Carver
County
Parks
11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, MN55322

Park Commission Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Carver County Public Works Headquarters
11360 Hwy 212, Cologne, MN 55322
Conference Room #1

Regular meeting 6:30pm

Agenda

1) Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call (6:30 p.m.)
2) Approval of the December 18, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes (6:32 p.m.)
3) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (6:33 p.m.)
4) Approval of Agenda (6:35 p.m.)
5) Commissioner Liaison Report (6:38 p.m.)
6) Open to the Public (6:40 p.m.)
7) Staff Reports (6:45 p.m.)
    a. TH 5 Arboretum Regional Trail Connection
        i. Trail Alignment Alternative Analysis Report
    b. Lake Waconia Regional Park/ Coney Island
        i. Planning and Construction Activities
    c. Park System Operations & Recreation Services Update
8) Commission Member Reports (7:15 p.m.)
9) Set Next Meeting Date (7:20 p.m.) – February 12, 2020
10) Adjourn Meeting (7:25 p.m.)

Please note if a Commission Member cannot attend the meeting, please call the Park Office at 952-466-5250.

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Draft
Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2019

Members Present: Jim Manders, Gerald Bruner, Curt Kobilarcsik, Mark Lagergren, Scott Welvaert, Jim Boettcher and Commissioner Lynch

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Sam Pertz, Connie Keller

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

Approval of Minutes: **(6:30 p.m.)**
Manders motioned to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2019 regular meeting minutes Welvaert seconded the motion.
Motion passed 6 to 0.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda: **(6:30p.m.)**
None Added

Approval of Agenda: **(6:31 p.m.)**
Boettcher motioned to approve meeting agenda.
Welvaert seconded the motion.
Motion passed 6 to 0.

Commissioner Liaison Report: **(8:16 p.m.)**
Commented on the relocation of the power poles at Lake Waconia Regional Park and the issues with the DNR permit.

Open to the Public: **(6:31p.m.)**
Mary Wollan Thompson was present to learn about the park commission and also shared that she has a interest in creating a destination garden at Lake Waconia Regional Park and would like to work with the parks department and people in the community to accomplish this. She will return to a future meeting to present her ideas.

Discussion **(6:32 p.m.)**

A. 2020 – 2025 CIP

Staff shared what things are on the list for CIP; staff also stated that Metropolitan Council will be asking us in May or June what our priorities are for use of Parks and Tails Funds.

Staff shared a PowerPoint on items on the list from 2020 – 2025. Things on the list for the 2020 capital improvement plan and have been approved by County Board are the phase II Coney Island Cleanup & Restroom; items that will be done if the State bonding request is approved will be phase II Lake Waconia Regional Park restroom, picnic shelter, playground, plaza service building; other items are reimbursement from Met. Council for land acquisition for Lake Waconia Regional Park; MN River Bluff Regional Trail acquisition and repair, Dakota Rail Regional Trail pavement management and the TH 5 Regional Trail construction. Staff shared pictures of Coney Island and items still needing to be addressed, staff also shared pictures of the MN River Bluffs Regional Trail and location of slope failure area.

Manders asked if this (Mn River Bluffs RT) repair will be done in 2020; Staff stated that they are in the process of finalizing the plan, probably under construction next year and may not open until following year. Manders

also asked if this project will be tied in with the Hwy 101 project; staff stated that access to the slope failure area would be from Dell Road and not from 101, the trail bridge over 101 would be the only part of the trail that will be affected.

Lynch asked if the slope failure has gotten worse; Staff stated that there has been additional erosion, but not much else.

Staff shared a rendering of the underpass at TH 41 for the TH 5 Regional Trail project; staff stated that we have run into a permit issue with the DNR and trying to work through this. The area in question is State Waters and if the permit is not issued then we will have to come up with a plan B which could consist of adding a boardwalk structure and pushing part of the into the Hwy 5 right-of-way and redesigning the box culvert.

Boettcher asked what the price increase might be for this project; staff stated at this time we don't know; the consultant is working on the cost estimate. Staff stated that the trail projects for the Parks Department are getting more complicated and this project shows that we need more engineering conducted in advance to making applications for projects like these. Discussion was had the size of boardwalk, potential cost of such a unit, impacts on the wetland area and why it is considered State Waters.

Lagergren asked when will the DNR decide on the permit issuance; staff stated that we have approximately eight different alternatives prepared, one or two are viable and we will go back to Arboretum with the options and hopefully one of these options will work for both the Arboretum and the DNR. Staff stated that we must explain to the DNR the impacts. Staff stated that federal funding is on the line should the project not get back on track.

