

HILLMOOR AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, August 3, 2023
POLICE TRAINING ROOM, UPSTAIRS CITY HALL

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Klein at 4:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Klein, Hank Sibbing, Cheri Borowiec, Michael Krajovic, Fred Gahl, Celine Lillie, Paula Porubcan, Sheila Campbell (for Deborah Beagle), David Quickel, Skip Atwell, Laurie Weed, Peggy Schneider (Park Board), Betty Volquardsen (Friends of Hillmoor)

Absent: Celine Lillie (excused), Adam St. Marie (excused), Karen Yancy (excused)

Removed per City Council: Frank Guske, Ron Geiman, David Curry

Approval of Hillmoor Ad Hoc Committee minutes from July 20, 2023

Motion by Sibbing, second by Borowiec, to approve the minutes from July 20, 2023.

Unanimously carried.

Public Access – Police Chief Gritzner

Chief Gritzner explained that City Hall staff met and discussed concerns regarding Hillmoor. While the police department has no official opinion regarding uses on the Hillmoor property, he is concerned about safety: homeless encampments; lack of line of sight down cart paths from thick brush; getting equipment through; broken glass on old parking lot and storage area; swimming in the ponds. Committee comments included: the City has recreational immunity; volunteers from Friends of Hillmoor can use ecological maintenance practices rather than clear-cutting by Public Works Department. Further comments from Gritzner: police department can lead a field trip out, after Labor Day, to view and access specific areas needing attention and that having more people on the property would provide added safety (eyes on the property).

City Council Update – Mayor Klein

Mayor Klein reported that the City Council is excited about the future of Hillmoor with all the ideas proposed. They authorized the renewal of the Ad Hoc Committee for 6 more months expiring **February 13, 2024**.

Friends of Hillmoor Update – Betty Volquardsen

Volquardsen gave a recap of activities Friends of Hillmoor is sponsoring:

- Disc Go event on July 25 was attended by 30 children and assorted adults. There were free golf lessons, pizza, and prizes. The regular league then followed at 5:30 p.m.
- Public Update on August 17 at the Badger High School Commons (Wells Street entrance) from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. with all welcome to attend. The Friends group will recap information and project ideas presented to the Ad Hoc Committee.
- The Archeology Grant letter of intent has been submitted by the City with the final application due in mid-December and awarded by February.
- Dale Olsen, a professor from Arizona, who presented at Kishwauketoe and specializes in non-profit fundraising, is assisting the Friends with communications and outreach tips.

- A future project being discussed is plaster goats purchased and decorated for display downtown and later auctioned off to fund rehab and maintenance of the natural areas on Hillmoor.
- Volquardsen shared with Mayor Klein information regarding splash pads, unique to this area, as an alternative to a swimming pool.

Review of Projects per July 6th Minutes

Much discussion centered around whether the City Council approved the Committee's recommended Vision, Mission, and Objectives. A formal approval on record can be used as a communications vehicle and would be used to propose and endorse projects based on the language in those items. Motion by Volquardsen, second by Sibbing, to submit the Vision, Mission, and Objectives to the City Council for approval. Unanimously carried.

Information Gathering Team and Project Feasibility Form

Teams will be formed and present research information on the projects within the next 6 weeks in order to be included in the 2024 budget requests. Krajovic will work on a shorter version of the project evaluation form to be used, with a focus on preliminary questions, compatibility, and infrastructure costs. The mayor reminded members that they should get at least 3 cost estimates, if needed. The Committee would recommend a Master Plan to the City Council that may take years to successfully and responsibly implement.

Future Public Input Sessions

Not at this time. The Committee will use information gathered at past community sessions.

Future meeting agenda items and next meeting date –

- August 17 – Presentation of YMCA Survey results; update from Geneva Lake Conservancy; Kemper Sports presentation
- August 31 – Information from James Killian, Kishwaukee Nature Preserve; presentation by David VanZelst, landscape design

Thursday, August 17 at 4:00 PM

Motion by Borowiec, second by Campbell, to adjourn at 6:03 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Alderman Fesenmaier