

**WASHINGTON COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Public Agency Center - Room 3224  
West Bend, WI

April 22, 2010  
8:30 a.m.

Present: Mike Miller-Chairperson, Matt Heiser-Vice Chairperson, Mike Hermann, Terry Jensen, Shawn Graff  
Absent: Kelly Valentino, Scott Mathie

Staff present: Joshua Glass, Debora Sielski, Cindy Leinss, Joanne Wagner, Rochelle Brien

Chairperson Miller called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Mr. Glass introduced Rochelle Brien, Summer Planning Intern.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 28, 2010 MINUTES**

**Motion by Mr. Heiser, seconded by Mr. Jensen to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2010 meeting as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.**

**PRESENTATION OF DRAFT CHAPTER IV – BENEFITS OF PARK AND OPEN SPACES – JOSH GLASS**

Mr. Glass stated that this is a new chapter and is very important because it can provide justification for future park and open space preservation.

Resource Oriented Activities – Mr. Glass will change “golfing” to “disc golfing.”

Social Benefits – Ms. Leinss suggested that Mr. Glass talk to the park supervisors about any additional social activities or events held in the County parks that could be added to this list. Mr. Glass requested input on activities and benefits provided by municipal parks within Washington County. Discussion ensued regarding the many activities that take place at various parks within Washington County. Information regarding shelter reservations and total park acreage should be added to this section for various municipalities and the County Park System. Mr. Glass will research and add this information. Ms. Sielski stated that with development of the new website, the County is getting park statistics from all of the municipalities within the County.

Mr. Heiser commented that the social benefit of playgrounds encourage social interaction for children and families.

Mr. Jensen emphasized the importance of educational benefits provided by parks. Mr. Glass explained that education is described in other benefit sections. Mr. Jensen suggested that Lizard Mound County Park should be mentioned in this section due to the burial mounds on the site. Ms. Sielski stated we would include information about the Lizard Mound interpretive center and Lac Lawran Nature Conservancy as well.

Environmental Benefits – Mr. Glass will re-word the second bullet under “Enhance air quality” referring to the ecological benefits provided by a typical tree in its lifetime. Mr. Glass provided background information on the

source of the information. The re-wording will emphasize that the number provided was according to one calculation, albeit a credible source.

Mr. Jensen suggested a specific listing of identified endangered species being included in the environmental benefits section. As a follow-up for Mr. Jensen regarding natural heritage sites, Ms. Sielski stated that the Germantown Swamp area is one of the sites that should be added to this.

Mr. Heiser asked about identification of the Emerald Ash Borer in the environmental benefits section. Ms. Sielski suggested adding a section to the inventory chapter of the plan (Chapter II) regarding invasive species. The Commission concurred.

Economic Benefits – Mr. Glass explained the “Proximate Principle.” Under “Encourage Smart Growth”, Mr. Glass will add language to the second bulleted item for enhanced clarity.

Under “Jackson Park Analysis” and “Homestead Hollow County Park Analysis” – Ms. Sielski explained that the first bulleted item under Jackson Park Analysis should be re-worded to say “With all things being equal, the total assessed value of residential properties increased by \$113.36 for every 1 foot closer the property is to Jackson Park, up to 200 feet from the park.”

In regards to the “Attract Tourism” bullet, Mr. Heiser inquired about the economic benefits of the Eisenbahn Trail and suggested adding related data to this section. Ms. Sielski stated that general information was gathered through a survey conducted by the Department in 2008 that will be added. Mr. Glass suggested that the recommendation be identified in the Plan to conduct an economic impact analysis of the Eisenbahn Trail.

In regards to the Proximate Principle previously discussed, Sielski suggested adding a diagram that displays how it works. The Commission concurred suggesting that any visual references are encouraged.

Mr. Herman mentioned “Enchantment in the Park,” a Christmas light display at Fair Park, and its positive effects on tourism as well as community benefits due to food donations that were involved. Mr. Miller will provide Mr. Glass with contact information so details can be added to the chapter.

Community Benefits – Under the first bullet, the number of County park shelters offering ADA accessibility will be changed from 23 to 22. Ms. Leinss stated that the affordability of renting shelters versus renting a country club or a more expensive facility for social events adds a community benefit for affordability.

