

Parks/Recreation Committee

Regular Meeting Notice and Agenda

Village of Cross Plains

Rosemary Garfoot Public Library

2017 Julius Street

Cross Plains, WI 53528

(608) 798-3241

Monday, July 18, 2016

6:00 pm

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Public Comment – This is an opportunity for anyone to address the Committee on any issue NOT on the current agenda. *Please observe the time limit of 3 minutes.* While the Committee encourages input from residents, it may not discuss or act on any issue that is not duly noticed on the agenda.
- III. Reports
 1. Committee Chairperson
 2. Committee Members
 3. Parks and Recreation Director
- IV. Committee Discussion
 1. Discussion and action to approve the minutes from the regular meetings held June 20, 2016.
 2. Update from Village Staff regarding the Cross Plains Mixed-Use Mountain Biking and Hiking Trail Proposal within the Village owned conservancy.
 3. Update from Village Staff regarding the recruitment for the position of Parks Maintenance.
- V. Adjournment

This meeting notice constitutes an official meeting of the above referenced group and was posted in accordance with all applicable laws related Open Meetings Law. It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals. For additional information or to request this service, contact the Village Hall at (608) 798-3241 or matt@cross-plains.wi.us.

VILLAGE OF CROSS PLAINS

Position Description

Department:	Parks and Recreation		
Job Title:	<i>Parks Maintenance</i>		
Reports to:	Director of Parks and Recreation	Supervises	None

Status:	At Will	Position Type:	Full-time	Hours:	40 / week	FLSA:	Non-Exempt
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This position provides maintenance, repair, construction, and janitorial work on various areas of the Village's infrastructure and within particular areas of expertise.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

The job functions listed herein are neither exclusive nor exhaustive, but are intended to be illustrative of the types of tasks the employee will most likely be expected to perform on a regular basis. The employee may be asked to perform different or additional tasks than the ones listed here, as the needs of the employer and/or the requirements of the position change.

- Performs pre- and post- season tasks required to open/close pool as well as attend to ongoing maintenance needs to assure it is clean and functions safely.
- Assists in maintaining accurate records of chemical Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).
- Prepares and maintains outdoor playing fields; trims and maintains trees; performs weed removal and control; and removes trash from Village ROW, Parks, and Open Spaces.
- Assists in the restoration and expansion of conservation trails and hillsides.
- Provides training to new and part-time employees regarding the safe operation of new and existing equipment.
- Assists in the establishment and maintenance of an ice skating rink including set up, flooding, snow removal, resurfacing, and take-down.
- Assists with regular playground maintenance including inspections, removal of graffiti, general repair, and redistributing playground surfacing.
- Assist in the maintenance of picnic tables, benches, and bleachers within Parks and open spaces.
- Assist in keeping the necessary supply of safety equipment as required by the Director.
- Investigate and resolve complaints as assigned by the Director.
- Make recommendations for improvement of working procedures and department practices.
- Provides direction to part-time and seasonal employees regarding job assignments and responsibilities.
- From time to time, may report to the Public Facilities Director to full fill the essential job functions of the Public Facilities II position as assigned.
- Perform other related duties as needed.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skills, and abilities and minimum qualifications necessary to perform the essential functions of the position. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the job.

- Ability to respond to after-hours emergency; physically on site within 30 minutes.
- Ability to understand and follow oral and written instruction.
- Ability to perform strenuous work for extended periods of time in all temperature extremes.
- Ability to perform accurate mathematical calculations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- Ability and willingness to learn new job skills and work tasks assigned including adaptation to new technologies.
- Ability to establish and maintain satisfactory working relationships with other employees, supervisors and the public.
- Ability to read, interpret and work from drawings, sketches, plans, blueprints and manuals.
- Ability to prepare required records and reports including playgrounds and pool operation.
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision and maximum efficiency.
- Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
- General knowledge of the safe practices, procedures, equipment, vehicles, and materials used in maintenance and construction work.
- Knowledge of the occupational hazards involved in parks maintenance activities and the necessary safety precautions including the ability to perform in an confined space environment.
- Skill in having attention to detail regarding the cleaning/maintenance of public buildings and facilities.
- Skill in operating tools and equipment used in maintenance and repairs.
- Skill in receiving and responding to inquiries, complaints and emergencies from the public.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Graduation from high school with additional post high school technical or specialized related education and one to three years of experience in general building maintenance, construction and/or related services.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS (or ability obtain within 6 months of employment):

- Commercial Driver's License with necessary endorsements
- Certified Pool Operator Certificate (or equivalent)
- Other special requirements assigned by Director as related to the essential job functions.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT

The physical demands and work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of the job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Work is primarily performed Monday-Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm unless otherwise specified by Director, with rotating on-call weekend coverage required. The unpredictable and essential nature of this position may require work at any time of the day or night, on any day of the week, sometimes with little advance notice.
- Work is performed both outdoors and in an office setting; hand-eye coordination is necessary to operate machinery, tools, equipment, and computers.
- While performing the duties of this job, the employee is often exposed to outdoor weather and other conditions including extreme heat, cold, wet and/or humidity, noise, vibrations, odors, toxic agents, smoke, electrical currents, heavy machinery, violence and disease.
- While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to talk, hear, use hands and fingers to handle, feel or operate objects, tools, or controls and reach with hands and arms.
- The employee is frequently required to walk, sit, climb, balance, stoop, kneel, crouch, crawl and smell.
- The employee must frequently lift and/or move objects in excess of 50 pounds.

