



## CARVER COUNTY PARKS

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### **Park Commission Tour and Meeting *Wednesday, May 14, 2014***

**Lake Minnewashta Regional Park, 6900 Hazeltine Blvd/TH41  
Chanhassen, MN, 55317**

**Tour 6:00 p.m.  
Meet at Maintenance Shop**

**Regular Meeting 7:15 p.m.  
Picnic Shelter #5 Weather Permitting,  
In Climate Weather- Maintenance Shop**

#### **Agenda**

- 1) Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call (7:15 p.m.)
- 2) Nomination and Election of Chair (7:16 p.m.)
- 3) Approval of the April 9, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes (7:25 p.m.)
- 4) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (7:26 p.m.)
- 5) Approval of the Agenda (7:27 p.m.)
- 6) Commissioner Liaison Report (7:28 p.m.)
- 7) Open to the Public (7:30 p.m.)
- 8) Discussion (7:35 p.m.)
  - a. Development Plan for Lake Waconia Regional Park
  - b. Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Road and Parking Lot Project
- 9) Old Business (7:50)
  - a. 2015 Budget
    - i. CIP
- 10) New Business (8:05 p.m.)
  - a. Contracted Service for Recreation Rental Equipment
  - b. Proposed Change to Park Operation Hours
  - c. 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan -Equity Policy Language
  - d. Boy Scout Request for BB Guns at Lake Minnewashta Park
- 11) Staff Reports (8:45 p.m.)
- 12) Commission Member Reports (8:50 p.m.)
- 13) Set Next Meeting Date (8:55 p.m.)
- 14) Adjourn Meeting (9:00 p.m.)

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

# Draft Meeting Minutes April 9, 2014

**Members Present:** Carroll Aasen, Ron Trick, Tom Hermann, Jim Manders, Gerald Bruner, Jim Boettcher  
Commissioner Tim Lynch

**Staff Present:** Marty Walsh, Sam Pertz, Connie Keller

**CALL TO ORDER:** Manders as interim Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:33p.m.

**Nomination and Election of Officers: (6:33pm)**

Manders opened up nominations for Chair, Trick nominated Manders and Boettcher nominates Aasen for Parks Commission Chair. Vote was taken ending in a tie vote. Motion to suspend voting until all park commission members present.

Aasen nominates Bruner for Vice Chair, Bruner was nominated, no others nominated, motion to elect Bruner for Vice Chair, all in favor Passed 6 to 0

Bruner takes over running the Park Commission meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (6:38p.m.)**

Aasen motioned to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2014 regular meeting minutes. Trick seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 6 to 0.

**Additions/Deletions to the Agenda: (6:39p.m.)**

None

**AGENDA: (6:40p.m.)**

Hermann motioned to approve meeting agenda, Boettcher seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 6 to 0.

**Commissioner Liaison Report: (6:40p.m.)**

None

**Open to the Public: (6:40 p.m.)**

None Present

**Discussion: (6.40p.m.)**

**A. 2015 Budget Discussions - CIP Review -**

Walsh presented a Power Point Presentation reviewing the current 2014 -2019 CIP for awareness of the current CIP and to begin preparation of the 2015 - 2020 CIP and to reacquaint everyone on past and upcoming projects. Walsh showed goals and recent accomplishments, proposed 2014 - 2019 CIP, 2014-2019 CIP recommendation, priorities for parks.

Review included:

2013 and past accomplishments – Complete land acquisition at Lake Waconia Park, completing maintenance projects (roofing, concrete work, heating system, electrical service, fencing, etc.) at the parks, completing trail or acquire land for trails (Dakota Trail, LMP TH41, SW Regional Trail). Past accomplishments - Lake Waconia Beach, Sledding Hill, Off Leash Dog Park.

2015 proposed programs: MN River Bluffs Extension (Matching funds), County Rd 10 connection to DRT, selling land to the DNR for a boat access at Lake Waconia Park, Capital Equipment Replacement (standard), Maintenance Projects (standard).

2016 – 2019 proposed projects: Capital equipment replacement, Metro CIP reimbursement for land, boat access reconstruction, playground Lake Waconia Park, Lake Minnewashta Park group camp area, Phase I Development of Lake Waconia Park, pavement management, Lake Minnewashta Park playground equipment replacement, fishing pier at Lake Waconia Park, other maintenance projects.

