

Cary Park District
Board of Commissioners
Parks & Recreation Operations Committee
June 14, 2018
7:00 PM
Community Center
255 Briargate Road
Cary, IL

Minutes

Committee Members Present: Howell and Hauck

Committee Members Absent: Renner

Commissioners Present: Stanko

Guest Present: Jeff Mengler, Hey and Associates.

Staff Present: Jones, V. Krueger, Raica, Rogus, Kelly, and Lee.

Hauck called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

The minutes from the May 10, 2018 Parks & Recreation Operations Committee meeting were presented for approval.

Howell moved to approve the minutes; second by Hauck.

Voice vote 2-0. All voting yes. Motion carried.

Jones explained that it has been tradition to pass a resolution declaring July as National Recreation and Parks Month. The resolution encourages the community to get outside and enjoy activities in nature.

Hauck moved to recommend Board approval of Resolution R-2018-19-01, "A Resolution Recognizing July 2018 as National Recreation and Parks Month." Second by Howell.

Voice vote: 2-0. All voting yes. Motion carried.

The next item discussed was the replacement of three F-350 trucks used by the Parks Department. Rogus stated that three trucks are up for replacement this year in the CERF. The first replacement is for the 2012 Ford F-350 4x4 Regular Cab Dump truck, and will be replaced with a 2019 Ford F-350 DRW 4x4 chassis with a 9' dump body at a cost of \$41,245.00. This has an alternative fuel of propane. This truck, along with the next two, will be purchased through the Illinois State Purchase Program. The conversion to propane will take place at another time. A strobe light present on the current truck will be remove and placed on the next truck.

The next truck to be replaced is a 2012 Ford F-350 4x2 Regular Cab Pick-Up Truck. It will be replaced with a 2019 Ford F-350 SRW 4x4 Regular Cab Pick-Up Truck at a cost of \$35,795.00. The current truck has a lift gate, back rack, and strobe light. The back rack and strobe light would be removed and placed on the new truck. The new truck will be outfitted with 1,500 pound aluminum lift-gate and prepped for LPG fuel and trailering.

The last vehicle up for replacement is the 2012 Ford F-350 4x4 Extended Cab Pick-Up Truck, and it will be replaced with a 2019 Ford F-350 SRW 4x4 Extended Cab Pick-Up Truck at a cost of \$47,930.00. Staff has recommended that the new truck be run on diesel and not propane. This truck is used for plowing and pulling a trailer around town six months of the year. A back rack and strobe light will be removed from the current truck and placed on the new vehicle. All current trucks will be placed up for auction.

Stanko asked if the current F350 has an extended cab, and Rogus stated yes. Stanko then asked why the trucks were F350 and not another series. Rogus said they are work trucks, and the 250 would not be able to handle the work load, performance and overall usage requirements.

Howell moved to recommend Board approval for the purchase of a 2019 Ford F-350 DRW 4x4 chassis and 9' Dump body through the Illinois State Purchase Program from Morrow Brothers Ford, Inc., Greenfield, Illinois, in the amount of \$41,245.00. Second by Hauck.

Voice vote: 2-0. All voting yes. Motion carried.

Hauck moved to recommend Board approval for the purchase of a 2019 Ford F-350 4x4 Regular Cab Pick-Up Truck through the Illinois State Purchase Program from Morrow Brothers Ford, Inc., Greenfield, Illinois, in the amount of \$35,795.00. Second by Howell.

Voice vote: 2-0. All voting yes. Motion carried.

Howell moved to recommend Board approval for the purchase of a 2019 Ford F-350 4x4 Extended Cab Pick-Up Truck through the Illinois State Purchase Program from Morrow Brothers Ford, Inc., Greenfield, Illinois, in the amount of \$47,930.00. Second by Hauck.

Voice vote: 2-0. All voting yes. Motion carried.

Next, the replacement of two 2009 Yamaha Gas Powered Beverage Carts was discussed. Jones explained that two beverage carts are set to be replaced this year on the CERF. The staff at Foxford Hills Golf Club are recommending the Club Car brand due to Club Car being the same brand as the current golf carts used at the course. These utility vehicles are not electric and run on gas due to the power needed to haul the beverages around the course. The current beverage carts in use at FHGC, the Yamaha Gas Powered Beverage Carts, will be sold at auction.

