

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Sheboygan County Administration Building
508 New York Avenue
Sheboygan WI, 53081
Third Floor Conference Room, Room 302

May 28, 2013

Called to Order: 5:45 PM

Adjourned: 7:21 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Van Sluys, Brian Hoffmann, Bob Werner, Steve Sokolowski, Lil Pipping, Emily Vetting, Aaron Brault, Travis Gross, Victor Pappas, and Carl Buesing

OTHERS PRESENT: Ronald Hinze, Phil Mersberger, Fran Damp, Jim Baumgart, Robert Hall, Bob Hackel, Joel Tauschek, Alan Rudnick, and Jessica Reilly

Aaron Brault called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM. Mr. Brault reported the meeting notice had been posted May 14, 2013 at 3:00 PM and the meeting was in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the June 14, 2013 meeting. Ms. Pipping motioned and Mr. Hoffman seconded to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Mr. Brault opened the meeting to public comments. No additional comments were received.

Mr. Brault reviewed the 2013 applications in the order that they were scored by staff, and explained staff recommendations for funding. He mentioned that six applications were received, for an overall funding request of \$190,023. For 2013, \$106,831 was available for funding, which left a deficit of \$83,192.

Staff review for Sheboygan County Conservation Association (SCCA). The application requested \$43,775 for the purchase of a 40 acre parcel on the southeast side of the Sheboygan Marsh. It scored 138 points. The SCCA would apply for a State Stewardship grant if County Stewardship funds were awarded, and then deed the parcel to Sheboygan County. The parcel is currently privately-owned and is a designated wetland and located entirely within floodplain jurisdiction. Mr. Brault discussed the pros and cons of the SCCA project as staff determined. Staff recommended partial funding of the application at \$31,025.

Staff review for Sheboygan Falls. The application requested \$19,850 for a master plan of a park that would be located on a vacant parcel of land off of Bluebird Lane. It scored 130 points. The parcel is located on the northwest side of the City, and currently has some development adjacent to it with future expansion planned. Potential funding for the project would also be used to purchase 90 trees and develop a wetland restoration plan. Mr. Brault discussed the pros and cons of the Sheboygan Falls project as staff determined. Staff recommended partial funding of the application at \$14,069.

Staff review for Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department. The application requested \$55,900 for the extension of a multi-use pathway in the City of Sheboygan. It scored 120 points. The project would extend a rails-to-trails project that will be constructed in the summer of 2013 from Martin Avenue to North Avenue. Plastics Engineering Co. has agreed to donate a 20' strip of its land to the County for the trail to be built. Potential funding would be used for materials and labor involved with trail development. Mr. Brault discussed the pros and cons of the Planning & Conservation Department project as staff determined. Staff recommended partial funding of the application at \$21,900.

Staff review for Village of Elkhart Lake. The application requested \$23,900 for a tree park and pathway in the Village of Elkhart Lake. It scored 120 points. The project would fund land acquisition, trees, and the costs associated with trail development on a privately-owned, vacant parcel of land between a subdivision and the June Vollrath Park. An option to purchase is in place and once built, the trail would be maintained by the Village. Mr. Brault discussed the pros and cons of the Elkhart Lake project as staff determined. Staff recommended partial funding of the application at \$16,939.

Staff review for Village of Cedar Grove. The application requested \$30,248 for the development of a parking and rest area with a shelter along the Interurban Trail. It scored 110 points. The project would be located on WeEnergies property and a portion of the adjacent parcel that would be donated. The application called for picnic tables, landscaping, benches, and a bicycle rack; construction costs for the shelter and parking area were also included. A site plan has already been developed and the project site would be maintained by the Village. Mr. Brault discussed the pros and cons of the Cedar Grove project as staff determined. Staff recommended partial funding of the application at \$22,885.

