



October 28, 2015

**Barn Bluff Park Master Plan
Stakeholder Input Meeting**

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

HKGI Office, Minneapolis

Attendees:

Brian Peterson, City of Red Wing Planning

Bruce Blair, Project Manager

Steve Kohn, City of Red Wing Planning

Shawn Blaney, City of Red Wing Public Works

Bruce Chamberlain, LOAM

Jennifer Cater, HKGI

Kevin Clarke, HKGI

Jeff Engel, MCA

James Loveridge, MCA

Lacy Shelby, MCA

Laura Wildenborg, RW ELC

SUMMARY

1. Discussion Notes

Meeting purpose:

- Barn Bluff has an established and mature climbing presence since 1970s
- Climbing at Barn Bluff has generally functioned as a don't ask/don't tell activity
- City interested in understanding how best to embrace the use as a park activity, limit liability, and understand best management practices to support the sport

Growing trends of rock climbing in the state:

- Other regional climbing destinations in Winona area (John Latch State Park) – growing activity and establishing more routes
- Other Minnesota climbing destinations: Sandstone (Robinson Park and Banning State Park), Interstate/Taylor's Falls, Duluth, Tettegouche/North Shore, Crane Lake
- Robinson Park, city park in Sandstone – underwent similar process to formally support climbing
- Climbing Management Plan adopted by Sandstone in 2007 – Jeff and James helped develop it
- Robinson Park now a supported destination for climbing and ice climbing; managed by climbers

Climbing specifics at Barn Bluff:

- Once supported and advertised more, climbing will help increase tourism to Red Wing
- Growing regional (potentially national) destination between Red Wing and Winona
- Barn Bluff climbing is mostly all top-rope style climbing using ropes and anchors
- Never accessing the top of the bluff
- Fixed anchors system: now use glue-in anchors for top rope climbing; long-lasting and low-impact; can be painted for camouflaging into rock face
- Currently a lot of old hardware that needs replacing – has been managed by climbing community

Facilities to support climbing at Barn Bluff:

- Restrooms at base near parking (open seasonally, locked at night)
- More parking
- Wayfinding/ park signage
- Open pavilion(s) near climbing areas for inclement weather
- Picnic tables / benches near climbing areas
- Posted info and rules/restrictions at climbing locations; updated current info by QR code
- Clean up/ stewardship days (facilitated by or partnered with climbers)

Also consider...

- Permit fee or registration?
- Seasonal tent camping opportunities / walk-in sites
- Ice climbing

2. Other Items / Next Steps

Jeff Engel:

Advertise park user survey and public workshop through MCA website and social media

Consultant team:

Incorporate input into concept development and master plan