

MARCH 18, 2013
WALWORTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

The Public Information Meeting was called to order by Chair Russell at 6:30 p.m. at the Government Center, 100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

Roll Call was conducted and the following Supervisors were present: Richard Brandl, Tim Brellenthin, Vice-Chair Jerry A. Grant, Daniel G. Kilkenny, Kenneth H. Monroe, Carl Redenius, Joe Schaefer, Tim Schiefelbein, Rick Stacey, David A. Weber, and Chair Nancy Russell. A quorum was established.

A public information meeting was held concerning the following topic:

- Acquisition by the county of approximately 195 acres of land in the Town of Lyons to be used as a county park.

Kevin Brunner, Director-Central Services, gave a brief presentation regarding the proposed White River Park. Mr. Brunner stated the proposed park is 195 acres with approximately 10,000 lineal feet of frontage on the White River. He said that the property is currently 70% agriculture use and 30% woodland conservancy in the Town of Lyons. Mr. Brunner also said that Mr. Clark, the current property owner, approached the county several years ago because he would like to see the property preserved for public purposes. He stated there are approximately 5 miles of developed trails and current improvements on the property include a single-family home (c. 1890), barn, and outbuilding. Mr. Brunner discussed the potential park uses which include walking/hiking trails, cross country skiing, hunting, fishing, trapping, canoe/kayak launch, picnicking, community garden, nature center, sledding, and other uses to be determined as part of the park planning process.

Mr. Brunner stated the property was appraised in December 2012 at \$1.91 million. He said there were two previous appraisals completed in 2010 with appraisal values ranging from \$1.635 million to \$2 million. He stated the DNR is conducting another appraisal as there are two appraisals required as part of the process of the stewardship grant. He said the county has signed an option for \$1.91 million. He also said purchase of the property is contingent upon approval by the County Board and receipt of the Stewardship Fund Grant. He stated the proposed park acquisition financing includes the Stewardship Grant which would fund 50% of the acquisition. He said the application for the stewardship grant is to be filed May 1, 2013. He stated the county's parkland fund will pay for the remainder. He said the current balance of the county parkland fund is \$277,000. He stated the difference from what is currently in the county parkland fund and the remainder to be paid by the county will be paid from a loan from the county's general fund.

Mr. Brunner discussed the potential capital improvements which include parking lots, canoe/kayak launch, picnic areas, restrooms, trail development, bridges, barn improvements for a possible nature center, and prairie/grassland restoration of the current agriculture cropland. He said it is possible that some of these capital improvements could be funded under a separate Stewardship Fund Program where 50% would be paid by the fund and the remainder would be paid by the county. He discussed the five year operating budget proforma for the potential park. He said they have forecasted five year operating revenues to be \$186,968 and five year operating expenses to be \$89,666, which leads to net operating proceeds of \$97,302. He stated the net proceeds should be used to pay for future park capital improvements.

Mr. Brunner introduced Dave Schilling of Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). Mr. Schilling discussed how this potential park fits in the Walworth County Park Plan. He said this site does fit the recommendations of the plan, which was adopted by the County Board in 2000. Mr. Schilling introduced Dan Kammerer of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Mr. Kammerer administers the Stewardship Program for the DNR in Southeastern Wisconsin. He stated the Stewardship Program is a fund available to Wisconsin citizens to be used to expand state parks and state trails. He said it also provides grants to local governments and land trusts for protecting natural resources and providing outdoor recreation opportunities. He stated the Stewardship Grant involves 50% funding for the cost of the land, 50% funding for associated costs that are involved in acquiring the land, such as surveys and recording fees, and 50% funding for development.

Public Comment was then accepted by the body.

Sharon Acuff, W4729 Briar Drive, Elkhorn, submitted a comment card in opposition of the park. Ms. Acuff did not address the board.

Charles Colman, W4461 N. Lakeshore Drive, Williams Bay, spoke in favor of the park.

Richard Getka, W9320 Lakeshore Rd, addressed the board and expressed his concern about the cost of the property.

Terri DellaMaria, W5622 Vicki Terr, Elkhorn, submitted a comment card in favor of the park. Ms. DellaMaria did not address the board.

Ralph Williams, W6714 Quinney Road, spoke in opposition of the park.

Dennis Horak, 1007 N. Church Street Apt. 103, submitted a comment card in favor of the park. Mr. Horak did not address the board.

Merilee Holst, 744 Brickley Drive, Fontana, spoke in favor of the park.

Karan Horak, 1007 N. Church Street Apt. 103, submitted a comment card in favor of the park. Ms. Horak did not address the board.

D. Thomas Kincaid, N1545 Linn Road, Lake Geneva, spoke in favor of the park.

Wayne Redenius, W8411 Turtle Lk Road, Delavan, spoke in opposition of the park.

Graham Olson, N4078 County Road H, Elkhorn, submitted a comment card in favor of the park. Mr. Olson did not address the board.

Linda Franz, 171 Willabay Drive, Williams Bay, spoke in favor of the park.

George Fischer, 171 Willabay Drive, Williams Bay, submitted a comment card in favor of the park. Mr. Fischer did not address the board.

Sherry English, 503 Campbell Street, Lake Geneva, submitted a comment card in favor of the park. Ms. English did not address the board.

Karen Helwig, W8615 Glacial Drive, Whitewater, submitted a comment card in favor of the park. Ms. Helwig did not address the board.

Shawn T. Kelly, PLA, FASLA, PO Box 430, 623 Washington Parkway, Williams Bay, spoke in favor of the park.

William H. Acuff, W4729 Briar Drive, submitted a comment card in opposition of the park. Mr. Acuff did not address the board.

Russell Helwig, W8615 Glacial Drive, Whitewater, spoke in favor of the park.