Howell moved to recommend Board approval for the purchase of two Club Car Express Gasoline Powered Beverage Carts via the US Communities Joint Purchase Program from Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc., Aurora, Illinois, in the amount of \$34,109.60. Second by Hauck.

Voice vote: 2-0. All voting yes. Motion carried.

The last item discussed was the Sands Main Street Prairie Nature Preserve Advancement Opportunity Plan. Jones explained this item came about from the 2016 Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP). Staff included in the budgeted dollars which were used to engage the services of Hey and Associates which specializes in natural areas and preservation. Park District Staff and Hey and Associates worked together to come up with the plan presented today, and the plan will take a total of six years to be accomplished. Pricing has been provided, and funding in the current budget to complete year one of the project.

Rogus introduced Jeff Mengler from Hey and Associates, and stated that in December services were solicited from Hey and Associates to assist with this project.

Rogus wanted to highlight in the sight history that Gill Moreland discovered the prairie when she was cross-country skiing. After evaluating the prairie, it was determined to be a Grade B Dry and Dry Mesic Gravel Prairie. This means it is a high quality natural area. Also, the Cary Prairie is listed as State Archeological Site Mh-17, meaning it may have been the site of a Native American Village. This area is of extremely high natural area quality. He explained that the type of plants present in the prairie are natural prairie plants that are restricted to a prairie setting.

Rogus then explained in FY18-19, the plan is focused on management of the prairie. In FY19-20 continuing enhancements to vegetation will take place, and staff will figure out how the site best meets the needs of the 2016 CMP by considering trails and on-site structure assessment. In FY20-21 staff will start to look into ADA accessibility and improve parking. In FY21-22 implementation of the trails will occur with the continued management and enhancement plan. In FY22-23, ADA accessibility and parking will be implemented. In FY23-24 the enhancements have concluded, and creating visual access to the park for those who may not be able to physically visit or walk the site, will be a goal through the possible use of a drone and video.

Rogus then reviewed the Advancement Opportunity Plan-Cost Opinion. He explained this past March the entire eastern portion underwent a prescribed burned to rid the area of invasive plant species, and this was done in-house. Invasive species are treated regularly by staff as well.

Jones asked the Commissioners if they had any questions. Howell asked for more information about why this site is archaeological. Mengler explained that in the dedication documents, the land was said to have archaeological significance. Rogus said that a Phase I Archeological Survey will be completed this fiscal year and this will provide more insight.

Stanko expressed concern about any archeological study digging holes in the prairie due to the time it takes for the prairie to recover. He asked what Phase I meant. Mengler explained that Phase I is more a document search to obtain information of what is out there. Digging usually doesn't occur until Phase II.

Stanko then asked why staff was waiting until FY20-21 to do a site/trail master plan. Raica explained that the first two years is about gathering information about the site and understanding the site before the plan is completed.

Stanko asked that a more comprehensive plant survey completed in 2016 be included in the plan and the plant species list be updated accordingly. He then asked that a copy of his Site Management Proposal comments be added to the minutes and that at a future date the long term vision of the prairie be discussed. Stanko requested the future discussions of trail take into account other past trail planning documents and exercises completed in the past. Stanko requested the site amenity improvement considerations be added to the plan as well. He would also like to have discussion on the tool barn at another date as well. Committee members Hauck and Howell through informal consensus agreed with these inclusions and updates proposed by Stanko.

Stanko stated since 1981 a lot has taken place at the prairie. This is a valuable site, and it needs to be recognized accordingly. There is a richness of both natural, native, and Cary history. There are three site components (Main Street, Sands Prairie, and Wallis-Price Farm) that have value to them. He would like to talk about renaming it Sands Park and all the components that make up the site.

Jones then recapped Stanko's requests and stated changes would be made to the plan presented this evening and an updated copy will be presented at the Board meeting at the end of the month.

Howell moved to recommend Board approval of the Carl and Claire Marie Sands - Main Street Prairie Nature Preserve Advancement Opportunity Plan as presented. Second by Hauck.

Voice vote: 2-0. All voting yes. Motion carried.

Howell moved to adjourn. Second by Hauck.

Voice vote: 2-0. All voting yes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 7:57 PM.