Wollen (Public member in attendance) asked if changing of access point to the arboretum will affect this trail; staff stated not at this point.

Boettcher asked if this trail falls through could it be included in the HWY 5 project; staff stated the HWY 5 project is a very expensive project and at this point doesn't show up on the 5-year CIP and is likely beyond a 10-year CIP. Discussion was had on this trail and how much need there is for it.

Staff shared the 2021 Capital improvement plan which consist of Baylor Regional Park beach removal and redevelopment, Baylor Regional Park Visitor Center roof replacement, Lake Minnewashta trail pavement management, Lake Waconia Regional Park playground, and trail pavement management. Staff shared pictures of the lake at Baylor Regional Park and explained what happens to the lake in the summer with water quality which makes the lake less desirable to use, also shared pictures of barn at Baylor Park and pictures of Lake Waconia Park with no playground.

Staff shared the 2022 Capital improvement plan which consist of Baylor Regional Park caretaker house roof, Baylor Regional Park forest preservation and stewardship, Baylor Regional Park visitor center remodel & ADA compliance, deck and boardwalk, Lake Minnewashta Regional Park & Lake Waconia road pavement management and trail pavement management. Shared pictures of bathroom and roof of caretaker house at Baylor Park.

Staff shared the 2023 – 2025 Capital improvement plan which include the Crow River Regional trail connection, Lake Minnewashta Regional Park playground replacement, Lake Minnewashta replacement of visitor contact station, trail pavement management, Coney Island Phase III cleanup, Lake Minnewashta remodel concession stand into an equipment rental facility, swim pond in dog park, splash pad at Baylor Regional Park, trailhead construction at County Road 10 and trail lighting at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park. Staff shared pictures of playground and gate house at Lake Minnewashta.

Staff also shared funding sources that would be used for some of these projects.

Boettcher asked about what would be replaced at the playground; staff stated that most of the playground would be replaced and we would need to assess what we might want and possibly get public input.

Manders had also stated that emerald ash borer and how this is going to be dealt with; Staff stated that could be done with a grant application.

No other questions or comments

B. 2020 Planning Activities

Staff shared a list items that are on the 2020 park planning and professional services activities they consist of continue with Coney Island Phase III archeological work. This work is the cataloging of what was found, vault latrines on island and additional archeological work, complete development and master plan for MN River Bluffs/SW Regional Trail. – working with the City of Victoria on the SW Regional Plan, Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail Master Plan, Dakota Rail Trail Crane Creek bridge analysis and plans due to deterioration of bridge and Baylor Park boardwalk assessment. Staff shared potential fund sources for these projects.

Staff also shared items for the 2021 – 2025 park planning and professional services which consist of Lake Waconia playground, site plan and proposal solicitation, Baylor Park Master Plan revision, beach restoration site plan, visitor center schematic design/exterior site plan, Lake Waconia plaza building schematic design process, Lake Minnewashta playground renovation/replacement assessment, Hwy 41 Regional Trail Master plan – discussion was had on trail alignment. Also discussed was the natural resource restoration planning at all parks and Miller Lake master plan.

No questions or comments

C. Winter Services and Operations

Staff shared memo with park commission members on winter services and operations and what is proposed for the 2020 winter season. Staff stated that due to winter seasons becoming more and more unpredictable it is hard to hire staff, so we will be using recreation instructors and office staff to cross-train and provide services at Lake Minnewashta and Baylor Regional Parks. We will offer rental services at the parks on weekends from 11:00am – 4:00pm and offer free rentals as department outreach on Fridays at both parks as well as on Martin Luther King Jr. and Presidents day from 9:00am – 3:00pm rentals. Winter rentals will run from the first weekend of January to first weekend of March as conditions allow. Reason behind the free rental days is to try and get more people out to the parks to use the equipment the County has made investment in.

Questions or Comments:
Boettcher asked if we have seen more people at the parks; Staff stated at this point haven't seen much change.

No questions or comments.

<u>Staff Reports:</u> **(7:36 p.m.)**

A. <u>Lake Waconia Regional Park</u>

i. Planning Construction Activities

Staff shared pictures of Lake Waconia Regional Park and the power pole relocation that is taking place, also shared drone pictures of the overall look of the park and what has been done to the park sense construction started earlier this fall.