Staff also reviewed where funds come from for upgrades and improvements in the parks (Park & Trails Funds, County program Aid, Metro CIP Funds).

Overall goal is for user satisfaction at the parks and taking care of the parks we have.

Question and comments:

Hermann asks if some of the development plans for Lake Waconia Park could be published in local papers so people know what is going on with the park, Walsh states great idea and we will propose a strategy.

Commissioner Lynch also notes that some of the structures on the Lake Waconia property were used as training facilities for the local fire departments.

Aassen asks what happens to the funds that are received from the DNR for purchase of land at Lake Waconia, Walsh states that the funds would go back to the County to reimburse for land acquisition; the County would decide what the funds would be used for.

Manders states that once the paving is done at Lake Minnewashta, would that complete the main objective for the park; Walsh this would complete the paving, but the master plan is more extensive. It will take us many years to complete the master plan. If we did the paving and boat access that would take care of a lot of the park.

Manders then would Lake Waconia Park become more of the focus; Walsh said that will be the direction that we will recommend.

Manders was wondering about the emerald ash borer and if we had any planning on this; Walsh stated that we would cover that later.

*B. 2015 Budget Discussions - 2015 Operations Budget* - The 2015 budget cycle also provides opportunity to review and make recommendation which would address operation and service needs. Items discussed are: caretaker services, staffing, project management, natural resource stewardship (emerald ash borer), and customer service enhancements.

Caretaker services - the County Employee Relations Department is asking that the Caretaker position be evaluated to see if this position should remain as a contracted service or as hired staff.

Staffing

- In response to increased recreation service demands through recreation programming and special events. Work is underway to provide increased funding for recreation staffing a requested amendment to the 2015 appropriation of Parks and Trails Funding.
- The need to collect user visit data, adding more staff to cover more regional trails that have been added to the County park system.

- Project management and natural resource management are areas of foreseen growth to the park system. Dealing with the emerald ash borer for example.

Customer Service Enhancement –

- Obtaining software for recreation programs and special events registration.

Next time we meet we should have a schedule for when we have to have 2015 budget.

Questions or Comments

None

### **New Business (7:31p.m.)**

#### **A. 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan**

Walsh presented to the Park Commission document that were presented by the Met Council who are in the process of updating the Metropolitan systems plan for parks and trails and opening spaces which Carver County is a part of along with nine other agencies. We are guided by the Metropolitan Council. They provided us structure and some funding.

They are willing to consider new units to be added to regional parks systems. Trails, Parks, etc., they are giving us a short timeline to consider new units.

Discussion on what type of units they would like to add to the Regional Parks and Trails to attract a wider population of people to increase visitation to parks.

Staff is proposing to meet with representatives of the cities within the County to discuss if from their perspective additional regional trails should be added or existing planned trails realigned. Examples of trails include the 101 Regional Trail south of Pioneer Drive, County Road 61 from county line to Bluff Creek Drive, TH 41 and County Road 11.

Staff will present these trail alignments as possible new units for consideration in to the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

Questions or Comments:

Bruner – is the Met Council coming up with these future trails, Walsh states that they are offering to us what the County feels would be a good new unit in the future. They are opening the door for discussion; we are not proposing anything that is not already on the map and that had not already been through a public process, with the excepting of the 101 trail.

Manders – Do we want to make trails regional trails; Walsh – it gets down to a choice of developing more trails or focus on the parks.

Bruner – are developers responsible for walking trails, in the development area; Walsh states that with in municipal boundaries of cities, cities have ordinance for park dedication ordinance as developers come in to these cities the cities will work with developers for dedication of land, cash or some other way of connecting trails to a regional trail.

Walsh will report back to the Park Commission at the next meeting on updates for this plan.

No other questions or comments

*B. Park and Trails Tour*

Discussion on setting a timetable on tours for the months of May, June, July and August of the Parks or other Regional Parks and Trails.

It was decided by Park Commission members that they would start tours in May starting with Carver Park Reserve and Lake Minnetonka Regional Park.

Staff recommended that the possible June tour be SW Regional Trail and MN River Buffs, prior to the June bike event.

May meeting will start at Carver Park Reserve, members can choose to drive to Carver Park Reserve or meet at the Public Works building in Cologne at 6:00pm to ride over on Bus. Walsh will talk with Three Rivers Park to see if he can coordinate someone for a tour and will get back to Park Commission if this is not an option.

