



Black Earth Parks, Grounds, and Recreation Committee
Tuesday, January 17th, 2023 | 6:00pm
1210 Mills St., Black Earth, WI 53515

Community Visioning Session & Public Hearing

Minutes – DRAFT

1. **Call to Order** Chair Brammerson called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.
2. **Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum.** Upon roll call present: Jared Brammerson, James Coyle, Scott Patchin, Meagan Kahl – via Telephone. Absent: Lauri Statz. Also present: Public Works Director Matt Kahl, Deputy Clerk Dani Fields. Several members of the public also in attendance.
3. **PROOF OF POSTING:** Chair Brammerson read the meeting notice aloud.
4. **Approve Meeting Minutes from: November 15, 2022**
James/Scott motion to approve. Motion carried 4-0.
5. **Update – Veterans Park Picnic Table Donation**
 - a. Matt said that picnic tables are ready for pickup. Cheaper to pick up vs. shipping.
6. **Update – Park AEDs**
 - a. Nothing at this time.
7. **Update – Cooper Property**
 - a. Matt said structures are listed on Wisconsin Surplus. Auction ends Feb 20.

Public Hearing & Public Comment Period – Began at 6:03pm

Jared starts with PowerPoint presentation. Overview of EDC 2020 survey; interest given in Wolf Run Trail connection. Difficult to grow and get new things: bike trails, facilities, etc. if only maintaining. If wanting new things, need to move from the mindset of maintenance and into growth which means spending and investment.

Village Challenges:

- Lack of land – can't expand land usage due to farmland, creek surrounding village.
- Lack of space and infrastructure to support community requests – pool/splash pad, etc.
- Lack of funding – requested \$25k to add into parks budget; one of the first things on the chopping block to try and balance our budget. Budget this year is basically maintenance and keeping the lights on.

Solutions:

- Community outreach – fundraising, volunteer opportunities, public hearings.
- Village Board – discussion on getting a grant writer
- Continue development of the Black Earth Parks & Open Space plan.
- Stay involved in local & community government. How can we better serve you?

Top 5 projects for 2023 and beyond:

- Cooper property – land improvement and restoration
- Community Park baseball field replacement
- Veterans Park tree replacement
 - Several trees donated by Olson Toon, will be installed Spring 2023
- Community Park playground equipment refresh/replacement
- Tower Heights Park (Water Tower Park) – land improvement and restoration

Public Comment -

- **Randall Beatty** – Tower Heights Park - Suggested installing long-view binoculars like some other state or county parks. Also suggested making the utility road an actual road to drive up.
- **Peter Antonie** – 30 year resident of village, now resident of Town of Vermont. Former committee member in the 90s when equipment was put in. Ripp and Red Hawk parks – happy to see that equipment replacement is being discussed. Sits on Gateway to the Driftless board. Been trying to get a trail established from Cross Plains to Black Earth to Mazomanie; eventual goal to reach WI River. New Sauk/Dane Bridge getting developed. Do not want to make it a bridge to nowhere. A matter of land acquisition to extend trail. Economic development for rural communities. Make the trail more than just a pass through – make Black Earth a place to stop and have some lunch, shop, etc. Need meetings from County, DNR, Groundswell, etc. to listen to rural needs.

Scott Patchin leaves meeting at 6:24pm.

- **Leona Schaefer** – I moved to Black Earth 7 years ago, was very excited to hear of trail connection. Something we should still work on! Mentioned aesthetics on Main Street. Some Main street buildings are blighted and should also be a focus.
- **Ben Voss** – Community Park – reiterate how bad the field is. Tearing up pants and kids' arms, legs. Not just uniforms. Ideally grass infield is best.
 - Discussion on irrigation system; Matt said that it was only used to establish the field. No longer connected. Dennis Wood asked if Wisconsin Heights was going to kick in anything for maintenance, replacement, etc. of field since they still use it. Matt said that invoices were sent to groundskeepers but Village hasn't heard anything back.
- **Phil Caminiti** – lots of kids would play at school playground. Is it still available? Is t-ball/kickball field still available to use? Matt - no, all privately owned & private property.
 - Phil offered to spray the outfields for weed treatment; discussion on liability, certifications, etc. Phil said he understood; just an offer to help where he can.
- **Dennis Wood** – American Legion – several members expressed interest in providing donations for handicap accessible aluminum tables. Veterans Park - barbecue pit – now only used for disposing of unserviceable flags. Can do it in a smaller pit or a pit located somewhere else. Burned a lot of flags last year. Matt stated the wellhouse building's life is coming to an end in next few years, may or may not keep barbecue pit.

