



**Carver
County
Parks**

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, MN55322

**Park Commission Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2020**

WebEx Meeting

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Meeting Password: PBuar4eKt58

Regular meeting 6:30pm

Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call (6:30 p.m.)
- 2) Approval of the March 11,2020 Regular Meeting Minutes (6:30 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 (6:35 p.m.)
- 6) Open to the Public (6:38 p.m.)
- 7) Old Business (6:39 p.m.)
 - a. Regional Park & Trail System Additions
- 8) Staff Reports (7:00 p.m.)
 - a. Project Updates
 - b. Park System Operations & Recreation Services Update
- 9) Commission Member Reports (7:30 p.m.)
- 10) Set Next Meeting Date (7:35 p.m.) – June10, 2020
- 11) Adjourn Meeting (7:40 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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Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2020

Members Present: Gerald Bruner, Jim Boettcher, Curt Kobilarcsik, Scott Welvaert, Gary Van Eyll and Commissioner Lynch, Mark Lagergren arrived at 7:30pm

Staff Present: Sam Pertz, Connie Keller

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

Welcome of New Park Commission Member Gary Van Eyll (6:30p.m.)

Van Eyll shared information about himself, resident of Chaska, on Chaska Fire Department, Chaska City Council and Mayor of Chaska, and Metropolitan Council Member. Staff shared park brochures, park regulations and the regional parks map with Van Eyll. Park Commission members shared information about themselves with Van Eyll.

Election of Officers (6:35p.m.)

Nominations for Chair – Boettcher nominated Bruner, Kobilarcsik second the nomination, no other nominations. Motion passed 5 to 0. Bruner is elected to Chair.

Nominations for Vice Chair - Kobilarcsik nominated Boettcher, Bruner second the nomination no other nominations. Motion passed 5 to 0. Boettcher is elected as Vice Chair.

Approval of Minutes: (6:36 p.m.)

Boettcher motioned to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Walvaert seconded the motion.
Motion passed 5 to 0.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda: (6:37p.m.)

Boettcher would like to add item to agenda about Mt. Bike trail off of Pioneer Trail.

Approval of Agenda: (6:37 p.m.)

Bruner motioned to approve meeting agenda with addition
Boettcher seconded the motion.
Motion passed 5 to 0.

Commissioner Liaison Report: (6:38 p.m.)

Commissioner Lynch was excited to see that the DNR started working on their portion of property at Lake Waconia Regional Park and excited to hear more information from staff on updated park status. Conversation was had on the ramp that was installed at the park by the DNR.

Open to the Public: (6:39p.m.)

None present

Consent Agenda (6:39p.m.)

a. Special Use permits for Lola's Lake Waconia ½ Marathon and St. Joes Catholic Church Walk on Waconia Event.

Lola's permit - Bruner motions to approve permit, Van Eyll seconds motion. Motion passed 5 to 0.

St. Joes Catholic Church Walk on Waconia Event – Kobilarcsik motioned to approve permit, Welvaert seconds motion. Motion passed 5 to 0.

Staff did mention that both events will be using a portion of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail.

Old Business (6:41p.m.)

a. Park Facility Naming Procedure, renaming picnic shelters at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park

Staff shared information from the memo about a procedure to rename the shelters in the park areas. Staff shared that the names of the shelters at Baylor and feel they fit the areas. The Shelters at Lake Minnewashta are numbered and staff feels that names would be a better fit. Staff shared possible criteria in naming facilities like private donor, historical significance, environmental feature, theme/genre or cultural significance.

Staff shared potential names for the shelters at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park and asked park commission members if they had any strong interest or desire for these names.

Staff will look at if there is something historical to the parcel and names that the public would appreciate. The park commission is ok with criteria but would like to see a list of more names and bring them back next month.

Questions or comments:

Boettcher stated that name Minnewashta picked for one of the shelters might be confusing for park patrons. Bruner didn't care for the name Little Minnie and like to see something different. Kobilarcsik like to see names associated with private donors or historic names. Conversation was had on using names with historical nature with original settlers on the lake.

No other questions or comments.

b. 2020 Requity Fund

Staff reviewed the program of the requity fund for 2020 to provide scholarships to groups that come out to the parks for outdoor education. Funding for this program is provided with grant dollars supplied through a outreach grant. Staff stated that other park agencies offer this type of program.

Staff shared qualifying criterion which consist of groups associated with organizations who services individuals with physical or cognitive disabilities, older adults, scouting organizations, groups that have more than 16% free or reduced school lunch program participation or a school with 16% free lunch participation, and groups associated with low-income community as determined by median household income in the area.

Staff shared the fee reduction amounts and annual funding reeducation cap amounts per each group; staff also shared that funds would be used from January through August. If dollars are still remaining then groups that have already reached their caps can apply for any remaining funds on a first come first service bases.

Staff shared the process with application submittal and reviewed for eligibility at least 14 days prior to desired program date. Staff shared the application.

Staff also shared the budget for 2020 is \$2,000.

Staff is looking for a recommendation on this program to take for approval to County Board.

Welvaert motion to approve and make recommendation to County Board, Boettcher second the motion. Motion passed 5 to 0.

Questions or Comments:

Bruner commented that some may have difficulty coming up with \$50. Staff stated that this is a pilot program and we'll try and price our fees to make things more attractive to all; we are priced more competitively than other agencies and the partners we work with do offer reduced fees also.

Boettcher commented on the median income that was presented in Carver County and how it seems high. Conversation was had.

No other questions or comments

Discussion (7:08p.m.)

a. Regional Parks and Trails System Additions

Staff shared with park commission a map of the 2040 comprehensive plan that was approved last month. Metropolitan Council is in the process to consider adding new regional parks and trails to be incorporated into the Regional Parks Policy Plan. Staff shared the location of these proposed regional trail corridors that could possibly be added into the Regional Parks Policy Plan.

