lots need to be pulverized and repaved to eliminate potholes and the severe cracking that is present.

Lemke Park
Lemke Park is a site that continues to be very popular and annual use is increasing. A pavilion with flush toilets was identified as a need in the original plans for the park, to date this improvement is still pending. If this project is attempted it will also require a well and a waste disposal system. Cardinal Football, Ozaukee Lacrosse and BOSS Baseball utilize the park from April through November. Rental requests are also increasing even though there is only an open air shelter available.
We also reviewed the request for lighting at the park at our February meeting. Funding for this project would be provided through donations and fund raising but support from the city would also be accepted.

Little Menomonee Site
Walking trails were identified as a goal for this site. There is currently a parking area but no established trails. The site would need to be cleared and boardwalks might be required depending on the route that is laid out through the wooded area.

Mequon Community Park
The Rennicke Field Committee continues their efforts to improve the ball diamond along with the areas surrounding the field. To date many of the improvements have been completed however they had mentioned the need for additional storage that might include an announcer's booth and possibly concessions. We have been very fortunate that this group has been able to fund raise for the majority of the improvements over the last few years.

The condition of the municipal pool continues to be a concern. Originally constructed in 1934 the bath house is in need of major renovation or replacement. The pool vessel and filtration system was renovated in 1984 however after thirty two years the useful life of the facility is approaching the end. Any changes at this venue will probably require a consultant that could provide recommendations and also accurate cost estimates.

Prinz Site
To date we have not attempted any improvements at this location. To gain access a driveway culvert and a small parking lot would be required. The site is heavily infested with invasive species that would need to be addressed first. Basic walking trails could be the second phase of improvements if desired.

Pukaite Woods
Stewardship work continues as time allows, mainly the removal of Buckthorn. Volunteers from the Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust have assisted along with members of the Sunrise Rotary Club. Future work in the area may include the proposed link from the Spirit Lake property.

River Barn Park
The majority of the planned improvements have been completed. There is an effort from TMYBA to construct a larger storage building near the base ball fields. The cost of that project would be absorbed by TMYBA. One of the remaining goals would be the construction of a riverfront path in the wooded area north of the pavilion. Clearing and grubbing will be required and depending on conditions encountered boardwalks and bridges might also be needed.

Riverview Park
There currently are not a lot of needs at this location. I have received inquiries about improvements to the baseball diamond; however the long term goal was to keep this park as a neighborhood destination. Any more intense use would need to be discussed and approved by the Park Board.

Rotary Park
Rotary Park is for the most part completed but there on going maintenance needs, some which will require significant funding. One of the most pressing issues is the condition of the asphalt parking lots. All of the lots are original asphalt from approximately 1990. The eastern lots were never completed as they only received the first lift of asphalt, often called a binder coat. The finish layer was never applied. In an effort to reduce energy costs we have also considered installing a natural gas line from the south Rotary Pavilion to the Reuter Pavilion. This would eliminate the need to use electric heaters during the winter.

In addition we anticipate the possibility of working with the Rotary Clubs to determine if improvements can be made at the Reuter Pavilion. Conceptual plans were presented several months ago; we are currently waiting to see if there is an interest in moving these ideas forward.

Settlers Park
Activities in the Town Center area and the Rotary Riverwalk continue to expand. The close proximity of Settlers Park may require us to look into additional improvements and access. There is also a renewed interest in developing a gateway feature at the Mequon Road/ Cedarburg Road intersection.

Shorcland Nature Preserve
No current update.

Swan Road Prairie
No immediate improvements are needed. There is a possibility of expanding the walking trails but wet conditions may prevent this improvement.

Villa Grove Park
Additional river access for canoes and kayaks has been suggested. There has also been an interest in looking into shoreline stabilization. Additional information will be needed to determine if grants or alternate funding is available for this project.

Miscellaneous
Several MMSD sites have been received and a few others are pending. These sites won't require major investments but parking lots may be needed if access is desired. Walking trails and control of invasive species will also be a need.

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Office of the Parks & Operations Director

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TO: Mequon Park Board
FROM: Don Curran, Director of Parks and Operations
DATE: March 11, 2016
SUBJECT: Monthly Report

Highland Woods

Parks Department crews removed multiple fallen trees that were blocking several of the walking paths at Highland Woods. Other trees that had fallen but were caught in other trees above the ground were also addressed. Smaller trees in the parking lot area were also pruned. We also discovered that one of the aluminum picnic tables was in need of replacement due to the seats being bent. A new table was dropped off near the parking lot.

