

CITY OF VERONA

MINUTES

PARK, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016

1. The meeting was called to order by chairperson Jon Turke at 7:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Present: Jon Turke, Mark Giesfeldt, Heather Reekie, Paul Schmidt, Brad Stiner. Also present: Dave Walker, Parks Director; Ed Spoon, Ice Age Trail; Samantha Christian, Verona Press.
3. Moved by Reekie, seconded by Giesfeldt, to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2016 meeting of the Park, Recreation, and Forestry Commission. Motion carried 5-0.
4. The Commission an application for Verona to become an Ice Age Trail Community. The program is designed to raise support and awareness for the Ice Age Trail by fostering partnerships between the Ice Age Trail Alliance, local communities, business organizations, and local volunteers. Criteria for approval of the application include broad community support, a commitment to maintain and improve the Trail, annual events that promote the Trail, and a one-time contribution of \$2,500. If approved, Verona will become the third community in the state to receive the designation, the others include Hartland and Cross Plains. Funding for the application would come from trail monies already approved in the 2016 Parks budget.

Ed Spoon was at the meeting on behalf of the local IAT chapter to speak in support of the application and thanked the Commission consideration. Dave Walker reported that the Chamber of Commerce and Town of Verona had also expressed support and would cosponsor the application.

5. Moved by Giesfeldt, seconded by Schmidt, to approve an application for Verona to become an Ice Age Trail Community. Motion carried 5-0.
6. The Commission considered an application for Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) grant funding to pave an off-street bicycle path from Bruce St to Conner Field along the Badger Mill Creek. The estimated cost of the project was \$1.75 million and the grant request would be for 60% of the funding. If approved, the project would include engineering and design in 2018 and construction in 2019. The project was identified as part of the 2015 Bicycle and Pedestrian study. The Commission all felt it would be a good improvement for the community but some members were hesitant to support the request knowing that the City would have to commit nearly \$1 million toward the project if approved.
7. Moved by Reekie, seconded by Giesfeldt, to support a resolution authorizing the application for TAP funding for the Ice Age Junction Path project. Motion carried 4-0. Abstain, Stiner.

8. The Commission considered five different play structures for replacement of the existing structure at Kay Park. All five were included in spring sales from different manufacturers and met the requirements of fitting within the existing area and costing under \$10,000. After reviewing all the options, the Commission decided on a Miracle Rec structure although the final outcome was hotly contested and relied on a brokered settlement.
9. Moved by Reekie, seconded by Schmidt, to approve a Miracle Rec play structure for replacement of the existing structure as discussed. Motion carried 5-0.
10. Moved by Reekie, seconded by Schmidt, to approve a special event requests as presented. Motion carried 5-0.
11. Moved by Reekie, seconded by Giesfeldt, to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. Time 8:05 p.m.

Jon Turke
Chairperson