Alice Brockman, W3671 Wildwood Drive, Lake Geneva, spoke in favor of the park.

Janet Schulz, N4737 Co. Road P, Delavan, submitted a comment card in favor of the park. Ms. Schulz did not address the board.

Mark Wendorf, 623 Susie, Delavan, submitted a comment card in favor of the park. Mr. Wendorf did not address the board.

G. Galin Berrier, 3501 Westshire Circle, Delavan, spoke in favor of the park.

Carol L. Berrier, 3501 Westshire Circle, Delavan, spoke in favor of the park.

Charles H. Sharpless, W5464 West Shore Drive, Elkhorn, spoke in favor of the park.

Steve Klitzing, 215 N. Washington Street, spoke in favor of the park.

Bob Nordhaus, 1566 Orchard Lane, Lake Geneva, spoke in favor of the park.

Marcie Hollman, 1566 Orchard Lane, Lake Geneva, submitted a comment card in favor of the park. Ms. Hollman did not address the board.

Bill Jacques, N6009 Bowers Road, Elkhorn, spoke in opposition of the park.

Gary Dunham, 200 Kenosha Street, spoke in favor of the park.

Bob Nold, 1957 Gail Lynne Drive, Burlington, spoke in favor of the park.

Ronald Larson, N5849 Lyons Road, spoke in favor of the park.

Jean Larson, N5849 Lyons Road, spoke in favor of the park.

Mariette Nowak, N9053 Swift Lake Drive, East Troy, is a member of the Park Committee. She spoke in favor of the park. Ms. Nowak provided a comparison of parkland in 10 counties and she wished to have this document entered into public record. Mrs. Nowak also provided written correspondence from Paul and Margaret Jones.

Paul & Margaret Jones, N9162 Woodridge Court, East Troy, submitted a written letter in favor of the park. Mr. & Mrs. Jones did not address the board.

Jim Blomberg, N9495 East Shore Road, East Troy, submitted a comment card in favor of the park. Mr. Blomberg did not address the board.

Barbara Converse, W8339 R & W Townline Road, Whitewater, spoke in favor of the park.

Jerome Converse, W8339 R & W Townline Road, Whitewater, submitted a comment card in favor of the Park. Mr. Converse did not address the board.

Greg Pennington, 2429 South Road, Burlington, submitted a comment card in favor of the park. Mr. Pennington did not address the board.

Martha Pennington, 2429 South Road, Burlington, submitted a comment card in favor of the park. Ms. Pennington did not address the board.

Michele Batz, 2080 Ridge Drive, Lake Geneva, spoke in opposition of the park.

Sarah Schuster, N1970 S. Lakeshore Drive, Lake Geneva, spoke in favor of the park.

Pat Jenner, 6604 Buckby Road, addressed the board. He stated he is a neighbor of the property and he is uncertain about the park.

David Nowak, N9053 Swift Lake Drive, submitted a comment card in favor of the park. Mr. Nowak did not address the board.

Maggie Zoellner, N8961 Pickeral Jay Road, East Troy, spoke in favor of the park.

Mary Knipper, 2320 Lake Shore Drive, Delavan, submitted a comment card in favor of the park. Ms. Knipper did not address the board.

Joshua Skolnick, 405 Pine Grove Circle, Williams Bay, spoke in favor of the park.

Gary Milliette, 483 Wrigley, Lake Geneva, spoke in favor of the park.

The following are written comments that were received prior to the meeting and were placed on Supervisors' desks:

William Brogan, 222 Circle Parkway, Williams Bay, submitted an e-mail in favor of the park.

Janet Happ, W3511 700 Club Drive, Lake Geneva, submitted a comment card in favor of the park.

Sue Kiner & Jack Modzelewski, W3504 Wildwood Drive, Lake Geneva, submitted a comment card in favor of the park.

Virginia Coburn, 2 Coburn Ln, Whitewater, submitted a written letter and comment card in favor of the park.

Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz, 232 Lawndale, Wilmette, Illinois, submitted an e-mail in favor of the park.

David W. Berrier, M.D. submitted an e-mail in favor of the park.

Mitchell & Patricia Smith, 400 Lakewood Drive, Williams Bay, submitted a comment card in favor of the park.

Jill Acker, 327 Spring Street, Fontana, submitted an e-mail in favor of the park.

Jean & John Henderson submitted an e-mail in favor of the park.

Connie Gluth submitted an e-mail in favor of the park.

Karen Varhula, Fontana, submitted an e-mail in favor of the park.

Judy Johnson, Williams Bay, submitted an e-mail in favor of the park.

Dan & Caryl Lemanski, 2511 Rockford Colon Ln, Delavan, submitted an e-mail in favor of the park.

Jim Blomberg, N9495 East Shore Road, East Troy, submitted a comment card in favor of the park.

Tricia Gages, 198 Vernon Street, Williams Bay, submitted an e-mail in favor of the park.

Alan Kupsik, 717 S. Lake Shore Drive, Lake Geneva, submitted an e-mail in favor of the park.

James Marrari, W3931 Timber Lake Road, East Troy, submitted an e-mail in favor of the park.

Mary Knipper, 2320 Lake Shore Drive, Delavan, submitted a written letter to the Board in support of the park.

Chair Russell stated the property is taxed at the agriculture use level.

Administrator Bretl said the county is accepting written comments until April 1, 2013. He also said this topic will be on the April county board meeting agenda for potential action.

On motion by Supervisor Weber, seconded by Supervisor Brandl, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) SS
COUNTY OF WALWORTH)

I, Kimberly S. Bushey, County Clerk in and for the County aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the County Board of Supervisors for the March 18, 2013 Public Information Meeting.