Staff also shared photos of the retaining wall out on Coney Island and photos of the silt fencing and pipes that are sitting at the bottom of the sledding hill which explains the reason behind having to close the sledding hill for the winter season.

Questions or Comments:
Bruner asked were all the dirt was placed; staff stated a lot of the extra dirt went to the DNR property.

No other questions or comments.

B. TH 5 Arboretum Regional Trail Connection

Was talked about in the 2020 – 2025 CIP topic.

C. Park System Operations & Recreation Services updates

Staff shared the direct mail postcard that was sent out to county residents about the elimination of the park fees, staff shared that there will be another one going out in the spring that will be summer themed.

Staff shared the social media interactions with post for the elimination of fees, lots of positive interaction.

Staff shared that they are working on a pilot program for reduced fees to offset costs for programs that are geared towards different disadvantaged organization groups. Staff shared different agencies that offer scholarships or reduced fee programs. Staff shared the available grant funds that we could use for outreach efforts like this; Staff also explained the ADA compliance and requirements. Staff shared types of groups that would qualify and shared that fees could be reduced up to 50% for a program fee and would cap reoccurring applicants to $250-year, staff explained reasoning behind this cap. Staff shared how much will be budgeted in 2020 for this program and funding source. Staff stated that we will refine this program and hopefully get it implemented in 2020.

Questions or Comments:
Lagergren asked if we have done this program before or if it is a pilot; Staff stated that we have not done this yet and we are hoping that we can implement this in 2020. It would be a pilot program and would only be for groups and not individuals at this point.

Bruner stated that a scholarship program and getting people out to the parks is good; Staff shared the grant fund that would be used and what other things are part of this grant. Discussion was had on the grant dollars and how these dollars can be used and what things that these can be spent on. Additional conversation was had what type of groups would be using these funds.

Staff also shared ideas that could further fund this program specifically pointing out capturing a portion of funds driven from special events such as the Mud Run, Candlelit Ski's etc. Staff stated since we run this event(s) we could advertise this event as a fundraiser for offering scholarships.

No other questions or comments.

Staff shared that we would like to rename the picnic shelters at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park. Now they are referenced as Shelter 2,3,4 & 5 at Baylor Regional Park we have the Beach, Prairie shelters. Staff would like to come up with names for shelters so we can have them for our new brochures. Staff is wondering if park commission members had a thought on possible names for the shelters. Possibly we have tree or animal names for shelters.

Questions or Comments.
Manders stated that maybe naming the Baylor shelters after astronomy names due to the observatory.

Staff stated that they will put together a list of names and bring back to park commission members.

Bruner stated that maybe park commission members could bring names back also for Lake Minnewashta.

No other questions or comments

Staff shared that they will be having two winter events at Baylor Regional Park on January 31st and February 29th if anyone is interested in coming out to help.

Other things happening is that the voyager canoe will be arriving next month, staff has started planning services for 2020, transportation to Coney Island working with In Towne Marina for service to island they seem to be interested, will need to work through the details. Other things to be able to use for getting to the island are canoes, kayaks or personnel watercraft.

Staff shared that the four event groups that have previously used the Lake Waconia Event Center all except one have found other locations/venues to hold events. We have offered assistance too this group to help them find a new location if they would need it.

Staff stated that we were unsuccessful in obtaining the interpretive grant for Coney Island, but will reapply in May of 2020.

Staff stated that we have invested in some new kayaks along with trailer that we can do rentals out, these kayaks will be used for programming and also used for rentals at Lake Waconia Regional Park to get out to the island.

No other Questions or Comments.

Topic of barn quilts added – staff shared pictures of barn quilts that the arts community selected. Bruner stated he like to see one of these on the barn at Baylor Regional Park. Discussion was had on the different quilts and what would look best out at the park. Staff commented that maybe in the spring we can bring out to the park and see how they might look on the barn.

Commission Member Reports: (8:25p.m.)
Staff wanted to make everyone aware that tonight's meeting was Manders last meeting and wanted to thank him for his eight years of service.

Manders requested that park staff revisit the signage on the trails and reevaluate the need for stop signs opposed to yield signs. Also stated that he has enjoyed being part of the park commission and thanks the county for letting him serve.

Bruner stated that it seems that the Met. Council committee that he is a member of is focusing more on water issues and making it more of a priority.

Next Meeting Date: (8:28 p.m.)
Next meeting will be on January 15, 2020

Adjourn Meeting: (8:30 p.m.)
Manders motioned to adjourn the meeting.
Boettcher seconded the motion.
Motion passed 6 to 0.