

Memo

To: Village Board
From: Chris Clark, Director of Parks, Recreation, & Forestry
Re: Fox River Trail Winter Snow Removal
Date: February 2, 2016

Background Information:

The Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department has been working with the Brown County Parks Department (BCPD), who maintains the Fox River State Recreational Trail for the State of Wisconsin, to come up with an agreement to remove snow from the trail in Allouez during the winter season. In discussions with BCPD there are many issues to take into consideration and approvals from both the State of Wisconsin as well as Brown County would be needed prior to having a final agreement. Both the BCPD and the State of Wisconsin wanted to remind the Village that the trail is a recreational trail and not a sidewalk, and is therefore maintained to standards of a recreational trail.

BCPD is in favor of removing snow from the trail however they currently do not have the capacity to undertake these operations. They are willing to work with the individual communities, that the trail runs through, in achieving this goal as well as potentially assisting with supply acquisition or other aspects of the operations.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) would be required from Brown County as well as possibly a Winter Trail Services Contract from the State of Wisconsin. These are items that are still being discussed with BCPD and the Wisconsin DNR Trails Coordinator. Some of the guidelines that it appears would most likely be included in a MOA are:

- Snow will need to be removed when greater than 1 inch
- Anti-icing salts or chemicals are not allowed; use sand products for traction
- The minimum maintained width of a trail is 8 feet
- All signage will need prior approval before installation
- All State administrative codes and statutes must be followed

Previous Information/Action:

The Village Board asked staff to contact Brown County Parks Department to determine what it would take to maintain the Fox River Trail during the winter. At the December 15, 2015 meeting, staff was directed to develop procedures, firm up potential costs, and determine liability issues and if Recreational Immunity would apply.

Matt Kriese, Assistant Parks Director, from the Brown County Parks Department was in attendance at the January 19, 2016, Board meeting to give background information and answer

questions from the Board. At that meeting he explained the steps that would be required, with county and state authorizations needed. With that timeline, Matt felt that it would be unlikely to get a MOA in place this winter for the Village to begin snow removal operations.

Budget Item/Funding:

This item is not currently funded in the 2016 operating budget. It is estimated that funding needed for a typical winter season to plow the Fox River Trail by village staffing and equipment would be \$9000 annually. This would be for an average of 16 one inch snow events for the season.

Staff Recommendation:

Village staff recommends the Village Board direct staff to continue to work with Brown County and the State of Wisconsin to develop a working agreement and policy to remove snow from the Fox River State Recreational Trail annually for recreational use.

Attachments:

None