

Village of Fall Creek
Minutes of Community Relations, Recreation & Health Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 31, 2021

1. **Call to Order:** 5:00 p.m., Village Hall Meeting Room, 122 E. Lincoln Ave., Fall Creek
2. **Roll Call:** Committee Members Present: Chairperson Karen Hurd, Trustees Ben Burch, Matt Mattoon, Karen Strasburg. Members Arriving Later: Tim Raap. Absent: None. Staff Present: Clerk/Treasurer Renee Roemhild. Also Present: Trustee Karen Herbison, Associate Planner of the Western WI Regional Planning Commission Landon Profaizer, 1 citizen.
3. **Certify Open Meeting Law Requirements Have Been Met:** A notice of the meeting and an agenda was posted at the three public places and local newspapers were notified.
4. **Adopt Agenda:**
 - MOTION (Mattoon/Burch) to adopt the agenda, with moving the New Business to the first item of business. PASSED, without negative vote. Tim Raap arrived at 5:03 p.m.

6. **New Business**

Park Update, Including Village of Fall Creek Outdoor Recreation Plan Update: Landon Profaizer, Associate Planner of the Western Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, reviewed the progress to-date on the proposed Village of Fall Creek Outdoor Recreation Plan. He stated the first part of the plan involves data collection of the matrix of our community, submitting that data for the committee's review. The next part of the plan will involve data that will be gained from a survey to be filled out by Village residents. Consensus of the committee was to bring the draft survey to the September 13 Regular Board meeting at which time all ideas will be considered for inclusion.

Timelines were discussed – Grant application is due May 1. Backing up from there, the goal would be to have a few months prior to that for writing the grant application, a resolution would need to be passed by the Board in December 2021 or January 2022, the survey would need to be put out mid-September or October with closing of the survey by the end of October so the results can be factored into the plan. Adopting this plan will increase the Village's competitive advantage when applying for grant funds.

Trustee Ben Burch reported there were 214 participants in the Youth Sports Association programs (baseball and softball) in 2021. There is a lot of interest in the plans for the park and volunteers are eager to be involved, offering labor and materials. There is a shortage of fields to play on, so reworking the existing ballfield and adding an additional ballfield at Keller Park would aid in scheduling more games. There is a fear that the program will start losing participants to larger organizations that offer more facilities at which to play, especially if something isn't done soon.

5. **Old Business**

- a. **Recommendation re: Results of Survey Regarding Keeping Chickens in Residential Zoning Districts:** The survey results were 51-yes (27.72%) and 133-no (72.28%) to the question about changing the ordinance to allow the keeping of chickens in the Village.

- MOTION (Strasburg/Mattoon) recommending to the Village Board to leave the ordinance as written to not allow chickens in the village. PASSED, without negative vote.

Consensus of committee was to recommend the Board notify the community of the survey results via the Memorial Park marquee, the website and facebook.

- b. **Recommendation re: Community Garden:** Trustee Matt Mattoon reported on information he received from Michael Rambo and Andrew Worthman, two sources with experience in community gardens in Eau Claire. Tips they wanted to pass along:
- need support of community to keep the program going otherwise you end up with an abandoned pile of dirt,

- municipality spends about 4 hours a year prepping the plots,
- municipality meters the water usage and pays 50% of the water consumption,
- the Garden Community Association was created to manage the project after initial set-up by the municipality,
- reach out to the individuals that are most enthused about the project,
- \$35 fee for a 20' x 20' plot,
- the annual fees help cover costs like fencing to deter animals,
- individual supplies their own hose for watering,
- individuals that do not tend gardens will not be allowed back in next year,
- offer composting on site,
- Eau Claire currently has 6 gardens which have been in production for almost 25 years.

Committee discussed number of interested parties, size and number of plots, possibly implementing a trial season, finding people to manage the program. Committee directed Clerk/Treasurer Roemhild to compile a list of people that have shown interest and give it to Trustee Mattoon to contact. If there is enough interest it can be brought back to the Board.

- c. **Recommendation re: Website Improvements, Specifically Update on Business and Church Directories on Website:** The committee reviewed a draft directory that would include contact information for businesses, churches and organizations in and around the Village. Chairperson Hurd has contacted the churches and obtained permission to list the info on the website. Police Officer Kelly O'Brien will contact the businesses and Trustee Karen Strasburg will contact the organizations.

6. New Business

- a. **Park Update, Including Village of Fall Creek Outdoor Recreation Plan Update:** The Committee revisited this issue with Strasburg recommending Burch approach the Lion's Club regarding the project and get on their agenda as soon as possible. Hurd stated the directors meeting is on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 6:00. Raap said there is some urgency to try to not lose the volunteer labor and donations that are now available.
- MOTION (Strasburg/Mattoon) recommend to the Village Board to have Burch approach the Lions Club to coordinate the ballfield project, instead of waiting for the grant application to be completed because we do not want to lose the opportunity to use the volunteer labor and donations that are available right now. PASSED, without negative vote.

7. Adjourn:

- MOTION (Burch/Mattoon) @ 6:40 p.m. PASSED, without negative vote.

Renee Roemhild, Clerk-Treasurer