Staff also shared a map of the search areas for regional parks, at this time there are two search areas in Carver County. One is by Miller Lake and another search area is along the MN River.

Staff stated that next month staff could bring back to the park commission as an action item, and then that will go to the County Board. Then pending approval sent on to the Metropolitan Council Parks and Open Space Commission and then onto Metropolitan Council for final approval.

Questions or Comments:

Bruner asked why they are not in the plan; staff stated that it is a process and now we are taking the next step to add to the policy plan.

Bruner asked about how many miles of these trails; Staff stated we could get a rough estimate of the number of miles by estimating highway miles.

No other questions or comments

Staff Reports: (7:20 p.m.)

A. TH 5 Arboretum Regional Trail Connection

i. Trail Alignment Alternative Analysis Report

Staff shared the location of the proposed trail that would run from Lake Minnewashta Parkway through the arboretum to Century Blvd. Staff stated that the property owner which is the arboretum wants to stick with the original alignment which is back on the table; staff stated that the schedule is still extremely tight, permitting remains as the critical factor, working on submitting further/remaining applications, permitting agencies review timelines now go until May, bid opening by May 22nd with a bid award by June 2nd and first payment by June 26th.

No Questions or Comments

B. Lake Waconia Regional Park

i. Planning Construction Activities

Main Park Area

Staff stated that work began on the DNR boat ramp and shared pictures of the work that was done; staff thinks that due to fish spawning that work needs to be completed by April 1st.

Staff shared that the county portion of grading is 85 – 90% complete, City utilities about 95% complete, Xcel did relocate poles, remaining work to be done are the storm sewer, rain gardens and completing pond excavation, place aggregate base and bituminous for parking lots and seed and restoration of park areas. Project is on a very tight budget, possible over, due to city utilities and large soil correction. Hope to have park reopen by mid-summer, the hope is to have most work done by June 15th.

Questions or Comments:

Boettcher asked how many docks the boat landing will have; staff stated they think there will be two.

No other questions or comments.

Coney Island

Working to complete the phase III study reporting for submittal to SHPO; staff will reapply for grant dollars for the interpretive planning for this site once report is submitted. Staff believes due to the report not being done that is why they failed to get the grant last time.

Staff stated that possible priorities to consider with unused funds for the island is to bring some of the funds to main park for overages, add another dock or fishing pier to island, continue with site cleanup, fill in more foundations, fence hazardous areas, removing building debris, removal of asbestos, additional archeological services, adding more picnic tables, fire rings and a Hoffman foundation monuments/entrance features. Staff commented that WSB has donated services to design the monument. Other possible use of funds is to develop plans for construction of restrooms.

Staff shared that the maintenance team has been able to access the island over the last few weeks and have been able to remove a large amount of debris which will mean we will not have to pay someone to do that work.

No other questions or comments

C. Park System Operations & Recreation Services updates

Staff shared a recap of the winter rentals with services dates and the outreach rental services of Fridays. Staff shared how much equipment was rented during regular rentals and how many people came out on the Free Fridays.

Staff shared pictures of the candlelit ski events that took place in January and February and shared numbers for those events - staff stated that they were two very well attend events. Staff also shared pictures of programs that took place over the winter with kick sleds, snowshoeing and how these programs seem to be growing.

Staff shared flyer with information on the maple syrup open house that will take place on April 4th out at Baylor Regional Park; staff stated that if park commission members would like to be involved to let staff know.

General Operation updates:

Staff has been looking into finding a private-public relationship for ferry/taxi services to Coney Island, staff has been talking with a private service that has service on the Mississippi River.

Working with the Waconia Chamber of Commerce on working out a viable location for the 4th of July fireworks and working on logistics of possibility of being on Coney Island and the county's responsibility for this event.

Staff has been working on hiring full time and seasonal staff, working on having a park patron/visitor use satisfaction survey. Staff also shared with park commission members that they are working on direct mailing postcards and newspaper ads and they may see these coming to their homes.

D. Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Off-Leash Dog Area

Staff asked if the park commission members heard anything about the issues with pet waste removal at the park. Staff shared that the cleanups that were scheduled went well and a lot of waste was removed before the snow arrived, discussion was had on number of people who attended.

Staff stated that they are working with county communication manager with a statement which addresses different items in the park like the boat landing, and beach due to more people in the park. Also, adding additional signage to the park, possibly having a stewardship day for people to come out and help with cleanup and the possibility of a citizen group to monitor the dog park if needed.

Discussion was had on what would happen if it was left; Staff stated it might not make the county look very good and is there a public health issue. One of the reasons for making a big deal about this is to make sure people are taking responsibility and ownership of the park and that they are to cleanup after their pets.

No other questions or comments.

Commission Member Reports: (8:00p.m.)

Added Agenda Item:

Boettcher shared information about that the City of Chaska, City of Chanhassen and Carver County Trails have signed a memorandum of understanding for a Mt. Bike Trail on a piece of highway right-of-way property that is owned by MNDOT. He also shared a map of the location of the property that runs along Pioneer Trail by Pioneer Ridge Middle School with parking at the school. Discussion was had on this location of trail and the distance of the trail.

Kobilarcsik was wondering if anyone knew why homes were removed along Pioneer trail between Powers Blvd and Hwy 101 and was wondering if it was for trails. Boettcher stated that he thinks it was the watershed district was involved with those.

Next Meeting Date: (8:06 p.m.)

Next meeting will be on April 8, 2020

Adjourn Meeting: (8:07 p.m.)

Boettcher motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Welvaert seconded the motion.

Motion passed 6 to 0.

Final Minutes prepared by Connie Keller

Approved by Commission Chair

