

CITY OF MENASHA
Joint Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board and Plan Commission
Council Chambers, City Hall – 140 Main Street
January 12, 2016
DRAFT MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Merkes at 6:08 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL/EXCUSED ABSENCES

PLAN COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Merkes, Ald. Kevin Benner, DPW Radtke and Commissioners Sturm, Cruickshank, and DeCoster.

PLAN COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: Comm. Schmidt

PARK BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Brian Adesso, Lisa Hopwood and Dick Sturm (this did not constitute a quorum of the Park Board)

OTHERS PRESENT: CDD Keil, AP Englebert, PRD Tungate, PS Maas, Tim Gosz (98 Fox Street), Rob Gusky (304 River Drive), Byron Kopitck (84 Mathewson Street), Jacy Park (120 Fifth Street), David Park (120 Fifth Street) and Becky Nichols (402 Elm Street).

C. REPORT

1. Update by staff on the Loop the Little Lake project and route across Doty Island

A video presentation created by Future Neenah was shown to introduce the Loop the Lake project to board and commission members.

PRD Tungate reviewed the status of the project including the following elements:

- Cities of Neenah and Menasha have hired an engineering firm to develop concept plans and evaluate physical conditions relative to construction of the trail.
- There is now a need to designate a route in preparation for final design. As this is a substantive project, receipt of neighborhood and community feedback is being sought.
- Fundraising has reached about 60% of the established goal.
- The City of Neenah has designated a route on its portion of the project.
- Two routes have been considered, one off street and the other through the neighborhood. The latter is the preferred route due to the following considerations:
 - Sidewalks are in place for nearly all of the route.
 - The route is more direct.
 - The route along the lake would cost approximately \$140,000 more.
- CDD Keil made remarks on how the Loop the Lake project was consistent with transportation and recreation elements of the comprehensive plan and commented on the importance of connectivity for our neighborhoods and community.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER LISTED ON THE AGENDA

Tim Gosz – 98 Fox Street – Stated that he has come to the understanding that this project is going to happen, but expressed concerns about the proximity of the bridge approach to his garage and the potential for conflicts between bicyclists and vehicles leaving his property. He also mentioned the availability of the vacant lot on the east side of Mathewson Street.

Rob Gusky – Resident of Appleton, works at Kimberly Clark property on Lake Street, and is president a Fox Cities cycling organization. He predicted that the trail will bring economic development and health benefits, and expressed hope that the final route will work well for

everyone.

E. ACTION ITEMS

1. Recommend on-street bike/pedestrian route through Menasha's portion of Doty Island as part of the Loop the Little Lake project

Discussion by the Park Board and Plan Commission on the proposed route ensued and included the following:

- Prior input from residents regarding route alternatives.
- Prospects for trail alignment associated with the vacant lot.
- Shifting the bridge approach to the east side of Mathewson Street.
- Opportunities for landscaping and other amenities to minimize impacts if the bridge on adjoining properties.
- Possibilities for a rest area/seating at the bridge approach.
- Parking and restroom facilities for trail users.
- Availability of on-street parking.
- Parking options at other trail access points.
- Restroom facilities at the lock site and Shepard park
- Potential impacts of the trail on property values.
- The lake as an amenity should a route along it be chosen.
- Security concerns associated with a more remote trail route along the lake.
- Possible traffic conflicts with an on street route.
- Commuters desiring a route while recreational users place a higher value on aesthetics.
- Current fundraising is only applicable to funding the bridges.
- Whether or not to stripe or otherwise mark on street bike lanes.

Motion by Comm. Cruickshank, seconded by DPW Radtke to recommend to the Common Council Menasha's portion of the bicycle/pedestrian route along Doty Island as part of the Loop the Little Lake project with the route commencing on Lawson Street, proceeding north to Fox Street, then west on Fox Street to Mathewson Street, then north on Mathewson Street to the Fox River. In addition, keep open the possibility of considering in the future, the alternative off-street route along the shoreline behind the water treatment plant. Trail approach to the new bridge should be placed on the east side of the Mathewson Street right-of-way and that route making should be done with signage although sharrows could be used if necessary. The motion carried.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ald. Benner, seconded by Comm. DeCoster, to adjourn at 7:51 PM. The motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by CDD Keil.