**Commissioner Phil Stanko Comments included in OPS Committee Minutes
dated June 14, 2018.**

Sands – Main Street Prairie (SMSP) Site Management Proposal Comments

1. Site Components: SMSP contains three distinct parcels that should be considered in the overall plan (see detail below). In reviewing the proposal, all parcels are included, but better clarity may be necessary to understand the true intended scope of this project and in order to prevent any of the three parcels from being given its appropriate consideration. In order to facilitate better clarity, one result of this proposal may be the need to change the name of the overall site to reflect the three distinct parcels/areas within its boundaries. I suggest the site name be changed to Sands Park.
 - a. Main Street Prairie: This parcel of the park consists of a front section of very rare, very high quality natural area identified as a gravel hill prairie that is part of the Illinois Nature Preserve. The rear section, approximately half of this parcel, is highly degraded prairie that has been proposed to be restored to a savanna in previous management plans. The emphasis here needs to be on continuing management of the high quality prairie and further development of the degraded rear section into savanna. Particular attention needs to address encroachment and the buffering of the nature preserve from the adjoining subdivisions while enhancing access to the park.
 - b. Sands Prairie: This parcel consists of mainly cropland restored to warm season grasses incorporated into the nature preserve as buffer for the high quality natural area. The emphasis here needs to be on increasing species diversity, specifically forbs. The savanna and prairie area within this parcel needs to have improved management of this area. Only part of Sands Prairie falls within the boundaries of the public park, but an understanding may need to be re-established that this area needs to be managed as one site. Sands Prairie in a previous management plan was determined to be needed for wildlife due to the rare ground nesting birds on the site. Trails and human use was restricted to the western most part of Sands Prairie, Main Street Prairie and Wallis Price-Farm. In order to maintain populations of these rare, ground-nesting birds in the park, the practice of restricting trails and human activity to the present trails on the western side of the park is strongly recommended.
 - c. Wallis-Price Farm: Wallis-Price Farm has its own historical significance. On the site is the remains of a barn foundation built in 1869. The barn was present at the site until the park district determined that it needed to be removed in order to ensure the safety of the public using the site. Until its removal, it was one of the oldest original barns still remaining in McHenry County. The farmhouse has historical significance as well and should be considered for identification and listing by the McHenry County Historical Society.

2. More information needs to be provided regarding what a “phase 1” archeological survey consists of before any more can be said about this item. Disturbing the soils in the Sands Prairie may promote an increase in the weed population within this parcel.
3. In 2016, Wayne Schennum provided the park district with an updated plant survey. This survey needs to be compared and combined with the survey presented in the proposal to create the most complete and up to date plant list. The Vegetation Management & Enhancement Plan (VMEP) needs to include the girdling and removal of most of the native and all of the non-native trees in the northern sections of Main Street and Sands Prairie. Some agreed upon formula (i.e. 1 tree for every 12 trees removed) should be used to replace the trees back into the appropriate area within the Main Street Prairie parcel with mixed age oak and hickory trees. Other areas will need to be restored to prairie.
4. Any on site structure assessment needs to include the tool barn located just northwest of the large dairy barn. In order to protect viewsheds that area may be needed for use as a picnic area and an area for a playground. No mention of picnic shelters or playgrounds were included in the proposal. A discussion on the true long term plan for this park, including the conversion of the dairy barn into a nature center, needs to be addressed.
5. The Overall Site Programming Master Plan should include a discussion on the incorporation of an approximate sixty foot (60 ft.) buffer extending south from the northwest corner of the park to sixty feet (60 ft.) beyond the southern boundary of the last lot in the Hillhurst Subdivision. A second sixty foot buffer extending east from the northwest corner of the park to sixty feet beyond the last lot in the Patriot Meadows Subdivision should be incorporated as well. This buffer will perform a number of functions: a) provide protection from encroachment by adjoining property owners; b) space for appropriate vegetation placed in the buffer area; c) space for a multipurpose trail within the buffer with the potential for connections to other multipurpose trails and linear parks; d) a buffer/screen for adjoining property owners to the multipurpose trail; and e) a connector to the present access that exists in the southwest corner of the Patriot Meadows Subdivision. Additional discussions with the Nature Preserves Commission will be needed to explain the proposed plan and offer additional incentives.

Site Trail Master Planning should focus on updating, enhancing and revising the existing site trail plan included in Hey and Associates report (Exhibit 3?).