Staff review for Sheboygan County 4-H. The application requested \$16,350 for a multi-use trail development plan at the Camp Riversite property in the Town of Lima. It scored 73 points. Funding would be used for preparation of a site for a horse trail and trailhead; it would include a manure storage bunker, and educational and orientation signs. Mr. Brault discussed the pros and cons of the Sheboygan County 4-H project as staff determined. Staff recommended not funding the application.

Mr. Brault went through the spreadsheet that staff developed regarding project requests and funding recommendations. Staff recommended removing funding for the Sheboygan County 4-H project; benches, landscaping, and parking lot striping for the Village of Cedar Grove; and asphalt and light fixtures for the Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department project. The remaining three projects were given a weighted average considering the remaining deficit after the aforementioned deletions.

The committee reviewed the projects and staff recommendations, and developed adjustments to these recommendations.

Committee review for Sheboygan County Conservation Association. Mr. Werner asked about the price of the project. Ms. Pipping said the purchase price is the same as the appraisal. Mr. Mersberger stated that the SCCA would apply for a State Stewardship grant if funding was awarded through County Stewardship. **Ms. Pipping moved to fund \$31,025 to the SCCA contingent upon receiving State Stewardship or other funding. Mr. Werner seconded.** Mr. Werner asked what the timeframe was for the project. Mr. Brault responded the award recipients have one year to spend the funds unless an extension is granted. **Motion carried with Ms. Pipping abstaining.**

Committee review for Sheboygan Falls. **Ms. Pipping moved to award \$14,069 to the City of Sheboygan Falls. Mr. Werner seconded.** Mr. Sokolowski asked several questions about the project. Mr. Tauschek explained that the parcel would be annexed if funding were obtained. He stated that a master plan would determine where trees are placed and would delineate the wetland that is likely present. Mr. Hackel stated that there is current and future development planned adjacent to the project site. **Motion passed with Supervisor Hoffman voting nay.**

Committee review for Village of Elkhart Lake. **Ms. Pipping motioned to provide \$16,939 to the Village of Elkhart Lake. Mr. Buesing seconded.** Ms. Pipping asked several questions regarding the potential project. Mr. Rudnick stated that the Village is willing to pay more for the parcel than it is appraised at because there is a unique opportunity for the Village and it is the

only access between the park and the neighborhood. Mr. Sokolowki suggested awarding \$2,000 for the difference between the Village's contribution and the appraised value of the property, and \$9,050 for engineering and construction of the trail. Mr. Buesing recommended awarding \$9,050 for the latter costs and omitting any acquisition costs from the amount. **Mr. Buesing moved to amend the original award to \$9,050. Supervisor Hoffman seconded.** Further discussion involving the purchase of a property at more than its appraised value took place. **Amendment carried unanimously. The original motion as amended passed unanimously.**

Committee review of Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department. **Ms. Pipping moved to approve funding in the amount of \$21,900 to the Planning & Conservation Department. Mr. Sokolowski seconded.** Mr. Werner and Mr. Buesing asked for some clarifications. Mr. Brault responded that the initial portion of the trail will be built this year and that there does not appear to be any hazardous materials issues with the parcel. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Committee review of Village of Cedar Grove. **Ms. Pipping moved to award \$22,885 to the Village of Cedar Grove. Mr. Gross seconded.** Mr. Sokolowski and Mr. Van Sluys asked for clarifications on several points in the application. Dr. Hinze responded and stated that the primary reason for the project is that it is currently unsafe for users of the Interurban Trail to unload on STH 32. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Committee review of Sheboygan County 4-H. Mr. Brault mentioned some of the issues related to the application and that the project needs to be defined better. Staff encourages the Sheboygan County 4-H to improve their application and apply again next year for County Stewardship funds. **The committee took no action.**

Mr. Brault reviewed and recommended changes to the existing Stewardship Committee structure. He explained his rationale for updating the roster, and asked that the committee review his proposed changes and suggest their own updates.

Supervisor Hoffman moved to adjourn. Ms. Pipping seconded. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Emily Vetting
Recording Secretary