

Lyon’s Park Development Meeting NOTES
Dunkirk Dam Lake District (DDL D)
Monday, April 8, 2024, 6:30-8:00pm

In Attendance:

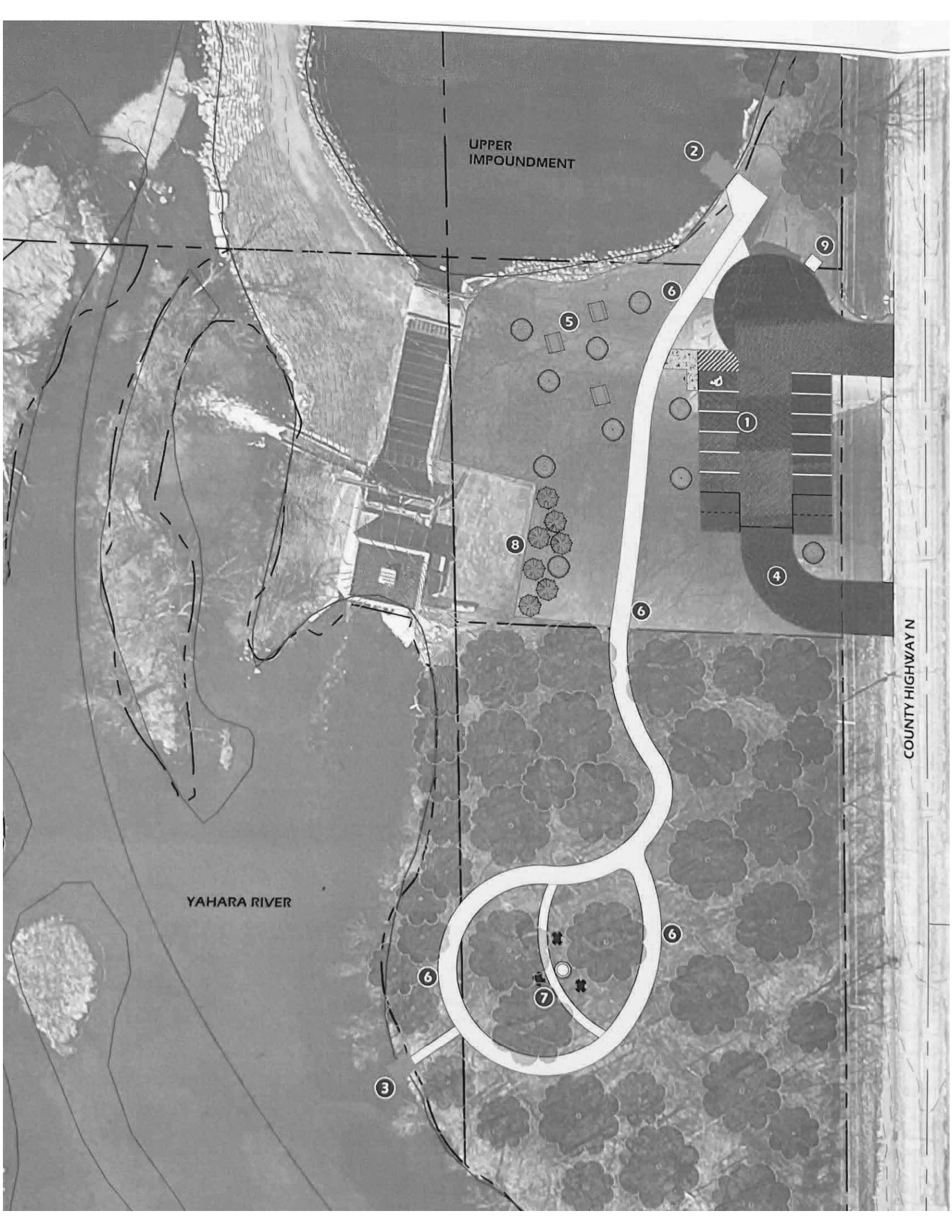
DDL D Board Members	Attendees	Guests
Laura Davis Becky Dakin Dan Jenks Mike Engelberger	Ted Olson, Dunkirk Supervisor II Mary Ellen Mackey, DDL D Jason Mackey, DDL D Jack Lyon, DDL D Sherry Webb, DDL D Mike Phillips, Dunkirk Parks Commission Kyle Roth, Dunkirk Parks Commission Kelsey Gilmore, Dane County Sheriff Bjorn Hoverson, DDL D Ted Christman, DDL D Judy Meyers-Smith, DDL D Matt Koshollek, Dane County Conservation Warden	Blake, Theisen, Parkitecture John Reynolds, Parkitecture

