



**Carver
County
Parks**

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, MN 55322

**Park Commission Meeting
Wednesday, February 21st, 2018
6:30pm**

**Public Works Headquarters Building
Meeting Room 1
11360 Hwy 212
Cologne, MN 55322**

Regular Meeting Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call (6:30 p.m.)
- 2) Approval of the January 10, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes (6:31 p.m.)
- 3) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (6:32 p.m.)
- 4) Approval of Agenda (6:33 p.m.)
- 5) Commissioner Liaison Report (6:34 p.m.)
- 6) Open to the Public (6:38 p.m.)
- 7) Old Business (6:39)
 - a. Review Draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- 8) New Business (7:15 p.m.)
 - a. St. Joseph's Catholic Church – Special Use Permit
- 9) Staff Reports (7:20 p.m.)
 - a. Waconia Event Center Update
 - b. Northshore Rd. & DRT Informal Use Area
 - c. TH 5 Regional Trail Connection
 - d. TH 5 Master Plan
 - e. Lake Waconia Regional Park Construction Planning
 - i. Coney Island
 - ii. Main Park Area Grading and Utility Plan
 - f. Park Operations and Recreation Services Update
 - g. MN River Bluffs Slope Failure
 - h. Regional Parks Policy Plan Update & Meeting with Metro. Council Representatives
- 10) Commission Member Reports (7:45 p.m.)
- 11) Set Next Meeting Date (7:50 p.m.) – Proposed Date March 14, 2018
- 12) Adjourn Meeting (7:52 p.m.)

**Please note if a Commission Member cannot attend the meeting,
please call the Park Office at 466 – 5250.**

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Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2018

Members Present: Carroll Aasen, Gerald Bruner, Curt Kobilarcsik, Mark Lagergren, Jim Boettcher, John Fahey, and Commissioner Tim Lynch

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Connie Keller, Sam Pertz

Call to Order: Aasen, called the meeting to order at **(6:30p.m.)**

Introduction of New Park Commission Member: Staff introduce new Park Commission member John Fahey, each staff member and current Park Commission members introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes: **(6:34p.m.)**
Bruner motioned to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2017 regular meeting minutes Boettcher seconded the motion.
Motion passed 6 to 0.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda: **(6:34p.m.)**
Staff stated that the agenda has been revised to include additional new business item and introduction of new Park Commission member.

Approval of Agenda: **(6:35 p.m.)**
Boettcher motioned to approve meeting agenda
Bruner seconded the motion.
Motion passed 6 to 0.

Commissioner Liaison Report: **(6:35p.m.)**
Lynch shared that the Lake Waconia Regional Park was on the bonding tour that took place on Monday, he is cautiously optimistic about the bonding bill. He stated staff did a great job explaining the park and the process and also stated that they were very receptive.

Staff shared the background of the request for the bonding for the main park areas, explaining the money associated with this state bonding bill and county bonds. Staff stated that they too are very hopeful.

Open to the Public: **(6:38 p.m.)**
None present

New Business **(6:38 p.m.)**

A. TH 5 Regional Trail Master Plan

Staff shared that the consultant had completed the draft of the TH 5 Regional Trail Master Plan, that the city of Victoria has approved the resolution of support for master plan; the Chanhassen Parks and Rec have made recommendation to the City council to provide a resolution of support on January 22nd.

Staff reviewed the background of the master plan stating that is it also consistent with City documents, shared the requirements of the master plan which consist of public engagement, boundaries, demand forecast, development concept, conflicts & public services, O & M, public awareness and accessibility.

Staff shared the process for the public engagement and when those public engagement meetings were held. Staff shared the boundary/alignment of the trail with map, stating trail would run from Dell Rd to the Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail in Victoria. The trail would use existing trail alignments for much of approximately 8.9 miles. Staff shared connections from this trail, also sharing a map of the trail and explaining the alignment and

possible alternate alignments at certain parts of trail. Staff shared pictures of portions of the existing trail. Due to being a regional trail it is eligible for regional funding when the master plan is approved.

Staff shared the next steps which consist of review and support by the City of Chanhassen, County review and recommendation by the Park Commission and County Board, and Metropolitan council review and adoption.

Kobilarcsik motioned to make a recommendation for approval of the TH 5 Master plan to go to County Board. Lagergren second the motion.

Motion passes 6 to 0.