The Job Description does not constitute an employment agreement between the employer and employee and is subject to change by the employer as the needs of the employer and requirements of the job change. The Village of Cross Plains retains and reserves any and all rights to change, modify, amend, add to or delete from any section of this position description. The Village of Cross Plains is an Equal Opportunity Employer. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Village will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities.

I, _____, acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Job Description for the position of Parks Maintenance with the Village of Cross Plains and have read and understand its contents.

Dated this ____ of _____, _____.

Employee

Supervisor

Created: May 23, 2016

Amended:

Village of Cross Plains

Park and Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2016

I. **Meeting called to order** at 6:03 pm By Committee Chair Brosius

Roll Call – Present: Kevin Thusius, Dale Buechner, Jim Billmeyer, Bill Brosius; Frank Durham

Also Present – Mike Axon (Parks/Recreation Director), Jay Lengfeld, Jennifer Zwettler, Niki Hagen, Paul Vassalotti, Jeff Miller, Debbie Miller, David Neuser, Jeff Willma, Greg Valaskey, Chris Zimmerman, Allison Halley, Emily Zeimentz, Mia Zeimentz, Brian White, Noreen Esser, Cyndi Mair, Lee Sorensen, Dana Fuhrman, Bob Schell, Gary Mott, Penny Schell, Abbie Kalina, Mike Sanders, Tara Sommers, Lisa Schell, Lynn Ward, Trent Estabrook, Renee Estabrook, Paul Yochum, Ying GA, Lana Ichikida, Dustin Reeson, and Andy Smith.

II. **Public comment**

- a. Mike Cliff mentioned that he is still in favor of a mountain bike trail in Cross Plains.

III. **Reports**

1. *Committee Chairperson* – Brosius welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming out tonight. Also stated that this meeting would be more structured than previous meetings in the past.
2. *Committee Members* – No Report
3. *Park and Recreation Director* – Mike let everyone know that the pool is now open and the slide is installed and a new water source for the slide was put in place. Also membership to the pool is up from last year. Mike also noted that Hydro Burn is offered this year and is aerobics in the pool. And Youth Dance is back this year with more participation than last year.

IV. **Committee Discussion**

- 1) **Discussion and action to approve the minutes from the regular meetings held May 16, 2016.** Kevin Thusius noted that in section 4 the last sentence should have read: The committee also wanted The **attorney** to look **at the language of the** easements (restrictions) and current ordinances in the village. Kevin T. motion for approval Dale B. 2nd – Approved with changes.
- 2) **Presentation by Village Staff regarding the concept of a Dog Park within the existing Village Park System.** Mike Axon discussed the results of the Survey Monkey and recommendations by staff. (This was all included in the packet.)

3) Public Input regarding the concept of a Dog Park within the existing Village Park System – This is an opportunity for anyone to address the Committee solely on this issue. Please observe the time limit of 3 minutes per commenter. Signup sheets are available at the door for those who wish to speak and should be turned into the Clerk prior to the agenda item.

- a. Joe Zeimets, 4010 St. Francis Street, Thanked the committee for having the process in place that allows for this dialogue. The most important aspect of this process is taking what is said tonight to in regards to feedback and is what you go forward with to this point. Joe has been at four meetings objecting this location and still objects to this location and other residential areas.
- b. Gary Mott, 7010 Laufenberg Blvd, The dog park would be right in my backyard which would bring down the value of my house if I wanted to sell. I don't want to see the dog park back there. We do see dogs back there now that people walk back and forth, fine, but most of the time they take them off the leash and have them run around. What about the location right behind the Kwik Trip? There is the creek and railroad but would be a great place for the dog park. The village should look into buying the property and putting a fence up.
- c. Jay Lengfeld, 3092 Creekside Way, I'm one of the few in favor of the dog park at Raspberry Park. It's important for the village to have a diverse park system. Not everyone in the village can afford a nice house on a nice lot. We've approved 120 units over the past 2 years. These people should have an area to run their dogs. There is a need for a dog park. Raspberry Park is divided into two parks, west side for soccer and basketball, not a good place for dog park. The east side of the park is a great place as there is only one lot that abuts to the park. The north side has a buffer zone (creek), buffer zone (water retention) which makes this a pretty rural lot in regards to the village. Most dog parks don't have parking for residential parks, except for Baer and Municipal. I don't think this has to be a yes/no, but thinks there could be a compromise and push the park back 40 yards.
- d. Mike Wollmer, 7029 Laufenberg Blvd, Opposes all dog parks but especially this one. Signed the petition but wants to disassociate self from the flyer that was taken around town. Thank the staff and committee for allowing for this process and what they've done.
- e. Paul Vassalotti, 4002 St. Francis Street, Biggest concern is safety. Attacked by a pitbull over the winter within the village which feels this could happen in St. Francis school and is absolutely against this dog park.
- f. Debbie Miller, 7018 Laufenberg Blvd, Many concerns to this: survey didn't know anything about. Never received a letter in the mail or email. 10% response rate isn't good enough. Read a number of studies with creating a dog park and it states to not put this in a currently developed park or established neighborhood. Cars are parked on the street which is another huge safety concern. Noise and property evaluation is a concern.
- g. Jeffrey Miller, 7018 Laufenberg Blvd, I chose not to have a dog. I know when neighbors dogs see other dogs around they get excited, suggesting this isn't an appropriate place. This should be in a remote area.
- h. Jeff Wissink, 7014 Laufenberg Blvd, We are dog owners and dog lovers but is this a "want" vs. a "need"? If you're going to put a circle of fence in Raspberry Park, as a tax payer, I'm against this. This is too small for this amenity. You get what you pay for and if you don't plan it right, someone's going to get hurt. What kind of research has been