Topic	Discussion	Action
Introductions	Laura Davis introduced our two speakers, Blake Theisen and John Reynolds from Parkitecture, the firm that the DDL D has engaged to prepare a plan and budget to develop Lyon’s Park North & South. Blake further explained his background saying that he is a Landscape Architect and Planner. He’s been doing this type of work for 25 years, grew up here, and has been the planner for many parks in Madison, Stoughton, and surrounding areas. John added that he is also a Landscape Architect. Blake explained that their primary specialty is planning small municipal parks, pools, and splash pads.	
Recap of Project	Blake provided some background into the potential plan to develop Lyon’s Park. Blake said that they spent time in the woods and in the water exploring the area comprised of a little over 2 acres. Slide – parking lot area around the dam before it was improved. Blake commented that they anticipated a tremendous need for improvement as they had the “old” fencing and parking lot in mind. Now they see that the parking lot and adjacent fence has been improved and cleaned up. The property to the south has also been cleared. They were very encouraged by these improvements providing a foundation for continued development.	
Update on Fencing	Ted Christman provided the latest information regarding the fencing project around the dam. He said that he had just spoken to Tom Reiss, the dam Lessee and the electric has been located. We are waiting on the back-ordered fencing fabric – should be one more week. The current fence and gates by the cement “drive-way” will be replaced with taller, heavier fencing. In addition the “fencing wings” that extend over the water will be replaced including adding to additional “wings” on either side of the power house. This project should be underway in the next few weeks.	

Power Pole	<p>Blake asked if the electric power pole could be moved because the development plan includes expanding the parking lot to the south. The power pole is in the way. (It is located just south of the entrance driveway off of Hwy N.)</p> <p>Becky stated concern that this pole belongs to Stoughton Utilities and this would be up to them. The land to the south and to the west of the current pole location is “private” – DDLD property) and costs would be incurred. The underground power line from the powerhouse to the pole would have to be moved as well. This would be a huge concern.</p>	Blake said to hold off in contacting Stoughton Power. They will consider revising where the proposed parking lot sits.
Drone Slides	Blake shared quite a few drone shots of the dam and surrounding area.	
Proposed Concept One	Blake shared a slide depicting the entire project area (Lyon’s Park North and South). The proposed plan includes an expanded parking lot area with a boat turnaround and a driveway entrance and exit. The plan includes an 8’ pathway that extends from the millpond, past the parking area, through the grassy area by the dam and through the property to the south (Adler/Hansen property – Lyon’s Park South). The takeout on the millpond, located a little above the current parking lot, connects to an 8’ pathway providing a way for boaters to exit the millpond and carry their kayak/canoe down the path to the South property and re-enter the river.	Printed copies of the proposed development plan were provided (2 pgs). Pg 1 showed the trail from the North Park to the South Park. Pg 2 included the drone slides.
Expanded Parking	<p>Southern take/out-put/in</p> <p>Placement of the Southern put-in/take out is recommended to be “just around the bend” of the river. Parkitecture determined that the water is too turbulent closer to the powerhouse. The river gets very shallow further toward the bridge on Hwy N. So this placement is recommended.</p> <p>Second Picnic Area: The plan could include a second picnic area/seating area at the southern point of the trail. We might create a circle that would provide viewing and also placement for the bench with the family’s name (Hansen/Adler).</p>	
What type of boats will be allowed?	<p>There was an extensive discussion regarding the type of boats we want to provide access. Do we only want kayak and canoe access only OR do we also want to provide a put-in/take-out for small motorized fishing boats?</p> <p>Matt Koshollek, the Dane County Conservation Warden said that the only boat put-in is at 8th Street in Stoughton and boating access ends at the dam. A boat put-in/take-out below the dam would provide for emergency access below the dam. Currently, they have to put-in in Rock County and boat all the way back up the river to gain access.</p> <p>Access would be needed for primarily a 14-16’ duck boat.</p> <p>Discussion included the possibility of providing only emergency access for the Warden but not providing boating put-in/take out for the public. This would create additional challenges in the parking lot to include space for trailers.</p> <p>Laura mentioned that there has been conversation for quite some time to make the river “no wake.”</p>	No conclusion
Liability	Becky asked if there would be additional liability for the Township of Dunkirk and for the DDLD with the development of the park. Blake stated that Dunkirk has “Recreational Immunity.” It is not known if the	Laura, check with insurance company

