

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY  
COMMITTEE ON PARKS & FOREST  
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 5:00 PM

Exposition Center, Eau Claire

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Gibson, Patrick LaVelle, John Richie, Tami Schraufnagel, and Kevin Stellijes

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENT: Bob Afdahl, Tom Field, Michael Lea, Thomas Peterson, and Joelene  
Smith.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jed Kaurich, WDNR. Spencer Ecklund, Curling Club President.

STAFF PRESENT: Jody Gindt and Jamie Kuhl.

---

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patrick LaVelle at 5:00 p.m.

- 1.) Confirmation of meeting notice – Meeting notice was confirmed.
- 2.) Approval of minutes from January 24, 2018 meeting – Gary made a motion to approve minutes from the January 24, 2018 meeting; motion carried 5-0.
- 3.) Public Input – No one was present for this item.
- 4.) Expo/Curling Club Report – Spencer Ecklund the curling club president discussed the local history of curling in Eau Claire and the spike in popularity of the sport because of the recent Olympics. Pat asked about the current and future lease agreement discussions the club was having. Club members are looking at all options at this time because of the high cost of upgrading HVAC system at the Expo Center has come in higher than expected. The curling club admitted “the ball is in their court” in regards to the lease agreement with money being the main issue.
- 5.) Special Event Guidelines at Lowes Creek Park and Tower Ridge Recreation Area – March 27<sup>th</sup> is the next advisory committee meeting. Tom Petersen discussed the special event application and time savings of using this form. Tom explained there would no longer be a need for folks to

do presentations to the committee for permission to host events. All the costs and use information would be explained on the form. Advisory committee recommends this form should be adopted by the committee to save time and create fairness to all user groups. Some discussion is still needed with Eau Claire County Parks & Forest Staff on pricing and maybe adding some language on cleanup parameters. Pat had some discussion about what the Advisory Committee could do to help develop long range plans for Expo Center, Pinter Pines, and other Parks & Forest properties. Decision to continue discussion with Josh Pedersen and Jody Gindt in the future. Advisory Committee would like to thank Bobbi Barone for all her work so far on this.

- 6.) Brown Property offer to purchase status – Jody reported that the offer to purchase by the county has been accepted by the Browns. The committee discussed what the next steps in the purchase process may be. Kevin requested Josh bring in a “Resolution to Purchase” to the next Parks & Forest meeting for the County Board to sign after discussion with Josh. John Ritchie discussed the “easement of necessity” related to the access to the Brown property and other access issues on ownership quarters related to it.
- 7.) Lake Altoona Winterfest Report – Jamie Kuhl Lake Altoona Park Ranger and Jody Gindt Parks and Forest Supervisor reported attendance was good overall for the event. They both discussed some issues they observed before, during, and after the event and presented the committee with a power point slideshow presentation with some of the issues they observed. The committee will discuss this further at a later date and decide whether or not what changes will be made in the future for consideration to continue the event.
- 8.) County Forest Special Use Areas – Nothing to discuss
- 9.) Stewardship Committee Report – Kevin had nothing to discuss at this time.
- 10.) Advisory Committee Input/Assignments – Parks & Forest Committee would like the Advisory Committee to keep working on special event guidelines for all events and venues related to Parks & Forest. Thomas Peterson and Mike Lea asked if they could meet with Jody out at Pinter Pines this spring to discuss options on buildings and access out there.
- 11.) Emergency Fire Warden Approval – Jed Kaurich gave a brief presentation on Emergency Fire Warden Service, Fire Towers, and discussed the removal of the statute that requires the counties to pay a portion of any bill charged for fire protection services that were conducted without their knowledge. Parks & Forest Committee also voted to approve the signing of the 2018 Eau Claire County Emergency Fire Wardens. 5-0
- 12.) Staff and Committee Reports – Jody gave an update on the status of the Tower Ridge and Lowes Creek Ski Trails. Tami discussed that the 5 Star Company plans to apply for a wash station

for their sand in the township of Bridge Creek. Tami asked the Parks & Forest Committee and employees become educated on this as it affects the Eau Claire River.

13.) Correspondence – Nothing to discuss.

14.) Future and Pending Items – Nothing at this time.

15.) Next Meeting Date/Place – Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Lake Eau Claire New Heated Storage Building.

16.) Adjournment – Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Gindt  
Acting Clerk