Mr. Heiser mentioned the various service and non-profit organizations that work within the parks and suggested tying them in to this chapter as a community benefit. Mr. Hermann also mentioned the various clubs that work within the parks for gardening, etc. and how they serve as a community benefit. Mr. Glass will tie service and non-profit organizations into the chapter under community benefits.

Several events held in parks were discussed that should be listed as examples under the Community Benefits section such as: Riverhill Park in the Village of Kewaskum hosts 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities, a historic log cabin, and the Village Museum (preserving community heritage); Veteran’s Park in the City of Hartford hosts 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities; Riverside Park in the City of West Bend hosts 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities. Other community events such as Jazz Fest and Germanfest were also discussed.

Shawn Graff – joined the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

Individual Benefits – Mr. Miller suggested merging the top two categories of the 2006 survey, (“very important” and “important”). Ms. Sielski suggested breaking the last bullet point into two for clarification purposes. Mr. Glass shared that Washington County was ranked the 3<sup>rd</sup> healthiest county in Wisconsin for physical activity and health.” Mr. Graff suggested adding that statistic to this report.

Ms. Leinss suggested that information from “Last Child in the Woods be added to this chapter as an educational component – tying in the concept of nature deficit.

Mike Miller suggested adding “lower cholesterol” and Heiser suggested adding “reduces stress” to the first bullet on page 5.

Active Living and “Get Moving Washington County” – Mr. Glass explained how the active living concept has been tied into the chapter. In the third paragraph under “What is Active Living?” Mr. Glass will change “advance” to “advantage” in the last sentence.

Mr. Miller stated that in reference to how many acres of parks and open spaces are offered in Washington County, we should include publicly accessible lands owned by municipalities, land trusts, and the State. Mr. Jensen stated that Ice Age Trail and Polk Kames hiking usage has recently doubled. Mr. Jensen will send more specific statistics to Mr. Glass.

Healthy People Project text was reviewed and discussed. Mike Hermann would like to see information regarding the Washington County Park and Trail map included in this section in relation to the Healthy People Project.

Summary – Discussion ensued regarding resource oriented activities: Mr. Miller suggested adding “soccer” added to this list. Glass will make the addition.

Heiser suggested adding definitions for resource and non-resource oriented activities. Glass will make the addition.

Ms. Sielski requested that agenda item #5 be moved ahead of #4. Permission was granted.

### **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Ms. Sielski stated that Washington County’s Farmland Preservation Plan must be updated, adopted, and certified by December 31, 2011. The current plan is very outdated and the Planning Division will be creating an entirely new plan based on new laws. There is a large workload for the Planning Division with a tight timeline for completion. The priority for the Planning Division is now shifting to the Farmland Preservation Plan. The Park and Open Space Plan (POSP) will be a lower priority for the Division. We will continue work on the POSP, but not at the pace we have been doing thus far. We will probably meet every 2-3 months rather than monthly. Ms. Sielski apologized for the slowing down of the POSP. Stated that we are hoping to meet in July next to go over changes to Chapters I-III, revamp and revisit Chapter IV, and present Chapter V which is a summary of all surveys that have been done (Eisenbahn, etc.) in recent years. Consensus of the Commission is to continue to start the meetings at 8:30 a.m. **July 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.** was the date and time selected for the next meeting. Joanne will send out an email to all Commission members confirming this date and time. Mike Miller is hoping to be put back on the Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee, however if he is not – it is probably best to have a PCPC member serving on this Commission. Mr. Miller would like to come back at least on an “ad-hoc” basis.

### **PARKS AND ACTIVE LIVING WEBSITE AND TRAIL MAP UPDATE – DEB SIELSKI**

Ms. Sielski briefly described the development process of “Get Moving Washington County,” Washington County’s new active living website. Sielski gave a demonstration to show where we are with site development and highlighted a few things that still need to be finished or fixed prior to launching for public use. Sielski also explained a hard copy park and trail map that is in the works. The Commission expressed very positive feedback on both projects.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Mr. Heiser, seconded by Mr. Jensen to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.**

Debora Sielski  
Deputy Planning and Parks Administrator

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael R. Miller, Chairperson

Date \_\_\_\_\_