done? Lets do this and do it right; give people a chance to help. We hope you take this feedback in as positive manner as possible. We just want to be heard and if we're going to do a dog park, lets do it right.

- i. Greg Valaskey, 7016 Laufenberg Blvd, Very much against it. Safety is the most important factor for me. There are no sidewalks to get to the park currently. If anyone is parked on the road, there are a number of blind spots. The traffic that the park could bring in is a major factor of safety. Indian lake is not far. Airport road is not far; anyone can take their dog there.
- j. Chris Zimmerman, 4014 St. Francis Street, came to the last 4 meetings and been able to walk around and talk with neighbors which has been a lot of fun. Thank Mike for putting together the survey and allowing feedback. Been to a number of dog parks over the years. A number of owners don't know how to take care of their dog. His dog was attacked, over \$3,000 in damage to his pet. Money can be spent better than a dog park.
- k. Brian White, 3092 St. Francis Street, Thank everyone for allowing us to speak. Appreciate the dialogue and concerns for safety.
- l. Lee Sorensen, 1269 Gils Way, stand in my front yard and see a number of houses with dogs which points out that there's a need of something of this nature. There are dogs all over the community. If the village is going to do this dog park, it has to be in the village. I understand that Raspberry Park might not work for everyone but the city of Madison has a number of dog parks within the city. Hoping for a dog park within the village. Neighbors were up in arms over Milestone property due to lowering their home value, but that hasn't happened.
- m. Dana Fuhrman, 7033 Laufenberg Blvd, raised family within this community; served on PRC Committee and held Recreation Director title. The park included t-ball and soccer games, kite flying, and children riding bikes. Our parks come at a premium for our community for organized activities. Over 20 years ago our schools and programs were at capacity. Come full circle today, I'm sure there's still a need. What about the current programs? If the committee feels this is a need, why not put this in a new development? It allows people to plan accordingly, including allowing people to know before they purchase their lot. Safety is another major concern. The dog park should not be put into a residential area.
- n. Bob Schell, 4008 St. Francis Street, will be building a home next to the proposed dog park. The lot is perfect for my family dog park or not. Please hear us and reconsider that this will not be a dog park.
- o. Mike Sanders, 7002 Laufenberg Blvd, invested in our community. The silver lining is that we all got to know our neighbors. Now everyone know your facebook page. There's a place for a dog park and a place it shouldn't be. The parking lot is 3 feet from the playground. We shouldn't wedge it in there. What about vaccinations and licenses? Everyone is against this idea of having it this neighborhood; we're asking you to consider that.
- p. Penny Schell/Abbie , 4008 St. Francis Street, we don't want a dog park due to smell and noise. The dog(s) could bite the family; kids are more important to dogs.
- q. Lisa Schell, 4008 St. Francis Street, directly across from the proposed dog park. Received information from Matt and Mike in regards to the dog park. We have a number of kids to corral, thought it was important to go door to door to talk about the dog park. A number of them didn't know about the park. Main concern is safety; dogs coming into my property; kids biking down our driveway and a dog running at him/her.

- r. Tara Sommers, 4012 St. Francis Street, against the project due to safety and being a nurse. The location would be against DNR Regulations due to creek; the amount of parasites and disease that can be spread dog to dog, dog to human the study is overwhelming. The parasites can live in the soil for months, including the winter months. We shouldn't be putting this in a residential area. Who's going to monitor the vaccinations and license? Who's going to take care of this when a dog bites? Number of blind spots with the current parking system in place.
- s. Dustin Reeson, 3029 Allies Lane, against the proposed park but not against the dog park in general, just need a well planned park. I did some research self, on a precedence that the Village has already set with Creekside kennels, a business that is closed now, a source I spoken with. Why didn't they have outside areas? The village said they couldn't due to the noise. This is in a commercial setting, how can we then say it's ok in residential? Haven't looked into village minutes on this but wanted everyone to know that a precedence was set.

