



CARVER COUNTY PARKS

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Division of Public Works

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Park Commission

Tour and Meeting Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Tour

5:30 P.M., Bus Departs from Public Works HQ to Athletic Park Chaska
6:30, Arrive at Athletic Park in Chaska for
Tour of MN River Bluff Extension Regional Trail
7:30 Depart for Rapids Lake Visitor Center

Regular Meeting

Rapids Lake Visitor Center, 15865 Rapids Lake Rd.
Carver, MN, 55315

Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call (7:45 p.m.)
- 2) Approval of the June 11, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes (7:46 p.m.)
- 3) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (7:47 p.m.)
- 4) Approval of Agenda (7:48 p.m.)
- 5) Commissioner Liaison Report (7:49 p.m.)
- 6) Open to the Public (7:50 p.m.)
- 7) Old Business (7:55 p.m.)
 - a. 2015 Operation and Maintenance Budget
- 8) New Business (8:15 p.m.)
 - a. 2015-2019 CIP
 - b. 2040 Draft Regional Parks Policy Plan
- 9) Staff Reports (8:45 p.m.)
 - a. Potential Sale of Property to the DNR for Public Water Access
 - b. Update on Aquatic Invasive Species Program
 - c. Trail Connection to Herman Park
 - d. Lake Minnewashta Roads and Parking Lot Project
 - e. MN River Bluffs RT
 - f. Events and Activities
- 10) Commission Member Reports (8:55 p.m.)
- 11) Set Next Meeting Date (8:58 p.m.)
- 12) 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 June 11, 2014

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

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Sam Pertz, Connie Keller

Tour of Lake Minnewashta: (6:00pm – 8:00pm)

Three Rivers Staff Tom McDowell and Darrin Dummer took the Park Commission members on a tour of Lake Minnetonka Regional Park and Carver Park Reserve. The pointed out at the two parks some of the items unique in these two parks and gave the commission back ground on the park system.

CALL TO ORDER: Manders, called the meeting to order at 7:15p.m. (Part of meeting was conducted on the bus)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (7:15p.m.)
Manders motioned to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2014 regular meeting minutes. Aasen seconded the motion.
Motion passed 6 to 0.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda: (7:15p.m.)
The resignation of Josh Ives from the Park Commission.

AGENDA: (7:16p.m.)
Hermann motioned to approve meeting agenda, Aasen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 to 0.

Staff Reports Discussed on Bus: (7:16p.m.)

A. 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan

Staff said that there is a new timeline for equitability distribution plan and when they will be excepting comments back from the Parks and Open Space Commission, they believe that the public comment period begins in August and public hearing taking place in October. There will be a red lined document with the proposed changes that we should have at the next meeting.

B. Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Road and Parking Lot Project-

Staff provided an updated on the Lake Minnewashta Park paving project; staff stated that the pond by the entrance that was being considered to be filled it will not be filled because of cost. We have a draft project manual.

C. MN River Bluffs RT

Staff stated that the plans are progressing; staff did receive some news from the US Fish and Wildlife Service that they too will require an easement for a section of property. The consultant is working on the project memorandum; the need for an easement will likely be added on to this document.

D. Legislative Update -

i. Regional Park Funding – The amount of funds that we will receive will be less then what was anticipated; this will slow the payback to County for previous land purchases.

ii. Aquatic Invasive Species Update – we are in the fifth week of service and have not found any zebra mussel entering or exiting the lakes.

E. Events and activities

Bike Konnect event is coming up on June 21st, volunteers welcome. We have eight weeks of day camps starting next week.

Meeting resumed after tour at Carver Park Reserve:

Commissioner Liaison Report: (8:11p.m.)

None

Open to the Public: (8:11 p.m.)

None Present

New Business: (8:11PM)

A. 2015 Budget Discussions

i. 2015 Operation Budget

Staff went over the draft 2015 operation budget with park commission, explaining some of the items on budget list and reasoning behind the budgeted amounts and increased amounts of revenues and expenditures. Staff also reviewed the Dakota Rail Trail budgeted items and the AIS budgeted items.

Comments and Questions:

Boettcher asked why the property tax and other increased; staff stated that is because we are proposing to changing the caretaker agreements to paid positions and we will be collecting rents for the homes , thus increasing revenue in that category.

Bruner asked about the caretaker arrangement that we have now; staff stated that the caretakers agreements now is that they work for a reduce rent.

Aasen asked about CPA (county program aid); Staff stated CPA money is new money that the county has not received before and is based on the number of public boat access in county and parking stalls at these sites, this is where that money comes from.

Boettcher asked if we are using tablets for AIS staff; Staff said that we have not gone to tablets but we have budget money for new technology.

Bruner asked why the professional fees so high; Staff a lot of those fees are for the planning and the design of the trails. These professional fees will move to upkeep of trails in the future.

Staff is not seeking recommendations at this point, but just informational at this point.

Will table until able to see CIP at next meeting.

No other questions or comments

B. Request to Launch Fireworks from Lake Waconia Regional Park

Staff presented to Park Commission the proposal for fireworks to be launched from Lake Waconia Park, commission was presented a letter from the Waconia Chamber of Commerce along with map of fallout zone for fireworks.

Staff did say that this zone would limit the number of cars that could enter Lake Waconia Regional on the 4th of July.

Staff is in favor to allow the fireworks to take place in the park; Staff is looking for Park Commission to recommend allowing the fireworks in the park.

Aasen motions to approve, Bruner seconds all in favor motion approved 6 to 0

Discussion:

(8:45p.m.)

A. Trail Connection to Lake Minnewashta Regional Park from Hermann Park

Staff presented to the commission a map on Herman Field and a map of the informal trail that comes from Herman Field into Lake Minnewashta Park.

Manders asked last meeting about bring this topic up about having a trail access from Herman Park into Lake Minnewashta Park. He wanted to bring this topic up to commission for discussion, he would like to provide an access from Herman Field to Lake Minnewashta Park or at least put on the comp-plan for future consideration. Manders doesn't see it as getting more people to use the park but a connivance to the people using Herman Park and neighborhood.

Questions or Comments:

Discussion was had on the pros and cons of the trail and what is there now. Does it change the character of park? What type of things do we need to do to improve that part of the trail?

Aasen, does this avoid the off leash dog area; Staff yes it does

Aasen, do bikers get charged for coming into park; Staff we do not charge for bikers or walkers that come into the park.

Staff has not been contacted by the City or neighbors in Herman Park.

Trick, who pays for upgrades if we did this access; Staff, we would have to enter into an agreement with City of Chanhasen.

Manders, what type of expense would there be; it might be something to look at.

Trick commented do you spend money on this trail when we have so many other things to do in the other parks.

Ongoing discussion was had on why it would or wouldn't be beneficial to Lake Minnewashta Park and at what cost.

Lynch commented would it increase the County liability.

Staff stated that they would contact the City of Chanhasen and ask about their thoughts of the trail from Herman Field into Lake Minnewashta Park.

Manders wanted to know if we could get a general cost of upgrading the trail. Staff commented that it would be possible to get a general engineering probability cost.

Tricks recommendation is to check with the City of Chanhasen to see if there is any interest to them.

No other comments or questions.

Commission Member Reports:

(9:07p.m.)

None

Next Meeting Date:

(9:09p.m.)

Next meeting will be on July 9th, 2014 at 6:00pm meeting at Athletic Park in Chaska or riding bus from Cologne Public Works building - boarding bus at (5:30pm) and riding bus to Athletic Park for touring of Trail Corridor from Chaska to Carver and the visiting the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Carver Rapids).

Adjourn Meeting: (9:18p.m.)

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