River and Trails Task Force Minutes

Monday, May 3, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Present: Jon Lewis, Jim Wilcox, Sandra Black, Nancy Hagen, Joni Dean, Larry Liebmann, Ralph Erickson, Jim Killian, Andrew Hoffman, Dan Glynn.

CALL TO ORDER

1. Call to order: Sandra called the meeting to order at 1732.
2. March 1, 2021 Minutes: Approved by Jim W. with a second by Jon. Carried.
3. Communications:
4. Yahara River Park Update: Dan stated there needs to be high flow through the river to complete the survey data and hopefully a few days of rain will help. Last week the grant was submitted for the DNR Stewardship money. There is a meeting tomorrow with the engineers. Dan shared a paper of what the grant will cover. He mentioned there is a delay with grant funding for the bridge. The design is done and the permits are received. The construction season will be missed, so this will now be completed next year.
5. Virgin Lake Trail Extension Update: This trail will extend to the new development near Eggleson’s Woods. A boardwalk may be needed in the wetland area. The city pays for the trail to the developer’s site.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Earth Day Clean-Up. Reported to be a huge success on April 24, 2021 with 50-60 participants including many scout groups.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of a Chair: Unanimous decision to re-elect Sandra who accepted.
2. Election of Vice Chair: Unanimous decision to re-elect Jim Killian who accepted.
3. Park Impact Fee, Fee in Lieu of Land Dedication and Public Facility Needs Assessment Discussion & Possible Action: Dan explained the handout he shared for the group. There is a new park impact fee for developers which is based on several factors including how many people per home, park land value, etc. The fees have changed over time with construction costs, etc and Dan shared the current numbers. Dan did an inventory of replacement costs for Stoughton parks including playground equipment, shelters, etc. The City Attorney will draft updates this week and then forward to the City Council for approval. This may be completed by the end of May.
4. River Trail Signs: Sandra and Nancy have reviewed signage that needs to be replaced and was hoping this could be a Scout project. Dan will make a budget request for this. He would like to hear suggestions from the group for any other improvements.

Future Agenda Items:

1. Discussed meeting at a park shelter on Monday July 12, 2021 for the next meeting.
2. Nancy would like an update on the N. Page Street trail.
3. Dan sent a letter to the Ridge Street owners about an easement for the trail extension to Cooper’s Causeway in February 2021 and has not heard back from anyone.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1823 by Nancy with a second by Jim L. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joni Dean