

Heritage & Outdoor Recreation Commission

June 26, 2019 - 6:30 pm
Lemont Village Hall
418 Main St. Lemont, IL 60439

Minutes

1. Call to Order 6:39
 - a. Verify Quorum
 - i. Dan Ganzer, Jeff Rath, Dennis Voltarel, Ryan Shaughnessy, Sarah Alvestad, Greg Vavra
 - ii. Dave Maher, Jason Berry, Jeanette Virgilio, Jim - Public Works
 - b. Approval of minutes - May 23 meeting
 - i. Motion by Sarah, 2nd by Dennis
 - ii. Motion to approve the minutes
2. Chairman comments
 - a. n/a
3. Action Items (General discussion)
 - a. Conservation group
 - i. On track with grant
 - ii. Requested coming to July HCOR meeting
 - b. Canal planning
 - i. Bubblers installed - 4 - issue with them - need screens on the bottom due to getting plugged up with silt. 2 keep tripping breakers. Possibly due to heavy recent rain.
 - ii. Electric along the canal needed some minor enhancements, put timers with boxes and rewiring was done.
 - iii. Discussion on adding a couple of additional bubblers - near Pollyanna's - Jason Berry to review
 - iv. What's the next priority?
 1. Conservation group to clear sides along the canal
 2. Remove trees from canal as well as garbage
 3. Jeanette brought up that Metropolitan pump/MWRD in the past had cleared trees in the past. Bobcat and guys on rowboat pull them out.
 - a. Look into a service to clean it out - Jeanette will send information to Jason to see if we qualify for their clean up program
 4. Sarah - roadway after Gorski bus co, heading west. Is that an area? Yes, we sectioned off the canal area as 4th of 4 on priority.
 5. Dave - south side of the canals, a lot of weeds are growing on the trail. Who is responsible for maintaining the trail? Jim said they could have a machine come down, spraying that close to the waterway is not advised. Jim will look into it.

c. Canoe launch

i. Sarah update?

1. Sarah created a diagram on poster board
2. Sarah met with the forest preserve manager, who runs Isle A La Cache who is disposing of the floating launch.
3. If take Centennial trail east there is parking and it is out of the way, but would mean you would have to open up the carp fencing and is slightly steep.
 - a. Southeast side below the Lemont bridge is not as steep
 - b. Southwest side would be the easiest fix for a permanent launch.
 - i. Would need to clear brush
 - ii. Clear area - 15 feet wide from trail to the river
 - iii. Place gravel
 - c. Northwest side is a flood plain
 - d. North east is like a beach and ideal, but the parking is not accessible due to parking and accessibility
4. Would need to fill out cook county forest preserve, but DNR would need to be looped in

There is no official parking on the Southwest side

Maybe once the foot bridge is done, it would be easier to proceed?

We should start the conversation with DNR to see if they will push back Jason Berry looked into it and they list it as a water trail. It might be worth looking into what Open Lands envisions, and what plans they may have.

Jason will make an introduction to Laura with the Open Lands

Jason said it is kind of unknown. Advocacy would be great to possibly organize an event. People rented kayaks and then it would build

The prettiest part is farther east, but west of 355 makes you feel like you are in the middle of Wisconsin.

A river clean-up day would be great to do.

Jennifer on the conservation, who is a friend of the Des Plaines and would be worth talking to.

Canoe companies may be interested in helping coordinate.

Screenshots were taken of the poster board and placed on the drive with minutes

d. Com Ed Grant Open Lands grant update on lookout sign and beehive

- i. Grant was not granted for 2019
- ii. Mark to brainstorm with Forge for a similar idea and 2020 grant incorporation

e. Forge

- i. Planning and Zoning meeting update

1. Jeannette - approved thorough P&Z mtg, Main Street parcels need to be re-zoned B4. Several conditions, construction permitting and procurement of subcontracting, steel has been ordered
2. Plans to break ground on a 10 acre area by Oct 1st
3. Footings need to be in the ground
4. Opening is targeted for Memorial Day
5. The south side of the trail may need to be closed in September
6. Gazebo to LTAP, the parking lot would be closed.
7. The north side will be left open. The Forge will be improving the road next year
8. A bid process is underway to get some of the ancillary projects approved
9. A bus would be available or the Quarry Queen to bus park participants to the park on busy weekends

f. Camping Outing

- i. Jason Berry to provide an update
 1. Jason's friend who worked for active transportation worked for Good Speed Cycles, overnight bike camping trips out of Homewood. Will county forest preserve district.
 2. July 12-14 planned for a Lemont Loop biking campout
 - a. www.offleashovernighters.com/lemont-loop
 - b. Also Heritage fest weekend

4. Unfinished business

- a. Drone update?
 - i. Jeanette said the Forge may be doing something similar
- b. Washed out the trail. The pipe got washed out. The pipe was tripled in size and it got washed out.(4" to 10").

5. New business

- a. Dennis - about 3 weeks ago a memorial for Krueger. The main complaint was no Porto-potty by the boat launch. Jim will work on it.
- b. Every parking spot should have one
- c. The one by the pavilion got knocked over- They are cleaned every Wednesday.
- d. There is a lot of activity - bigger no swimming signs were put down there.
- e. Sarah suggested - Have the Commission sit at events as ambassadors to publicize the quarries? The Forge is looking to start up a marketing campaign.
 - i. A brochure and village website which is being redone should include some details on the quarries
 - ii. Existing content is being used to create website - Dave met with them to go through the contract

- iii. The new downtown redevelopment stakeholder Group. A focus group - is strictly commerce related. The Ace Hardware site will be first on their list to review.

6. Audience Participation

7. Adjournment 7:40

- a. Motion to adjourn Mark Pawlak
- b. Second by Dennis