There were 17 village community members that each had an opportunity to say what they wanted about having a dog park in the village and the location at Raspberry Park. Two of the 17 were in favor of a dog park and 15 were opposed to a dog park. Some of the concerns were but not limited to dogs off leash not in a fenced area, safety, noise, bacteria that could kill children and other dogs, property devaluation, traffic and not a good path for kids to get to park and parking, not enough room to exercise dogs and people. Also reason to have a dog park is there are many residence that live in apartments that need a place to run their dog, there are several dog parks in the city of Madison that are in residential areas doing just fine. Dogs parks are the fastest growing parks in the nation and the Wi Dept of Tourism advertises that we are dog park friendly. There was also a comment that the village could see if the farmer on Hwy P south of the village in the Town of Cross Plains would sell his property for the use of a dog park. There was another comment that maybe there could be a compromise.

- 4) Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding the concept of a Dog Park within the existing Village Park System.** Motion was made by Kevin Thusius to recommend to the Village Board: *To remove Raspberry Park and all other current village parks from consideration of locations for dog parks.* The motion was 2nd by Jim Billmeyer. After committee discussion, the vote was 5 – 0 in favor of making this recommendation to the Village Board.

V. Adjourned at 7:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted by:
Bill Brosius
Committee Chairman
June 20, 2016



Director Report

Michael Axon
June - 2016

Community

The Village of Cross Plains hosted a celebration on Friday, June 10th from 3:00 pm-7:00 pm on becoming an Ice Age Trail Community. The celebration included: free food, drinks, hiking, and music. Roughly 50 people attended the celebration with speakers Diane Hesselbein -(State Representative), Nikki Jones (County Board of Supervisors), and Representatives from Senator Ron Johnson and Senator Tammy Baldwin's offices. The celebration kicks off the collaboration with the Ice Age trail to enhance Village sponsored events within our community. (A special thank you to Doc Esser and Richard Cashwell for their grilling of the brats on such a warm day.)

CROSS PLAINS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

- 1 Parks
- 2 Parks Cont.
- 3 Recreation
- 4 Aquatics
- 5 Community Outreach

Ice Age Trail Community Celebration

"We create community through people, parks, and programs"



Parks

Mowing of Village conservancies

The conservancy trail on Hickory Hill (both Village and Ice Age) along with the trail on Glacial Valley, and storm-water retention prairie on Gil's way were mowed and maintained in the month of June. Staff found wild parsnip, thistle, and burdock, to name a few, to be a major problem in a number of village owned sites. Mowing and treating this over the next few months will be a major undertaking but necessary to decrease the spread of these noxious weeds.

Integrated Restoration, Inc. ~ Craig Annen

Craig Annen and his crew at Integrated Restorations, Inc. worked on the trail from Hillside Trail to Brewery Road, connecting Dorothy Statz Park to the neighboring subdivision. Pictures of before have been provided and updates will be given each month of the project. Staff hopes to mow the area now that the crown vetch, burdock, and wild parsnip have been sprayed. Craig and his crew have done a wonderful job on Hickory Hill over the years and we're excited to see the final product of Dorothy Statz Conservancy Area within the next couple of years.



Biking in Conservancy Trails

Over the past month, the Parks and Recreation Department have received emails and phone calls from local residents in regards to allowing bicycles in our local conservation areas. The emails are attached at the end of this report for further discussion purposes.

Other Tasks:

- **Organized Baer Park for School District's end of year parties.**
- **Baer Park ready for World's Fair Event**
- **Weeding of park playground, volleyball courts, and baseball diamonds at Park School and Legion Park.**

Summer Seasonal Hiring

The hiring process for seasonal positions has concluded and our Recreation staff is diving into training and preparation for the busy summer schedule. We currently have 8 seasonal-limited-term employees who mainly work as camp/program coordinators.

Summer Program Enrollment

Enrollment is rapidly increasing with the ending of the school season. All of our youth camps and programs are projecting record numbers once again this year. Overall enrollment and revenue through the month of June is on pace with the 2015 season which had an increase of 28% from the previous year.

June Programs

- Toddler Time (14)
- Youth Baseball/Softball (222)
- Sports of all Sorts Camp (19)
- Youth Tennis (22)
- Swimming Lessons (206) -9
- Bricks for Kids ~ new)
- Intro to Lacrosse~new (10)
- Archery (15)
- Interval 45 (10)
- Masters Swim Course (16)
- Hydro Burn (11)
- Men's/Women's Softball
- Junior Lifeguard (14)
- Youth Dance (245)
- Fitness Pass (144)

Movie in the Park

The first "movie in the park" was held on Friday, June 24th at Baer Park. The department will continue this "Free" program in July with a new movie and park chosen each month. Keep you ears and eyes open to hear about the next movie for you and the family.



