

VILLAGE OF NEW AUBURN

Village Park Committee

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

The Village of New Auburn Village Park Committee met at the New Auburn Village Hall, 130 E. Elm St., New Auburn, WI 54757.

1. **Call to Order.** At 5:12 p.m. Chair Trowbridge called the meeting to order.
2. **Roll Call.** Committee Members present were Tiffany Goodremote, Trustee Gary Pitts, and Chair Dwain Trowbridge. Absent was Village President (VP) Shannon Berg. Staff in attendance were Public Works (PW) Garrett Larson, and Administrator-Clerk-Deputy Treasurer (ACDT) Bradley Hanson.
American Legion representative (AL) Dan North was the only public in attendance.
3. **Public Comments.** There were no public comments.
4. **Elect Park Committee positions.** ACDT Hanson provided Committee members with the newly adopted ordinance, and requiring them to appoint positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. After its passing the Village Clerk will have limited attendance to the Park Committees, but becomes more of an assistant to the Committee.
 - Motion by Pitts and seconded by Goodremote to nominate Trowbridge for Park Committee Chair.
Motion carried with Trowbridge voting against.
 - Motion by Trowbridge and seconded by Goodremote to nominate Pitts for Park Committee Vice Chair.
Motion carried.
 - Motion by Pitts and seconded by Goodremote to nominate VP Berg for Park Committee Secretary.
Motion carried.
5. **West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) Regional Outdoor Recreation Plan (RORP) Survey Request.** Information only, no action taken.
6. **United States Department of Agriculture Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program through Citizens Connected confirmation.** ACDT Hanson reviewed previous Park Committee direction and findings with the REDLG program, that it is not a Grant but a Loan that would have to be repaid. He continued with benefits which included, but are not limited to: capital needed to complete the project by 2027 and placed in savings to draw from, still requires volunteers and donations, could initiate self-imposed restrictions, it is a 0% interest free 10-year repayment term loan, whereas if the Village receives the funds it generates interest, use along with the work-in-kind to obtain more of the funding back from the US Forestry Outdoor Recreation Aid (ORA) grant received of approximately \$226,000, any money gained by the WIK, donations, and grant dollars returned, should be restricted for Park use only – the Village could create a perpetual Capital Improvement Fund (CIF). Detriments include, but are not limited to: over spending, repayment of \$20,000 per year for 10-years, funds possibly absorbed or allocated to other projects by future Boards.
Committee had mixed discussions and comments for and against REDLG funding, raised concerns with the match amount needed, residents' desires to improve the park, but with no effort or contribution from them, only with the demands to not see property their taxes increase. ACDT Hanson reminded them that

they are only an advisory to the Board who is the ultimate decision maker, and by sending them a motion to look at approving it, the Board of Trustees can then have that discussion in a public meeting before deciding on it. Motion by Trowbridge and seconded by Pitts to request the Board of Trustees to consider applying for the REDLG for the Village Park Improvements (VPI) Project. Motion carried with Goodremote voting against.

7. Naming of Village Park Creek fund raising opportunity. ACDT Hanson provided Committee members with information regarding the Village Park stormwater creek. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) does not have names for creeks for this size and the Village has the authority to name it – preferred by resolution, post the name of the creek, and report it to WDNR, but they may do nothing with it. Suggested creating a donation policy for the Village prior to proceeding. Motion by Trowbridge and seconded by Goodremote to create a donation policy for the Village Park donations and other purposes within the Village. Motion carried.

8. Village Park Master Planning. PW Larson provided the Park Committee a quote from B & B Electric to provide power to the AL Veteran’s Memorial (Memorial) from the current bathroom location. After a meeting with Xcel representatives and completed utility locates, the AL Memorial would have to move a few feet further south and the desired location would actual cost about \$20,000 for a new pole and transformer. This is the most economical for the Village and the AL. AL North commented that the AL originally agreed to pay for all of the electrical costs from the original quote of just under \$4,000 from B & B Electric, they are willing to donate that portion to the Village as a match for the electrical needs for the VPI. The VPI Project bathroom would require a panel upgrade in and for itself.

