

Story County Conservation Board
September 22, 2021
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa and via Conference Call

1. SPECIAL NOTE TO THE PUBLIC: This Meeting Is Also Being Offered Via Conference Call.

2. CALL TO ORDER: 3:01 PM

3. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Craig Meyers – present

Christine Laumer – present

Nancy Franz – present

Jim Pease – present

Ted Tedesco – present

Linda Murken – present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Marianne Harrelson

GUESTS

4. Discussion Of Land Use Planning For Property Formerly Owned By Bob Deppe.

Director Cox reviewed some of the details of the land and the requests of Bob Deppe. The land is approximately 129-acres, much of which has been in the Conservation Reserve Plan (CRP) for many years. He provided maps of the property. One shows the property boundaries and the other illustrates the topography between the property and the river. Bob would like to have the park named with the Deppe name included in it. He would like it to be separate from McFarland Park and have its own identity. He would like us to keep the terraces and use a very light building footprint. One other request was to have a picnic area and consider an observation tower. There were no use restrictions as part of the land purchase.

Members of the board had a lengthy discussion regarding their thoughts for the use of the property. They narrowed down some ideas to preserve wildlife, provide recreational use, prairie restoration, additional educational programs and the possibility of adding water ways and/or a pond. There was also discussion about building a new facility if needed in the future. They came up with four main goals: Increase the buffer to McFarland Park from ag or residential development; retain and restore wildlife habitat and native plants; provide a user destination; and complimenting McFarland Park. We would like to ask RDG to provide us with not only a master plan, but a phased implementation of the master plan and a financial implementation plan so that we are not applying for grants that may not qualify for the type of work being done. Franz recommended that we ask our staff to do some visioning or maybe their own gap analysis (structured feedback).

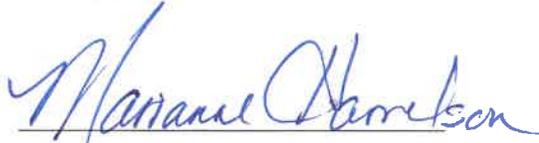
A Steering Committee needs to be developed to work with the staff and the consultants on this project. Franz and Laumer volunteered to serve on the committee. Cox passed out an excerpt from RDG's proposal that shows the scope of services they will be providing. First, they will do some desktop work and tour the property. Next, they will start gathering input, meet with the Steering Committee, meet with staff, get public input and present findings to the board. Board members provided suggestions of documents that should be provided to RDG.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

6. OTHER/UPDATES – Director Cox discussed with the board, the possibility of restructuring of our field staff. He would like to split the duties of the Park Ranger positions to dedicated law enforcement and operations. The number of technicians at each unit would change to two Tech II's and two Tech I's. There would be a mirrored staff structure at each location. This would also encourage growth within the organization. Currently, this proposal would add one full time position to our staff. He will continue to look into staffing needs and provide more details at the October board meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.



Recording Secretary



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