



Dane County Board of Supervisors

Monthly Update

March 2020

Board votes to connect youth to natural resources

The Board passed a resolution March 5 allowing the County Park's Division to continue to work with Operation Fresh Start to provide and supervise youth conservation crews to work on county lands to learn valuable natural resource and park management skills in an outdoor setting. The agreement will go through the end of 2020, at a cost of \$124,000. The Board passed another resolution accepting a \$25,000 Urban Forestry grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The grant will be used to develop an education and outreach program targeted at underrepresented groups in the tree care industry. The Department will hire at least two Limited Term Employees that come from existing Operation Fresh Start crews or other underrepresented groups to develop job skills important to success in the Urban Forestry industry.

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Board authorizes land purchase to preserve historical site

On March 5, the Board authorized purchasing land surrounding the 0.6 acre Halfway Prairie School County Park from the Cleo I. Brockmann Revocable Living Trust for \$484,700. The Halfway Prairie School is the oldest existing rural elementary schoolhouse in Dane County. The one-room school was operated from 1844 until it closed as a result of consolidation in 1961. Acquisition of the property provides a unique opportunity to protect the historic setting around the county park and create a more diverse visitor experience. The additional land would alleviate the current parking issue by allowing for a new parking lot with a safer exit point further down the road with an improved field of view.

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Three Community Programs to be centralized in one office

The Board approved a resolution March 5 to centralize three Community Program units into the new Badger Road office – Joining Forces for Families, the Community Restorative Court and the Immigration Affairs Unit. 818 W Badger Rd LLC has agreed to lease approximately 5000 square feet of

office space located at 818 W. Badger Road, Madison, WI. JFF/CRC/IAU would occupy the entire second floor which is ADA accessible. The lease is for five years beginning March 1, 2020 and ending February 28, 2025 at a negotiated rental rate of \$5,876.50 per month or \$70,518 annually the first year with a 3% increase each year thereafter.

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Board introduces resolution opposing F-35s at Truax Field

In response to the [final Environmental Impact Statement](#) released by the United States Air Force, five supervisors are sponsoring a resolution opposing siting the F35A squadron at the Truax Airfield at the Dane County Regional Airport. Districts on the north and east side of Madison would suffer the most severe impacts due to the F35 basing. The final EIS confirms concerns that basing the F35A squadron at Truax Airfield would have significant noise impacts, and would disproportionately affect low-income people, communities of color and children. The resolution calls on the county's Corporation Counsel to prepare a legal opinion for the Board on all potential legal strategies within the County's authority for preventing the proposed action and mitigating the impact of the proposed action.

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County Board meets remotely due to COVID-19

The Board met remotely March 19 for a regularly scheduled meeting. A recent advisory from the State of Wisconsin Department of Justice indicates that the County Board will be meeting the spirit and complying with the open meetings law by making the electronic meeting open to the public. The meeting included items that will allow committees to conduct necessary business remotely in the coming weeks as Dane County mitigates the effects of COVID-19. As a reminder, County committee, board and commission agendas can be accessed at <https://dane.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. Additionally, the County Board Office is closed until further announcement. If you'd like to contact a specific Supervisor, please see their contact information on the County Board website. If you'd like to speak with County Board staff, please call 608-266-5758. If you would like to contact the County Board as a whole the email address is: county_board_recipients@countyofdane.com

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County Board creates remote meeting toolkit for local governments

After the successful County Board meeting March 19, supervisors began receiving requests from other units of local government wanting to duplicate this process. County Board staff, working closely with county legal and information management colleagues, compiled a [toolkit](#) which details the legal underpinnings of a public meeting held fully remotely, the use of technology, the approach to training and outreach, and lessons learned. The goal is to share the Dane County experience to pave the way for other local governments facing the same constraints in these extraordinary times. Although conducted with each supervisor participating either via computer or telephone, the County Board adhered to the

Open Meetings Law and worked hard to make the meeting accessible. As with most County Board meetings, the March 19th meeting was streamed online for the public to watch, and there was also a phone number for the public to call to listen to the meeting. As is usually the case at public meetings, the public was also given the opportunity to register to speak about items on the agenda, via an online survey. The next Board meeting on April 2 will also be remote.

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