**May tour subject to Walsh confirming that the AIS group was not planning on coming to the May meeting**

**Staff Reports (8:14p.m.)**

*A. Eagle Lake:*

Discussion on the aerators on Eagle Lake and the fish die off on the lake. Walsh presented to the board pictures of the fish die off, when he first learned of it and what he found today. Walsh presented to the commission a background on when the aerators were installed were they were installed, reason for where they were put. He stated he does not know why the water opened the way it did along the shoreline.

Staff said the water oxygen levels were being checked every two weeks by the Carver County Environmental Staff. Staff also stated that they didn't know if the die off was due to the environmental factors this winter (ice thickness, snow depth, lake depth and vegetation die off). Staff is trying to figure out what happened.

Walsh stated that they are working with the DNR to figure out why there was such a big die off and if other local lakes are experiencing die off. Also seeing if we need to change the way we are operating our aerators.

Questions or Comments:

Trick asks does the DNR tell you when to put the aerators out, Walsh states that there is a process that takes place, when we want to start operating of aerators we have a two week notice when placing an ad in the newspaper, they were put in at the earliest they could of.

Trick did someone check the oxygen level prior to put them in, Walsh stated yes.

Trick said there were a lot of people distraught over the fish die off, Walsh stated that we didn't set the aerators to fail and that we want to find out what went wrong.

Hermann was Eagle Lake the only lake that uses aerators; Walsh this is the only Lake that the County operates.

Boetcher commented that Mitchell Lake in Eden Prairie had there aerators in the middle of the lake and he has not heard of any die off on that lake this year. He has not heard if other lakes that have aerators had die off. He thinks that a winter like this past winter is tuff on the lakes.

Lynch stated that he has heard of other lakes having fish die off.

Boetcher – he recommends that get advice from other groups other than the DNR, maybe we need someone else setup the aerators and have them monitor on a daily bases.

Lynch states that maybe we need to start checking the lake earlier and starting things up earlier.

No other questions or comments

**B. ASI:**

Aasen asks why the ASI Committee is not going forward with their plan for the central inspection program; Walsh commented that he talked to Mr. Snyder and he felt that the last meeting with the County Board to discuss his desires to move forward with the central inspection. One of the main reasons for not going forward was because there is not a government agency that wants to lead the program. There isn't operations plan or known budget. There are not enough details to go forward. Marty will check with them to see if they are planning on coming back.

**C. Lifeguard Services 2014:**

Boettcher – for lifeguard services does the county get charged for a per-diem or are we on a contract, Pertz states that is on usage. We have a two year agreement.

**D. Event and Activates:**

Programming is filling up for the summer; we are planning for a very busy summer. We had a great turnout for the Maple Syrup event at Baylor Park at the end of March, also had some school groups come out.

The next big event that is on the calendar is the Bike Konnect on June 21<sup>st</sup> from 3-7pm. This is a bike ride from Victoria to Chaska with band and BBQ to cap off the day. Also we are planning a midweek ribbon cutting ceremony on June 10<sup>th</sup> for the new trail segments, with County Board, Park Commission.

**E. Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Road and Parking Lot Project, MN River Bluffs RT Stakeholder Kick-off Meeting, Preliminary Scouring for Transportation Alternatives Program, Legislative Update, County Road 10 Trail Connection to Dakota Rail Regional Trail.**

No discussion on these items - Directors Report covered each area sufficiently.

No other comments

**Commission Member Reports: (8:58p.m.)**

Aasen commented that he went to the MN watershed AIS program at the Capital and said it was interesting, lots of speakers but nothing really new with the DNR program. Doesn't feel the current program is very sustainable.

Boettcher – wondering what the hours the County received, Staff commented Carver County has two grants for the year one provides cash funding and the other provides DNR service hours of inspection. Funding and hours are less than last year, but we are able to provide the same service we had in 2013 in 2014.

No other comments

**Next Meeting Date: (9:03p.m.)**

Next meeting will be on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 6:30pm at meeting at Carver Park Reserve or meeting at Carver County Public Works building in Cologne at 6:00pm for bus ride over to Carver Park Reserve.

**Adjourn Meeting: (9:04p.m.)**

Manders motioned to adjourn the meeting, Trick seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 to 0.