

Town of Verona  
Open Space and Parks Commission Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Present: Keen, Mathies, Jellings, Hoffman, and Stellick  
Absent: Combs and Siehr  
Also Present: John Wright, Clerk-Treasurer (C-T)  
Called to order at 7:32 PM

### **Approval of Agenda**

Hoffman made a motion to approve the agenda providing no action be taken on the discussion of the Herfel Conditional Use Permit (CUP) during the discussion of item 7; 2<sup>nd</sup> Stellick. C-T Wright noted that at the February OSPC meeting, a copy of the CUP was requested to be sent to the members for their review as dedication of land to the public was part of the agreement. Wright further noted that no action item would be entertained on this topic as this body has no authority to enforce the dedication of this land. Motion to approve the agenda carried.

### **Public Comments**

Chair Keen announced that the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association (USRWA) will hold their Annual Meeting this Sunday, March 8, 2015 at the Delphi Room of the Andromeda Building on Epic System's campus. The meeting will begin at 12:30 PM. Member Mathies noted that the Town Board approved a Fire Ordinance which when enacted (the day after publication) will require a permit for open burning on private property. The permit can be found online on the DNR website (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestFire/Permits.html>) and is good for one calendar year. There is no cost for the permit. On a related note, Chair Keen stated that classes hosted by Dane County Parks will be held in March for Basic Wildfire Fire & Prescribed Fire Training (<http://prescribedfire.org/WhatWeDo/Training.aspx>); those who successfully complete the course earn a certificate through the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. The course costs \$225.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Member Hoffman wanted to clarify the quote ascribed to him in the second paragraph of page 2 within the topic **Continue Discussion of Future Conservation Efforts within the Town of Verona**. Hoffman stated that he felt the proposed use of the boardroom/election hall space in the new Town Hall as a community space was an "added feature" instead of a "selling point." The citation will be removed without objection. Hoffman moved to approve the February minutes as amended; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mathies. Motion to accept the minutes from the February 4, 2015 meeting carried; Keen abstained from the action as he was unable to attend the February meeting.

### **Discussion of New Town Hall Site**

Chair Keen stated he attended the meeting and public discussion regarding the new Town Hall Site on February 23, 2015. Keen shared a list of proposed questions that could be presented to residents for their input regarding the new site and associated buildings. Keen thought the responses could be ranked by those participating with five representing very high and zero representing the lowest. Member Mathies recommended including the interest in walking paths to the list submitted by Keen. It was also suggested that the survey ask the interest in individuals or groups to volunteer to work on the site to maintain trails, to restore prairie, athletic fields, etc.

Mathies noted that some of the questions proposed by Keen included items related to the buildings; Mathies thought the OSPC questionnaire should focus upon the environmental features instead. There was brief discussion regarding the acreage to be retained and its possible use. The group agreed that a site visit on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 2:00 PM would work for a quorum of the members; it was noted that newly appointed Town Board member Laura Dreger should be invited as she has yet to visit the site. C-T Wright will prepare a map of the site with parcel lines defined on a backing stiff enough to be read on a windy day; if possible, the map will have the proposed buildings laid atop the existing buildings.

Mathies asked about whether the parking area will use permeable pavers. C-T Wright replied that the engineering and design team from Epic Systems stated that these types of pavers work well further south, but tend to perform less reliably in northern climates.

### **Review and Approve Application for Dane County Environmental Council Grant for Capital Equipment**

Chair Keen stated that he received the letter of Town of Verona support from Planner/Administrator Arnold in addition to a letter from Belleville. Keen noted that he provided two quotes: one from Farm & Fleet and the other directly from DR Power Equipment for the trimmer in question. The application included in-kind contributions that will be made through volunteer labor. In addition to the maintenance of local streambanks, the trimmer, if awarded, will be used to maintain the grounds surrounding Lake Bellevue in Belleville, and the Falk Wells Sugar River Wildlife Area. According to Keen, USRWA Executive Director Wade Moder submitted the Grant application the prior week.

Member Hoffman asked where the trimmer will be stored if funded. Keen stated in a trailer owned by the USRWA; currently two trailers are stored on Keen's property. Previously the trailers were stored on other members' properties. Keen wondered if there might be space available on the newly purchased Town land that the USRWA could rent to store their two trailers. Member Mathies asked if Keen was able to receive financial support from TDS Telecom. Keen replied that Wade Moder requested their support, but has not heard back in the four weeks' time since. Keen noted that if the grant request is funded, all press release and advertising must state the funding portion attributable to the Dane County Environmental Council. Member Mathies noted that Alliant Energy is another probable source of donations.

### **Continue Discussion of Future Conservation Efforts within the Town of Verona**

Chair Keen stated that Dane County was pursuing the purchase of additional property in the Town of Montrose from the Bruce Company. According to Keen, there is some opposition to the purchase due to perceived or actual erosion of the local tax base.

### **Establish an Agenda for the April 1, 2015 Meeting**

The proposed agenda is as follows: Call to Order; Approval of the Agenda; Public Comments; Approval of regular meeting minutes for March 4, 2015 and special meeting minutes from March 11, 2015; Review Preliminary Certified Survey Map(s) (this item should only be added if there are maps to review); Continue Discussion of New Town Hall Site; Update on Dane County Parks Sunset Drive Parking Lot (this item should only be added if there is an update); Updates on Dane County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Activities (this items should only be added if there is an update); Continue Discussion of Future Conservation Efforts within the Town of Verona; Set May Agenda; and Adjourn.

### **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Stellick; 2nd by Hoffman. Motion carried at 8:57 PM.

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John Wright  
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved as Amended: April 1, 2014