Other Tasks:

- Orientation for new staff for the 2016 summer. Review of Department policies, programs, sportsman tutorial, special projects, facility tour, and goals.
- Parents Night Out program
- Pictures for youth baseball/softball
- Flyers/Itinerary and travel for Madison Zoo

Aquatics

Pool Pump, Motor, Impeller

A new pool pump, motor, and impeller have been ordered for the Cross Plains Pool. There has been a number of issues with the current system this season; as of late, we've received a number of issues due to vibration in the system as a whole. Once received, the new system will be installed and we'll look to rebuild the old system to use for an emergency back-up if ever needed.



Other Tasks:

- *Work with Cross Plains Stingrays for kickoff picnic and staff for home meets.*
- *One pool closures due to fecal matter in the pool for the month of June. (Down from 3 in 2015)*
- *Session 1 and 2 of swimming lessons completed. (Session 1: 95 Participants; Session 2: 111 Participants)*
- *New reel ordered for line lanes*
- *New rescue tubes ordered for Cross Plains lifeguards*

Community Outreach

Cross Plains Parkway Farmers Market

The farmers market has seen a good amount of vendors and buyers during the 2016 season. Jennifer Wankerl and Kristen Bednar have done a wonderful job developing the market. We currently have 13 full-time and 3 part-time vendors for the season. Each week entertainment is planned with a local band or musician.



Life Community Gardens

The community gardens have been a wonderful addition to our community. Pictured below you'll see the talents of our local residents within the growing produce and decorating their gardens. With no issues being brought to the Parks and Recreation Department, we see this program expanding and extra plots being added in the future.



From: [Charles R. Case](#)
To: [Mike Axon](#)
Cc: [Beth Ann Hamilton](#)
Subject: Mixed-Use Mountain Biking and Hiking Trail
Date: Saturday, June 25, 2016 4:08:00 PM

Mike, here are my initial comments on a mixed-use mountain biking and hiking trail for the southern-most village conservation hills. Comments were asked for in the last Village Newsletter. I'm a resident of the Cedar Glen subdivision adjacent to one of these conservation areas.

(1) When these conservation areas were dedicated to the public the vision was that, yes, they would contain a hiking trail. In fact, it was thought that these hiking trails would allow a local loop connection to the National Ice Age Trail. Therefore any use of these conservation areas should be consistent with the needs of the Ice Age Trail foundation as well as the needs of the Village of Cross Plains. Ice Age Trail input as to appropriate uses and trail construction techniques are important to me. I do not know whether or not they view Mountain Biking and Hiking uses as compatible. But if there is a conflict the intent for these conservation areas was hiking.

(2) As a property owner I know that I and many of my neighbors enjoy these conservation areas for their peace and quiet, for their bird and wildflower habitat, and for hiking. How will a Mountain Biking Use ensure quiet use by the participants? What hours of use will ensure that Mountain Biking is not occurring at night? What restrictions will ensure that unpermitted group parties and camping do not occur in these conservation areas? Finally, how and how often, will the trail be policed to ensure compliance with trail use restrictions?

(3) These conservation areas all have deed restrictions and village ordinance restrictions that greatly limit any disturbance to the steep hillsides and hilltop edges. Has a map been proposed to show where the trail will be built to avoid these terrain features? How will Mountain Biking off the constructed trail be prohibited? Is it physically possible to connect the Glacial Valley and Cedar Glen conservancy areas with a Mountain Biking trail through the very narrow and steep public land connection between these two hills? Please post any proposed trail for public review and comment.

Thanks for asking. Randy Case 1725 Ludden Drive Cross Plains

From: [Charles R. Case](#)
To: [Mike Axon](#)
Cc: [Beth Ann Hamilton](#)
Subject: Mixed-Use Mountain Biking and Hiking Trail
Date: Friday, July 08, 2016 1:20:05 PM

Mike, I have today reviewed the Mixed-Use Mountain Biking and Hiking Trail draft proposal on the Village of Cross Plains website and want to amend my earlier comments sent to you on June 25. Please see below and forward to the Village Parks Committee.

From: "Charles R. Case" <randycase@tds.net>
Subject: **Mixed-Use Mountain Biking and Hiking Trail**
Date: June 25, 2016 at 4:07:54 PM CDT
To: maxon@cross-plains.wi.us
Cc: Beth Ann Hamilton <bethannhamilton@mac.com>

Mike, here are my initial comments on a mixed-use mountain biking and hiking trail for the southern-most village conservation hills. Comments were asked for in the last Village Newsletter. I'm a resident of the Cedar Glen subdivision adjacent to one of these conservation areas.

(1) When these conservation areas were dedicated to the public the vision was that, yes, they would contain a hiking trail. In fact, it was thought that these hiking trails would allow a local loop connection to the National Ice Age Trail. Therefore any use of these conservation areas should be consistent with the needs of the Ice Age Trail foundation as well as the needs of the Village of Cross Plains. Ice Age Trail input as to appropriate uses and trail construction techniques are important to me. I do not know whether or not they view Mountain Biking and Hiking uses as compatible. But if there is a conflict the intent for these conservation areas was hiking.

AMEND: Coordination with the Ice Age Trail foundation is very important to allow both a positive hiking and biking experience on these public properties.