Lemke Park

We were recently notified by the Mequon Police Department that they had apprehended an individual that was observed operating a vehicle on the lawn areas of the park. There was minimal damage to the lawn however the vehicle did scatter a significant amount of gravel on to the asphalt driveways and parking areas. Along with a citation restitution was also requested to cover the cleanup costs.

Pukaite Woods

Volunteers from the Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust burned several piles of cut Buckthorn on Saturday, March 5th. The material had been cut last fall but due to wet conditions DPW crews were unable to access the piles.

River Advisory Committee

As the staff liaison I recently attended a meeting to discuss several river related issues. The committee has requested that I work with them to install informational signs at several of our riverfront parks. Specifically the signs would show the river and the park sites that provide river access and distances. In addition we will also be looking into signage on the Highland Road bridge indicating what road the river is passing by. This will be helpful to boaters from out of the area to assist them with determining their location on the river. There was also a discussion to determine the value of improving an area at the east end of the park for launching canoes and kayaks. The thought is adding a second launch area might free up parking near the pier for larger boat trailers.

FYI

The following data are provided for your information. The FYI section is offered for your awareness and to give you further insight into happenings related to the Mequon City Park system.

The mission of the Park Board is to acquire, develop, and maintain the City of Mequon's park and open space for the purpose of providing active and passive recreational activities, land and water preservation and restoration, and environmental education for its residents.

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 16, 2016

NEWS GRAPHIC

Defunct bluff trail could get new life

County looking at path to lake and other upgrades at Virmond Park

By Melanie Boyung
News Graphic Staff

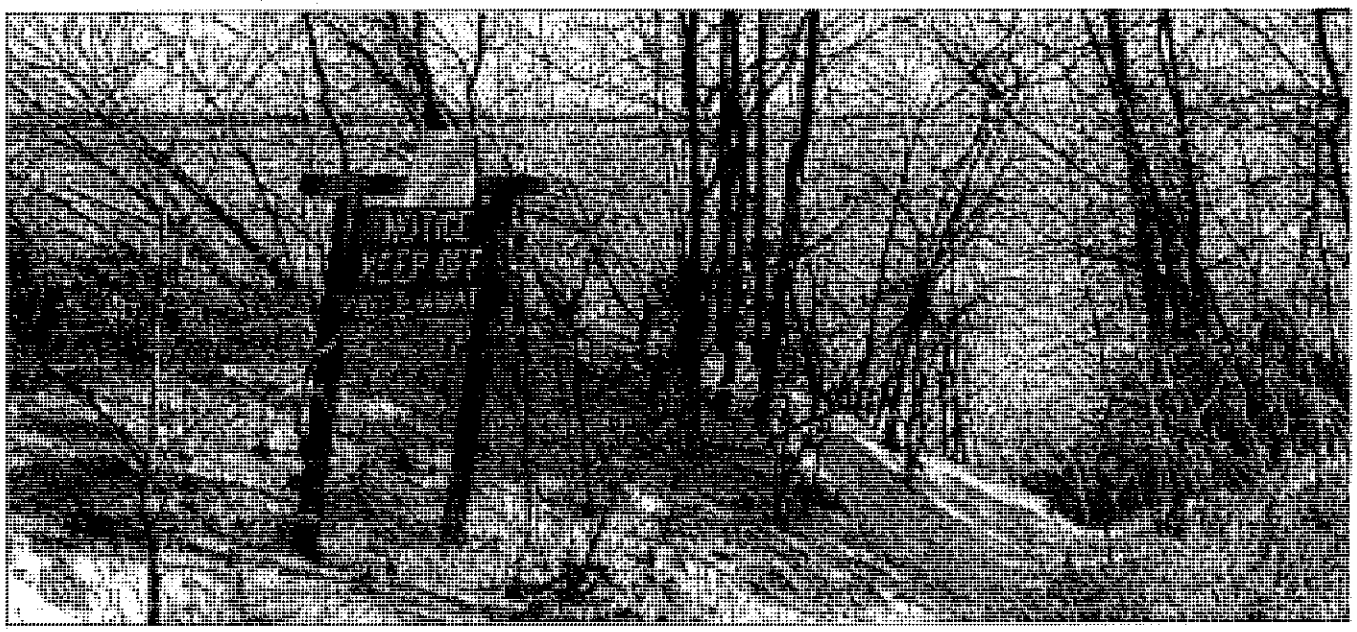

Photo by Mark Justesen

A "keep off" sign now stands where a trail once took people down to the Lake Michigan shoreline at Virmond Park in Mequon. The county said they will use grant funding to rebuild the trail.

MEQUON — Grant funding will allow the county to make significant improvements at its Virmond Park, including the creation of a bluff trail leading to the beach.

