

MARCH 9, 2015 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5:15 p.m., Council Chamber, Members present: K. Brown, B. Morgan, J. Pearson. Others present: A. Christianson, J. Carow.

Environmental Challenge Projects:

Those present reviewed the attached list of projects and activities the WRA sponsored Environmental Challenge (EC) program is interested in doing in the City this summer. These include, but are not limited to, projects at Corbett Lake and at Pioneer Park. What is needed from the City is assistance with manned equipment. Mr. Carow feels the ideal situation would be if the City were able to hire back one of its retired employees as a seasonal worker, who the City would trust to use available equipment. Whether any retirees might be amenable to such arrangement is uncertain, as is how much coordination would be needed to assure that City equipment would not be tied up when needed elsewhere.

Following are some comments offered on some of the list of projects and activities:

Dam Structure

Morgan & Parmley is still working on a DNR permit application to facilitate installation of a planned pre-fabricated dam structure to replace an existing structure along the south shore of Corbett Lake. A goal is to get the structure installed so that the Lake can be drained a few feet before the amphibians hibernate next fall in order to facilitate some dredging next winter. It is uncertain what the status of the structure permit application is.

Mowing/Brushing

The primary reason for mowing cattails on Corbett Lake over recent weeks was to retard the growth of interspersed woody vegetation, which was about to take over. If dredging is to be done going forward, keeping woody vegetation down will simplify that. In the event of dredging, some drawn down water will likely be pumped into the wetland area north of Falge Park Drive where it can drain to the west.

A question was raised whether LFD might be able to burn this cattail marsh and other areas off annually to maintain them. This was done years back, but the practice was apparently discontinued after one such burn destroyed tree seedlings earning a land owner's ire.

An effigy mound may have been discovered yesterday in the course of brushing an island off the south shore of Corbett Lake. There are known burial mounds in the City of Rice Lake, [in the Perkinstown area,] and in the SW part of Rusk County, although no effigy mounds as such.

Acquisition

Mr. Carow advocated that the City proceed with acquiring the additional (Drum) property it considered along Sabin Avenue, which includes the current Corbett Lake level control structure site. He noted having that property will provide an alternate access into the area to facilitate dredging along with access to future uses of the City property to the east.

Wetland Walkway

The wetland walkway in Falge Park has been well used since it was built as an Environmental Challenge project several years ago. Someone from the City needs to learn how to level it up in case the EC crew is not available to do that in the future. And, perhaps, to carry on some of the projects presently underway.

Boat Landing

The Memorial Park boat landing is in need of modifications to make it more user friendly. It might also be a good idea to someday build a second landing near the east end of Lake Ave; maybe on adjoining paper mill property, where the water is deeper.

Crossing

The drainage ditch that runs east to west south of the new animal shelter site was originally built to keep that area dry so it could be farmed. As it is clogged up, plans will be to hand clean it as best it can be to somewhat restore its function. Mechanical cleaning would likely necessitate a dredging permit. Consideration should, perhaps, be given to installing a culvert or a simple bridge where the snowmobile trail crosses it.

Easement

If the City can secure an easement and agree to do the annual put in and take out, WRA will pay the estimated \$8,000 cost for and install a fishing pier near Turner's Pond off C.T.H. J.

Pioneer Park

Mr. Carow reported that review of historic records indicates there were once both a ferry and a ford along the river near Pioneer Park. He also noted discovery of some interesting news articles about folks who were buried in the long abandoned cemetery. Burials seem to have occurred as late as 1951, with care provided by families.

Beyond 2015

EC work that might be considered beyond 2015 includes construction of a motorcar railway. The first step with that is to obtain and install a motor and transmission in the motorcar owned and displayed by the Rusk County Historical Society. And to get it working. And then work out a user agreement with the Society. Mr. Morgan will follow up on his lead on these equipment items.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at about 6:15 p.m.