Scott returns to meeting at 6:45 pm.

Jared introduces renaming of Cooper Property. No plans to put playground equipment in new park. Do not want to draw children to cross Hwy 14. Seating area, peaceful, not play area for kids. Want to give it a name. Invites community to send ideas in to Dani. Will review them at next Parks meeting.

8. Setting of Next Meeting

- a. Monday, March 27 @ 6pm.

9. Adjournment

James/Scott motion to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Minutes prepared by Dani Fields, Deputy Clerk

Parks, Grounds, and Recreation Committee Members: Jared Brammerson, James Coyle, Scott Patchin, Meagan Kahl, and Lauri Statz. Mitch Hodson; alternate.
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Black Earth Clerk

From: Jared Brammerson <jbrammerson@blackearthwisconsin.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 9:47 PM
To: james coyle; Mitch Hodson; statz11; Scott Patchin; Meagan Kahl; Black Earth Clerk
Subject: Cooper Property/Park Name Selection List
Attachments: Cooper Property - Park Renaming List of Ideas.xlsx; Cooper Property Park Names.xlsx

Hi All,

I have compiled the list of names that have been submitted for the naming of the "Cooper Property" park from the master list provided by Dani. I would like you all to take some time this weekend and decide on your top three choices to bring to the Parks meeting on Monday.

The condensed list is the "Cooper Property Park Names" file.

Note 1: I removed any names that suggested "Cooper" as it would be more appropriate to call it the "Groundswell Conservancy" as it was donated by the non-profit organization after they purchased it from Cooper.

Note 2: Anything in parentheses is a duplicate suggestion...
For example:

"Black Earth Creek(side) Park"

- Black Earth Creek Park
- Black Earth Creekside Park

and

"Creekside (Park/Conservancy)"

- Creekside Park
- Creekside Conservancy

If there are any doubts in what the condensed names are feel free to refer back to the unedited master list.

Note 3: Feel free to add any names you want to your top 3* choices as well.

**I will allow for one (1) bonus name if that name is your personal suggestion, but you really liked three of the others.*

Note 4: We will handle the naming selection by listing everyone's top three choices and then narrowing it down through rounds of ranked choice voting. There will be 15+/- choices at first and everyone will get 3 votes each. After the first round anything with 1 or less votes will be eliminated until we have only one name remaining.

**In the case that every choice has one vote then one (1) name will be chosen at random and removed.*

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to me. I will be pretty busy this weekend so if it is urgent feel free to reach me at (510) 999-6959.

Thanks,
Jared

Cooper Property Renaming Ideas	Comments received
Black Earth Creek Park	
Black Earth Creekside Park	
Center Edge Park	
Cooper Creekside Park	
Cooper Park	
Cooper Landing/Cooper's Landing	
Creek Park	
Creekside Conservancy	
Creekside Park	
Creekview Park	
Eagle Landing Park	
Eagle Perch Park	
Farmersville Park	<p>"I was thinking that the park should be named Farmersville Park to pay homage to the previous name of Black Earth, Farmersville. This name was given to our village in 1851 before it was changed to Black Earth 1857, and using Farmersville in the name of one of our parks is a great way to keep six years of early Black Earth history in our collective memory as a community."</p>
Little Gem Park	<p>"I'm sure whatever name it gets, it will be awesome to have one more 'little gem' to visit!"</p>
North Creek Conservancy	
North Creek Park	
Northside Park	
Picnic Park	
Relax'n River Park	
Serene Park	
Serenity Park	
Trailhead Park	
Trout Park	

Black Earth Creek (side) Park
Center Edge Park
Creek Park
Creekside (Park/Conservancy)
Creekview Park
Eagle (Landing/Perch) Park
Farmersville Park
Little Gem Park
North Creek (Conservancy/Park)
Northside Park
Relax'n River Park
Serene(ity) Park
Trailhead Park
Trout Park