(2) As a property owner I know that I and many of my neighbors enjoy these conservation areas for their peace and quiet, for their bird and wildflower habitat, and for hiking. How will a Mountain Biking Use ensure quiet use by the participants? What hours of use will ensure that Mountain Biking is not occurring at night? What restrictions will ensure that unpermitted group parties and camping do not occur in these conservation areas? Finally, how and how often, will the trail be policed to ensure compliance with trail use restrictions?

AMEND: What provision will be made for the pickup of litter from these trails? How will biking on the trails be prohibited during wet periods that could damage the trails?

AMEND: How will the number of biking users on these trails be controlled so that local trails do not become overused destination trails that preclude the more passive recreational activities noted above.

(3) These conservation areas all have deed restrictions and village ordinance restrictions that greatly limit any disturbance to the steep hillsides and hilltop edges. Has a map been proposed to show where the trail will be built to avoid these terrain features? How will Mountain

Biking off the constructed trail be prohibited? Is it physically possible to connect the Glacial Valley and Cedar Glen conservancy areas with a Mountain Biking trail through the very narrow and steep public land connection between these two hills? Please post any proposed trail for public review and comment.

AMEND: The proposed Phase 3 Cedar Glen Park access is extraordinarily steep and entirely within the Hillside Protection Area of this Deed Restricted subdivision. Any grading would require approval by the Cedar Glen Design Review Committee, the Village Plan Committee and the Village Board, and probably preceded by an engineered construction and stormwater drainage plan. I would anticipate significant public resistance to new hilltop access points not already provided for in the plats of these three subdivisions. The green starred access points were designated after significant public debate during the subdivision processes.

AMEND: I recommend that Phase 1 of the proposed Mountain Biking and Hiking Trail be implemented first with a trial period to see that the construction and management of the trail is successful. Phase 2 of the trail should be implemented only after successful implementation of Phase 1. It is not clear to me that Phase 3 would ultimately be approved and the earlier phases should probably plan accordingly.

Following Phase 1, and prior to implementation of Phase 2, I would also want to know what other public properties in the northern parts of the village had been considered for a Mountain Biking and Hiking trail since the majority of village residents live north of Highway 14 and would presumably benefit from a closer proximity to these trails.

Thanks for asking. Randy Case 1725 Ludden Drive Cross Plains

From: [Kevin and Krista](#)
To: [Mike Axon](#)
Subject: Re: Village of Cross Plains Parks/Recreation Committee meeting - July 18 @ 6:00 pm
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 6:24:28 PM

Mike,
As I said in a previous email

I want to be clear too that I don't want bikes in conservancies at all. I don't think they meet the intent of conservancies and would cause significant erosion as planned.

Furthermore I think the committee should spend some time figuring out what is and what is not permitted in the conservancies.

I have asked you to check with the village attorney and provide the committee with written response from him about any existing restrictions or even ants regarding the conservancies.

Lastly I don't think a we have done enough to make the neighbors known of a potential bike path behind their homes.

I know the bike group is pushing this but I think the village is best served to buy time and do it right,
Kevin

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 11, 2016, at 5:40 PM, Mike Axon <maxon@cross-plains.wi.us> wrote:

Kevin,

I'd like to give an update to the committee in regards to the emails that I've received from the newsletter article that was written. I'd also like the committee to give me some direction on where this should go next?

I'd recommend sending me an email with your resident/committee feelings on bikes being in conservancies. I'd also recommend the same from Mike as I know he too has some concerns.

Thank you.

Michael Axon
Parks and Recreation Director
Village of Cross Plains
(608)-798-3241x107 or maxon@cross-plains.wi.us

<image001.png>

From: Kevin and Krista [<mailto:kandkthus@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2016 5:24 PM
To: Mike Axon; bbrosius@charter.net
Cc: mikewollmer@iceagetrail.org
Subject: Fwd: Village of Cross Plains Parks/Recreation Committee meeting - July 18 @ 6:00 pm

Mike A and Bill,
What is the plan for discussion at the parks meeting re bike trails?
Please cc Mike W on your response.
Thanks,
Kevin

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Renee Bratton <renee@cross-plains.wi.us>
Date: July 11, 2016 at 2:46:36 PM CDT
To: Renee Bratton <renee@cross-plains.wi.us>
Subject: Village of Cross Plains Parks/Recreation Committee meeting - July 18 @ 6:00 pm

Good afternoon,

[Please click on this link to view](#) the draft agenda for the Parks/Recreation Committee meeting on July 18, 2016 at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Rosemary Garfoot Public Library in the Community Room.

This meeting agenda is subject to change until it is officially posted. A final notice will be distributed on Monday at the latest with a link to the packet as an update regarding any changes that may or may not have occurred.

All questions regarding the drafting of this agenda and the format for the meeting should be directed to Matt Schuenke at (608) 798-3241 x 105 or matt@cross-plains.wi.us.

Thanks,
Matt

Matthew G. Schuenke
Village Administrator/Clerk
Village of Cross Plains

2417 Brewery Road (PO Box 97), Cross Plains, WI 53528

From: [jim.krueger](#)
To: [Mike Axon](#)
Subject: mixed use Mountain Biking and Hiking
Date: Friday, June 24, 2016 8:49:35 AM

I have a few concerns with this proposal.