	DDLD has this as well since they are a quasi-governmental organization. Blake suggests they check with their insurance company.	regarding DDLD "Recreational Immunity"
Parking Lot	Blake asked the attendees for their preference for one or two driveways. Discussion continued stating two driveways would make it easier to get in and out and turnaround. Turnaround right now is rather difficult. It was clarified that county approval would not be needed for the proposed second driveway as the driveway already exists. (The second driveway currently does not connect to the parking lot.) The group discussed the benefits of paved/un-paved. Blake recommended a paving substance that is water permeable and used in many park facilities.	Two driveways preferred. No conclusion for paved/un-paved.
Develop in Stages? Recreational Boating Grant	Becky asked if the plan included how to do all of this in stages. Blake said that is really depended upon the potential grant dollars. Laura stated that the Recreational Boating Grant (due June 1) includes a required 50% match. We have two years to use the grant dollars if awarded. Blake said that if the plan was carried-out in stages it might include: 1. Upper launch, 2. Trail from the north park to the south park, 3. Expanded parking lot	
More Parking Lot Discussion	The group asked whether the parking lot could be split to utilize the current parking area and possibly add more parking on the flat grassy area to the south. Blake said this could be considered and would not require that the electric pole be moved. Jack asked if the grade of the expanded parking lot would be a problem. Blake answered that they had considered this and the grade would be compatible with the levels of the millpond.	
Current Portage over the Dam	It was clarified that the Dam Lessee is required to provide a portage point over the dam. This currently exists at the southernmost point of the millpond at the dam. Signage states "Portage." This portage point over the dam leading to the river below the dam would remain in place.	
Path Discussion	The group was concerned that the proposed 8' wide pathway would appear to accommodate cars. Could the path be 4' wide or 6' wide to deter anyone driving on the path? Blake answered that the path could certainly be narrower. We could also deter motorized traffic with the placement of boulders. The pathway must be ADA compliant (to receive grant funds) and would be crushed limestone.	Change 8' path width to 4-6' wide.
South Picnic Area	Blake asked for input into the lower picnic area. Do we want wooden picnic tables or rustic/stone bench/table? Do we want a fire pit or ability to grill? The group had great concern in making this area more inviting in that it is more hidden from view and would encourage mischief. It was concluded that the stone bench had advantages/disadvantages and the group does not want any fire in this area. This area will be developed to "sit and relax" or to "stage" equipment while preparing to boat down the river. John mentioned that the plan included the placement of several "Portage Racks" along the long path as carrying a kayak/canoe that far is	No fire pit. No great preference for style of picnic table.

	tough.	
Archeological Findings	Blake asked Laura for an update regarding the archeological study. Blake clarified that properties such as this, along the river are known for archeological findings. The proposed path is at-grade and would not require any digging. Laura said that the study was being conducted right now and the DDLD should have a report by the end of next month. If evidence of remnants is found, this will delay development of the property.	Archeological report due to DDLD end of May.
Next Steps	Blake clarified that next steps will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised option of parking lot as well as other suggestions made by the group • Full budget for the entire project • Phased budget to develop the project in phases 	



UPPER IMPOUNDMENT

YAHARA RIVER

COUNTY HIGHWAY N

2

9

6

5

1

8

4

6

6

7

3