Questions or Comments:

Bruner asked for clarification on the underpass at Century Blvd. and 5; staff explained that at this time there is no culvert it is all at grade with crossing at intersection, to get to trail on the north side of Hwy 5. Staff said that in the future we would determine what side the trail would run.

Lagergren asked about the construction timeline; Staff stated in 2019.

Bruner asked about if they will need to bring in a lot of fill for the trail to be run through the swamp area; Staff stated that the Arboretum would like to move it back further off of Hwy 5 but we will not know the alignment until we start construction documents.

No other questions or comments

B. Boy Scout Jamboree Permit

Staff shared a new Boy Scout event at Baylor Regional Park for their winter activity of approximately 100 -150 people for an outdoor experience (camping, winter shelter building, ice fishing, cross country skiing, observatory use). Staff stated they are working on collecting all documents from group and the fees would be standard scout group park fees for shelter rental, camping and entrance fees.

Bruner motions to approve permit and bring to County Board.

Lagergren seconds motion.

Motion passes 6 to 0.

No Question or Comments:

Discussion (6:56 p.m.)

A. Public Health SHIP Initiative

Staff shared that they are working with Carver County Public Health to come up with initiatives for outdoor recreation and active living within the county. Staff stated that the funding for these programs would be through the State Health Improvement Program (SHIP). Staff also stated that they are not sure how much funds would be available and how it exactly works.

Staff have come up with the following three items for potential initiatives:

- i. Free Day in the Park –**
Offer free park admission on a specific day and time each week.
To provide an opportunity for greater accessibility to the regional parks of Carver County.
SHIP grant funds would be used to offset the loss of revenue from those days.
- ii. Feasibility Study for Mountain Biking-**
Determine suitability for recreation activity within existing park uses and environments.
Reflected in 2040 County Comprehensive Plan and Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan
SHIP grant funding would be applied toward planning work.
- iii. Kayak Fleet**
Increase recreational opportunities and abilities to engage with our community partners and prepare as part of the menu of service options for transportation to Coney Island.
Reflected in the Waconia Regional Master plan as part of increased equipment rental services
SHIP grant funding would be applied towards the direct, on-time cost of equipment.

Staff asked park commission members if they had any questions or comments:

Bruner stated that he is for the mountain biking study and thinks it would be a very popular because there is a need for these trails and we could charge fees for using them. He also stated that he has done a little research and we are competing with other parks.

Discussion was had on mountain biking and the potential cost of this and the funds would be for a study to see if feasible for a park. Lagergren asked if this is a grant application; staff stated that Public Health would help with grant application. Fahey stated that you might want to also look at adding fat tire biking to the verbiage if you go forward with this. Discussion was had on fat bike courses to mountain bike courses.

Staff asked if the feasibility study was what the Park Commission is looking to go forward with. More discussion was had on mountain biking trails and some of the controversy or misconception on mountain biking.

Staff also shared the potential of a free admission into the park and what that might look like, stating that we couldn't offer a full free day due to the revenue loss. Staff asked about what time of day and day of the week that might work better. Kobilarcsik stated he'd like to see a whole day instead of a partial day and would this be a weekly or monthly; staff stated this would be weekly offering. Discussion was had on a potential day of week like possibly a Sunday afternoon and possible revenue loss on a Sunday.

Staff stated that the kayaks would be added to our fleet of canoes to use these for potential rentals at Lake Waconia Park and for possibly using for people to paddle out to the island and also use for recreation services.

Kobilarcsik asked if staff wanted Park Commission members to put in a priority order; staff stated that it would be nice to know a priority order from members. Staff stated it would be better to submit an application and if not eligible then go to the next priority.

Aasen asked about the free parking entrance; Staff stated yes this would be all three parks.

Staff stated that these dollars are not guaranteed. Still would need to go to County Board.

Fahey stated that the free day might be a good PR for the parks; the others two items would be smaller groups of people to take advantage of those. More discussion was had on the free day at the park and hours and the potential revenue loss.

Staff asked about ranking the three items and Park Commission members like the ranking as presented.

Staff stated that they will meet with Public health and get more information on the process and come back to Park Commission with that information.

No Other Comments or Questions.

Staff Reports: (7:21 p.m.)

A. Waconia Event Center Update

Staff stated that they will be meeting with the County Board for a workshop on going forward with the Event Center. Staff stated that we had no group interested in running it. Lancer has a few events scheduled for 2018.

