

TOWN OF FARMINGTON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING

PLAN COMMISSION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022
FARMINGTON TOWN HALL

Attendees: Dan Heidel, Paul Lash, Dr. Michael White, Mitch Fenske
Minutes Prepared by: Crystal Sbraggia

CALL TO ORDER:

Dan Heidel called the special public participation meeting to order at 7:00pm.

The purpose of the meeting was to gather resident feedback in regard to future use of the Mindoro Park that was recently acquired from La Crosse County.

Discussion took place regarding the need for a separate park board to be established. Heidel shared state statute information pertaining to the creation of such a board. Board creation timelines, oversight processes, limitations and abilities will need to be explored further with the TB in the near future.

Along with the park, \$75,000 was also given to the town for to aid with transition expenses and improvements.

A question regarding the usage of the donated funds was posed by a resident wanting to know how the funds would be prioritized amongst projects and who would be responsible for making such decisions. Discussion took place on whether the funds were meant for maintenance or improvement projects. Heidel concluded that the Town Board would ultimately be the governing body to make any expenditure decisions and would need to clarify the original intent of the funds.

Heidel explained that the TB had charged the PC with the task of drafting an ordinance that outlines rules and regulation of public lands. This final document will cover rules set forth for all public lands, not just the Mindoro Park. A draft of interim rules was distributed for review. A revision was suggested for Item E that pertains to the restriction of weapons and hunting in the park. Final verbiage will likely need to be approved by attorneys.

A question regarding rule enforcement was posed. Heidel noted that the TB will ultimately establish this process, but that concerns will likely be funneled through the TB and onto the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department, who will determine final violation consequences.

The need for an updated reservation process was discussed. An online system was suggested. The ability to charge a rental fee is in question. An updated list of Lawcon rules is necessary to understand limitations. It was suggested that, if compliant with Lawcon rules, the town should consider at the very least collecting a returnable deposit to ensure that those that rent the shelter are held accountable for clean-up.

Future amenities and improvements including trail systems, soccer fields, ball diamonds, butterfly gardens and additional shelters were shared. Ideas on how volunteer groups, town employees, the park board and other community organizations may work together to ensure proper maintenance of the different areas of the park. One resident asked that the town take special care to ensure that all volunteer groups be treated consistently and fairly.

Residents are requesting that the cables and posts, along with the locked gate leading to the back of the park, be removed before the Spanferkel parade. Crystal agreed to share this request with Mike Hesse for follow up.

Improved lighting in the restrooms and shelter was recommended. The potential use of solar power for that purpose should be explored along with possible grants to do so at a low cost.

Mmsp: Heidel / White: Motion to adjourn the public input meeting at 8:15pm. 4/0/0