The first being insurance liability which is not mention in the proposal. I am referring to injury to bikers, walkers, volunteers, or damage to property.

The second being to the references they quote in the appendix B. They reference studies done in the 1990's time frame and also Australia. I am surprise there are no recent studies done and none in Wisconsin. The mountain bikes are a lot different today than they were in the 1990's.

Sincerely Jim Krueger

From: [Joe King](#)
To: [Mike Axon](#)
Subject: Mixed-Use Mountain Biking and Hiking Proposal
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 7:26:04 AM

Dear Mike Axon,

I read the material posted on the Cross Plains website under the special projects section entitled "Mixed-Use Mountain Bike and Hiking Proposal." I wish to voice my full support for this project. I am a mountain bike enthusiast and I regularly drive to Cambridge to mountain bike on nearby trails. Before biking I often have coffee at a coffee shop downtown and following the ride have lunch in Cambridge. I sometimes buy gas for the car.

Cross Plains has a lovely main street which I almost never have occasion to visit. Sometimes I'll stop at the convenience store during a bike ride. The advent of these trails provides an opportunity to attract folks such as myself to the downtown area of Cross Plains. I have visited the lovely coffee shop on main street on a couple of occasions and the way the proposal connects this shop to the trails is brilliant. Evidence suggests this will be good for downtown business -- it is extremely rare not to see others enjoying a latte in downtown Cambridge whenever I'm there. Since myself and others like me are nearing retirement this more intimate familiarity with what Cross Plains has to offer may result in much greater dividends for the community.

I've been a member of CORP for several years and continue to be impressed with how professional and responsible this group is. With IMBA backing this is perhaps the most reliable and trustworthy partner you could hope for in a project such as this. They have a proven track record of producing trails which respect the land and the users of the trails. While I'm sure some residents will recoil at the idea of mountain biking not far from their backyards, I would be willing to wager that if the project goes as planned that these same residents will come to enjoy and appreciate the quality management of trails they can walk or ride. I often encounter hikers at Quarry Ridge and Quarry Park, for example, and without exception we share a smile and a few kind words. CORP has encouraged a strong ethic of respect among its members. So much so that when the city of Madison proposed separate trails at Quarry Park instead of the shared-use trails which exist today, both the walkers and bikers objected.

I sincerely hope that Cross Plains and the good residents of Cross Plains see this project though. I do believe that good things will flow from this project to hikers, bikers, businesses and the residents of Cross Plains.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joseph King
4329 Bagley Pkwy
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

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Joseph J. King, PhD
Bioinformatics Scientist and Instructor
joe.king.phd@gmail.com

From: [John Orlikowski](#)
To: [Mike Axon](#)
Subject: Mixed Use Mountain Biking and Hiking
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 12:13:03 PM

Hello,

I am writing to let you know that I support the creation of mixed use trails for mountain biking and hiking. I would be willing to help build and maintain these trail as well. I am both a hiker and mountain biker.

Although I currently live in Middleton, my wife and I are considering moving to Cross Plains in the next 2-3 years. I think adding these trails would be beneficial for Cross Plains and other surrounding communities. Furthermore, adding these trails will help draw more traffic to the Ice Age Trail and Visitor Center. My wife and I both hike the Ice Age Trail frequently (my wife is a "wannabe 1000 miler") and we believe these trails will only add to the exposure of this trail.

Thank you for your consideration.
John Orlikowski

From: [Marty Ensenberger](#)
To: [Mike Axon](#)
Subject: Bike trails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2016 8:29:41 AM

Mike,

Just wanted to pass along my support for the construction of mixed use trails that would allow mountain biking. What a great way to expand upon the village recreational offerings. If done right, should be good for local businesses too!

Marty

From: [Michael Cliff](#)
To: [Mike Axon](#)
Subject: Newsletter Questionnaire - Mountain Biking
Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 10:14:47 AM

Hi Mike,

It looks like the newsletter showed up yesterday. Mark my wife Anna, my daughter Genevieve, and me down as a YES for mountain biking trails! As I've mentioned, a community trail system would be great for kids and adults. On garage sale weekend I counted about 20 kids riding around on brand new mountain bikes. It would be great to give them a designated place to really put these bike to use. I also think about my daughter's future and the reality of electronics taking over kids' lives. I want to provide her with as many active alternatives to keep her from becoming an i-pad cell phone zombie. Lastly, I've seen the success of mixed-use mountain biking and hiking trails in Colorado and how they can benefit communities. The front range of the Rocky Mountains from Pueblo to Denver to Fort Collins is packed with mixed-use trails which provide active options for local residents and also promote tourism in these locations. I think we have the potential for a similar situation in Cross Plains and I would love to help get us there!

Feel free to pass along my contact information to anyone who would like to be involved in the organizing efforts too.