Staff shared a few different options which consist of shutting it down, offer limited services, going out for another RFP or converting to park and recreation use. Staff stated also that there continues to be interest in reserving the building but not a large amount.

Staff also shared that another option might be using the building for a bridging facility, staff will discuss this option with Metropolitan Council.

Lynch asked when staff was meeting with Chamber; Staff stated next week.

Lagergren asked about the insurance for the building; Staff stated that the caterers will have to have insurance that meet requirements.

No Other Questions or Comments

B. Northshore Rd & SRT Informal Use Area

Staff stated that they are putting a new contract in place with consultant to start the construction documents for this project. Plans are to restore the embankment and fencing off. Will be part of work program for 2018.

C. TH 5 Regional Trail Connection

Staff shared an update on the survey work by sharing a map of the potential alignment for the trail. The consultant also doing an analysis on the box culvert on Hwy 41 and looking at how the culvert would impact this area coming from arboretum property to the Lifetime Fitness property.

D. Lake Waconia Regional Park Construction Planning

i. Coney Island

Staff shared the schedule for the island – staff stated that the additional site survey work has been completed, held a stakeholders meeting (DNR, emergency services, permitting agency's) to get their thoughts on things pertaining to island. A trail alignment and impact review meeting is scheduled with Blondo. Blondo will prepare report for SHPO, we hope to have the report to SHPO by March 1st, SHPO will have 30 days to review which may be longer due to their offices moving.

Questions or Comments:

Lynch asked about the garbage on the ground and the cleanup; Staff stated that some of the items are considered historic and we have talked about using volunteers to help with the cleanup.

Lynch asked if it will be midsummer when we go out for bids; Staff stated that at this point we don't have an exact timeline of when that process will begin. Staff stated that SHPO is aware of the hazards out there, staff shared the cleanup process due to historical features on the island, staff is hopeful that we won't have a lot of issues once this cleanup begins.

ii. Main Park Area

Staff shared that they are working with consultant with initial grading and utility plan; staff shared a map of the area. Staff stated they are working with the DNR on their property. DNR may hire a consultant for initial design or may hire our consultant so their plan and our plan are consistent.

No Other Questions or Comments

E. Relocation of Xcel Power Line

Poles still have not been removed due to Mediacom has not relocated there services; staff stated that they have not heard back from Mediacom.

F. Park Operations and Recreation Service Update
Recreation update:

Staff shared that things are starting to get busy with the winter programs, the Siberian Shindig was held this past weekend at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park was very cold but still had people come out for it. Staff shared a video of the dog sled ride, from the shindig. The first of two candlelit ski events at Baylor Regional Park will be on January 20th if any Park Commission member is interested.

Staff stated that they have multiple winter day camps coming up and wrapping up the planning for the summer camps. Shared summer programming with district 112 for about 600 kids on Tuesdays is planned starting in June running through August this summer.

Operations Update:

Staff shared that the opening day for camping reservations opened on Tuesday of this past week, reservations running about the same as last year. Staff stated that they would like to go to year around reservation system, still working on possible moving to a new system.

We're hoping for snow, so we can start the ski rentals at the parks.

G. Lake Minnewashta Regional Park - Oak Tree

Staff shared with Park Commission members pictures of a very large oak tree that was removed from Lake Minnewashta Park this past week due to it being a hazard at the park.

No other Questions or Comments

Commission Member Reports: (7:51 p.m.)

Boettcher stated that he would not be at the February meeting

Kobilarcsik stated that he has been reappointed to the Park Commission for another 3 year term.

Fahey stated that he is looking forward serving on the Park Commission ; he also stated he is very active in the parks.

Staff also shared an open house flyer with Park Commission members on the Parks and Trail Legacy Celebration. This is to bring awareness on how the Legacy dollars are being used. The first open house will be on January 27th these open houses will continue throughout the summer state wide.

Next Meeting Date: (7:54 p.m.)

Next meeting will be on February 21, 2018 at 6:30p.m. We will meet at the Public Works Building in Cologne
Meeting date changed from normal Park Commission schedule.

Adjourn Meeting: (7:57p.m.)

Boettcher motioned to adjourn the meeting

Bruner seconded the motion.

Motion passed 6 to 0

Final Minutes prepared by Connie Keller

Approved by Commission Chair