Park Committee looked at proposed locations of current and future park attractions, and requested PW Larson to contact counties and other entities regarding a potential used bridge acquisition. Motion by Trowbridge and seconded by Goodremote to approve the proposed Village Park Master Plan with changes that include moving the planned 10 foot wide trail to the middle of the Park and connecting to East St on the southside of the Pavillion, add the Master Plan it to the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Plan (ORP), remove the Splash Pad, Campground, and ATV/UTV ramp through a Public Hearing, and remove the Disc Golf Course from the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Motion carried.

9. 2025 – 2027 Village Park Improvement Project updates.

- a. Bench donations School PVC bench and Xcel bench with charging stations. Xcel has agreed to provide one bench and its value of \$5,000 as a match towards the VPI and staff will contact the New Auburn School District regarding the same need on school letter head for the bench and its value.
- b. Bathroom design update. Trowbridge provided an update on the plans for the new Park bathroom through Morgan and Parmley.
- c. Bathroom possible murals (four opportunities exterior and multiple interior). ACDT Hanson provided benefits to murals on structure walls including the Village Park bathroom: first prime with a white sealant to help protect the bricks and provide a good slate to work with, could complete all the walls in one year or multiple year program, draw people to the Park, and help prevent vandalism. Motion by Pitts and seconded by Trowbridge to work with the school and local artists to create murals for the bathroom walls. Motion carried.
- d. Trail development Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Variance Request. Based on previous Park recommendations to the Board, ACDT Hanson believes the Committee has already provided staff direction. Motion by Goodremote and seconded by Trowbridge to move the VPI Project 10’ trail to the middle of the Park and south along the Pavilion to connect to East St and a commercial property from the originally planned location of the western edge of the Park. Motion carried.

- e. Fundraising. All Committee members agreed that more has to be done to not only get the word out to the residents, but they will participate more in the fundraising efforts.

10. 2025 Village Park Maintenance Budgeted Items & additional needs. ACDT Hanson advised the Committee of the funds allocated to the Park for Maintenance purposes primarily at the Pavilion and some funds to assist with stormwater improvements.

- a. Pavilion. VP Berg in abstention advised Village staff to consider replacing small appliances, install a stove to make it a “warming kitchen”, insulate exterior walls where they are to be covered, new cupboards, and new tables if funding remains.
- b. Stormwater improvements. PW Larson provided an update on the needs for stormwater improvement on the east side of the Village with rip rap concerns, flow, and erosion. The Village had maintenance completed in 2022 of the stormwater creek through the Park and in 2017 with the ditch along County Highway SS.
- c. Volleyball Court. PW Larson discussed removing the fence due to the costs, and in the future to consider the removal of the sand volleyball court due to lack of use. Committee briefly discussed a possible second playground or Pickle Ball court in that location. PW Larson advised he has seen more usage out of the Softball Field and basketball court than the Volleyball Court. Committee members believe it is only used during Jamboree.
- d. Softball Field. Village staff discussed needs of the Softball Field that include new spectator benches, dugout roofs, and removal of the pebbles and replace with field gravel in the dugouts.

11. Grant opportunities with possible assistance from WCWRPC: Motion by Trowbridge and seconded by Goodremote to apply for the T-Mobile \$50,000 Hometown grant as a possible match for the VPI Project and ORA Grant. Motion carried.

- a. T-Mobile \$50,000 Hometown. ACDT Hanson advised due at the end of March and this grant requires that there are additional funds already (ORA Grant).
- b. AARP Community Challenge for 2026 application. ACDT Hanson believed delaying this application until 2026 is best since the year it is awarded you have to have construction completed the same year.

12. Future Meetings – Next Regular Park Committee Meeting is Tuesday, February 19, 2024.

13. Adjourn. At 6:56 p.m. motion by Trowbridge and seconded by Goodremote to adjourn. Motion carried.

Signed: _____



Bradley J Hanson, Village Administrator-Clerk-Deputy Treasurer