I've put the word out to our group that a decision will likely be made at the July 18th meeting and not at the June 20th meeting. I'll plan on being at the June 20th meeting and can grab a couple other guys if we want to have any kind of informal discussion before the meeting.

Feel free to contact me if you need anything. Thanks for your help!

Mike Cliff
1997 Lewis St.
macliff@uwalumni.com

From: [Mike Wollmer](#)
To: [Mike Axon](#)
Cc: [Kevin Thusius](#); [Tim Malzhan](#); [Bob Funk \(rwfunk@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: Trail development in Cross Plains
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2016 11:32:15 AM
Importance: High

Mike,

I noticed on the July 18 agenda for the Parks and Recreation Committee a discussion of a mixed-use mountain bike and hiking proposal on Village Conservancy land. This is the first time I've seen a reference to such a proposal. With two of my senior staff persons on vacation, I'm unable to address this issue in the detail I'd prefer. It's my guess that the Alliance has had no role in developing this proposal and as such, the interests of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and hikers are not represented. It appears to be solely a mountain bike trail proposal

The 12-18 month trail layout and design process on the south Conservancy lands has only just begun in the last month or so. The issues of seasonal conditions, vegetation, ground disturbance, cultural & historic compliance, rare & endangered species surveys and more lie before us. Regardless of the land owner or manager we and our Triad partners, the Wisconsin DNR and National Park Service, work only to the highest standard, legally and with environmental conscience.

A serious concern is the high recreational conflict (I'm not talking fist-fights) that exists between pedestrians and mountain bikers. SCORP data should be reviewed. The issue of user-group conflict is exponentially greater in small, narrow land parcels like the South Conservancy. Multiple crossings are another trigger point.

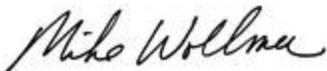
With the dog park debacle at Raspberry Park in our rearview mirror, I suggest that we utilize the lessons learned and not neglect public opinion. I recommend reaching out to the entire community, but especially those residences south of Bourbon Rd and "between" the bluffs. Despite claims to the contrary, mountain bikes are noisy and will have an impact on the residential experience over there.

The Village recently celebrated its new designation as an Ice Age Trail Community...one of the first in Wisconsin. That designation inspires a commitment to recreation, businesses, enhanced residence value and a commitment to being "hiker friendly". As you know, the MOU with the Alliance is more than just paper. With the national headquarters of the Ice Age Trail Alliance here in Cross Plains (including a passionate, dedicated chapter of volunteers), you'll always have a strong partner.

In closing, I offer our professional staff as a resource as the South Conservancy is developed. We all are well aware of how well the other Conservancy lands that host the Ice Age Trail in Cross Plains have evolved for the Trail, the land and the experience...all the result of an intentionally slow, deliberate and professional process.

I urge the committee to consider the impact of an aggressively proposed mountain bike trail on the South Conservancy very carefully.

Sincerely,



Mike Wollmer
Executive Director & CEO

p.s. I've copied my colleagues, Tim Malzhan, Director of Trail Operations, Kevin Thusius, Director of Land Conservation and Bob Funk, President of our Board of Directors. Each is highly qualified in areas of expertise that impact trail development.



2110 Main Street, Box 128, Cross Plains, WI 53528
608-798-4453 x 22 (p) • 800-227-0046 (p) • 608-798-4460 (f) • 608-212-5465 (c)

Working since 1958 to create, support and protect the Ice Age National Scenic Trail
Please join or renew today at www.iceagetrail.org

From: [Panos Kourliouros](#)
To: [Mike Axon](#)
Subject: Mixed Use Trails
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:02:27 AM

Mike,

I am writing to indicate my support for the proposed mixed-use trails in the Village-owned conservation areas. I am a potential user and will volunteer some of my time to assist with the construction of those trails. Please note, though, that I am a resident of Middleton, not Cross Plains, and understand that my "vote" should not provide nearly as much weight as those of Cross Plains residents. I merely hope to show interest from the users of surrounding communities.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Thanks and have a nice day,
Panos

From: [Knutowski](#)
To: [Mike Axon](#)
Subject: conservancy
Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 9:55:45 AM

Hi Mike

I just wanted to respond to the newsletter that I am in favor of mountain bike trails in conservancies. CORP is a well trusted club that has built and maintained trails for mountain biking for over 20 years in Dane county. We would be a wonderful partner with the village to build and maintain trails for multiple uses including mountain biking. Thank you for your support of the potential project.

Ron Knutowski
5018 Laufenberg Blvd

From: [Wasabi Wei](#)
To: [Mike Axon](#)
Subject: Cross Plains Mountain Bike Trail Proposal - Support
Date: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 12:24:06 AM

Hello,

Although I live in Madison rather than Cross Plains I am writing to express my strong support for a trail system in Cross Plains. My household of three would most definitely frequent the proposed Cross Plains trail system and eat or shop in between rides. Additionally I will volunteer through CORP (I am a member) to help build and maintain the trail system.

Thank you for considering this proposal.

- Nathan Lenox

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"Men do not quit playing because they grow old; They grow old because they quit playing." - Oliver Wendell Holmes