The Ozaukee County Natural Resources Committee accepted two grants earlier this month, including $35,000 from the Brookby Foundation,for playground improvements, invasive species management, native tree planting, trail creation and wildlife monitoring at Virmond County Park, located on Lake Shore Drive in Mequon. The trail creation and playground equipment will be significant for the park.

"We were awarded the full amount, and it's also to continue our invasive species work, because that's one of the priorities (for Brookby)," said Andrew Struck, director of the Planning and Parks Department, at this month's Natural Resources Committee meeting.

The grant funding will allow for the county to match some other funding and replace the degraded play equipment in Virmond Park, Struck said. The funds will also go toward employing Conservation Corps members to remove invasive species of vegetation, plant more native species that match local ecology and monitor pond and bird life in the park.

The most dramatic change allowed by the grant, however, is laying the groundwork for the bluff trail leading down to the lakeshore.

"We thought a low-key solution, as long as we could make it safe, would be OK; basically just put in a switchback trail," Struck said. "This will give us access to actually try to stabilize the bluff."

Struck said that his department is not certain the trail project will work, but they will try. There was a trail going down the bluff at one time, but it washed out over the years. In addition, the bluff is constantly shifting, Struck said.

If the initial phases of the trail creation go well, it will improve both public access to Lake Michigan within the park and the county's access to the bluff itself.

He told the Natural Resources Committee that the trail building work would include planting native vegetation to improve stability. Even so, the trail will likely need regular upkeep and annual work after the first few years to keep it safe and continuous down the bluff. Struck said there are already people climbing up and down the bluff to access the beach – mostly

See BLUFF, Page A7

Bluff: County polices park and performs maintenance

Continued from Page A1

teenagers from what he's seen – and some of them even move picnic tables down from the park.

"My point is, we're not stopping them now – we of course discourage (climbing) – but this would at least be a safer way to get down," Struck said.

Committee member Rick Bauzenberger asked about liability within the park. Struck said that the county's insurance provider would look at the trail once it was in, but it should be covered. As long as the county properly posts if something is closed or unsafe, it is not to blame for people ignoring that information. Bauzenberger also asked about the city of Mequon patrolling and maintaining the park; Struck said that there have been times when the city helped with park work and patrolling, but Virmond Park is county land.

"We're doing the city of Mequon a favor, because we're maintaining it, we're doing a lot of work, we've really improved the park, there's no question. We're doing Mequon a huge favor on our dime," Bauzenberger said.

The Natural Resources Committee also approved a $10,000 grant from the Brookby Foundation for habitat enhancement and impediment removal on Kaul Creek in the town of Grafton.

(Melanie Boyung can be reached at mboyung-@conleynet.com.)

CITY OF MEQUON

Preserving Quality of Life

Appliance, Electronics & Textile Recycling Collection Event

The CITY OF MEQUON is hosting a **FREE** Appliance, Electronics & Textile recycling collection event for all area residents and businesses for the 2016 season.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

WHEN: Saturday, May 21, 2016 – 9:00 am til 1:00 pm
Saturday , July 16, 2016 – 9:00 am til 1:00 pm
Saturday, October 15, 2016 – 9:00 am til 1:00 pm

WHERE: City of Mequon *(Behind Public Safety Building)*
6300 W. Mequon Road

Refrigerant Depot will be onsite collecting all major household appliances for **NO CHARGE!!**

APPLIANCES:

All major household appliances will be accepted with Freon and Non-Freon items for **NO CHARGE!!**

- ✓ Refrigerators
- ✓ Water coolers
- ✓ Stoves
- ✓ Dishwashers
- ✓ Freezers
- ✓ Air conditioners
- ✓ Washers/Dryers
- ✓ Microwaves
- ✓ Dehumidifiers
- ✓ Water heaters
- ✓ Car batteries
- ✓ And any other metal items....

Legacy Recycling will be collecting electronics, small appliances and batteries.
Any item that plugs into an outlet or runs on batteries will be accepted for **FREE** disposal. ***TV's $20.00 each.*

ELECTRONICS:

Sample of electronics to recycle:

- Computers
- Fax machines
- Cell/Cordless Phones
- Laptops
- Stereos
- VCR's
- Scanners/Copiers
- Monitors
- Keyboards
- Monitors
- Printers
- DVD/CD players
- Mice
- Power tools
- MP3's/IPODs
- *TV's***

Better Earth Textile Recycling will be onsite collecting all clothing articles, shoes & purses.

TEXTILES:

Sample of textiles to recycle:

- Used clothing
- Belts
- Shoes
- Linens
- Towels
- Blankets
- Purses
- Infant/Children's Clothing

For questions about recycling or the event please contact our sponsors:

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