



**Carver  
County  
Parks**

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2  
Cologne, MN55322

**Park Commission Special Meeting  
Thursday, May 28, 2020**

**WebEx Meeting**

**Call this number: 1-415-655-0002**

**Enter Access Code: 965395500**

**Meeting Password: PBuar4eKt58**

**Regular meeting 6:30pm**

**Agenda**

- 1) Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call (6:30 p.m.)
- 2) Approval of the May 13,2020 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) New Business (6:39 p.m.)
  - a. Recommendation of TH 5 Arboretum Connection Trail Bid
  - b. Draft Campgrounds Operation Plan
  - c. Draft Beach Operations Plan
  - d. Review Signage Design for Waconia Regional Park and Coney Island
- 8) Staff Reports (7:30 p.m.)
- 9) Commission Member Reports (7:45 p.m.)
- 10) Set Next Meeting Date (7:50p.m.) – June10, 2020
- 11) Adjourn Meeting (7:55 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

## May 13, 2020

### Members Present Via

#### Webex:

Gerald Bruner, Jim Boettcher, Curt Kobilarcsik, Scott Welvaert, Gary Van Eyll, Mark Lagergren, Paul Modeen 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:

**(6:31 p.m.)**

Van Eyll motioned to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2020 meeting  
Boettcher seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 7 to 0.

#### Additions/Deletions to the Agenda: **(6:32p.m.)**

Staff requested adding item setting a date for special meeting at end of month.

#### Approval of Agenda:

**(6:33 p.m.)**

Bruner motioned to approve meeting agenda with the requested item addition.  
Kobilarcsik seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 7 to 0.

#### Commissioner Liaison Report: **(6:33 p.m.)**

Lynch wanted to thank everyone for attending meeting by Webex during these strange times that we are living in. He hopes everyone is social distancing and also mention why the parks are needed during this time. He stated that he is glad that the Lake Waconia project is going well. Stated that he is sad to see that Waconia has made the decision to not have the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks. He also talked about the bonding bill and it was unlikely the parks would not get the funding for the Lake Waconia Park.

#### Open to the Public:

**(6:35p.m.)**

None present

#### Old Business

**(6:35p.m.)**

##### **a. Regional Park and Trail System Additions**

Staff stated that the Metropolitan Council is undergoing a process to consider adding new regional parks and trails units called system additions. Staff stated that we just completed the comprehensive plan this has gone through approval process at the council and county board. Staff stated if you compare the 2030 plan and the 2040 plan there are some changes proposed, the parks locations have not changed. We have the same search areas. One is the Miller Lake, the other is along the MN River Bluffs and the expansion of Baylor Regional Park.

Staff stated in regard to the regional trails, we have proposed the expansion of new trails. The proposed trails are Hwy 41 from the north county line to MN River Bluffs Regional Trail, TH 5 from the City of Waconia west to Norwood Young America, County Road 11 from County Road 10 to south county line, County 40 from the intersection of County Road 11 to the south county line and Minnesota Prairie Railroad Line from Norwood Young America to the South county line. These show up in our comprehensive plan for proposed regional trail corridors. The proposed trails came through public input, desire to preserve railroad corridors and research. Staff shared these locations on map.

Staff stated that if they had to prioritize trails they would be the Hwy 41, County Road 11, the trail between Waconia to Norwood young America, staff also stated that preservation of railroad lines is always a good idea but are unsure the line would ever be abandon. The trail to Sibley County would be on the lower priority. These trails are evaluated through the Met Council process, the application will go in for each trail segment and gets vetted through the Metropolitan system. Things that they look for are what does the trail connect to and is it of regional significance. Staff gave examples of connecting trails. Staff also stated that Carver County does not have many trails that go north/south, most county trails go east/west.

Staff shared information about County Road 11 trail which would connect to the MN River Valley and the MN River Bluffs Trail and County Road 10 trail. Staff also commented on County Road 40 trail to County Road 11 down to Sibley County and the open space in the MN River Valley.

Staff shared the Hwy 5 trail from City of Waconia west to Norwood Young American. Staff shared that this portion of trail receive the most comments about a trail connection back to NYA.

Staff shared information on the MN Prairie Railroad line from Norwood Young America to the south County line. Staff stated that corridor would be a great parcel to get if the railroad became abandon.

Staff stated that if the application is successful then these corridors would be recognized on the overall parks and trails open space plan of the Metropolitan Council. It gets them on the map towards eligibility of regional funding consideration when that time comes in the future.

Staff is requesting the park commission recommend to the County Board submittal of system additional applications for the above identified trail segments.

Modeen Motions to recommend.  
Boettcher Seconds the motion.  
All approved 7 to 0.

#### Questions or Comments:

Kobilarcsik asked if the Hwy 41 trail was on the east side or west side of Hwy 41; staff stated at this point it is undetermined and that would be decided with a master plan process.

Bruner stated that he feels that the trails are in the more populated areas and not much in the northern part of the county and he wanted to know why there are not trails in that part of the county; Staff stated that we are only talking about what would be added to system. Staff stated that there are already trails identified in the north part of county that are already part of the Metropolitan Council approved existing plan. Staff shared those trails. Staff also stated that if those trails go forward with a master plan then we could apply for funds for these trails. Conversation was had on the trails and location of the trails.

Bruner asked what is at the end of the County 11 trail; staff stated connection into Scott County. Conversation was had on the trail that is in Carver and the trail that would go over the MN River into Scott County. If the crossing of the MN River at Carver is unattainable then the crossing would be at County Road 11 existing bridge.

Van Eyll asked if the Hwy 5 corridor trail is on an abandon railroad corridor; Staff stated that this alignment of the trail has not been determined. It could be in the Hwy 5 corridor or there is potential to acquire some of the old railroad corridor back.

No other questions or Comments

**Staff Reports:**

**(7:20 p.m.)**

***A. Project Updates***

***i. TH 5 Regional Trail***

Staff stated that this project has been tough, and we are back on track; bid opening is planned for May 26<sup>th</sup>. Staff stated that they have obtained most permits. Still waiting but expect to obtain permits from Minnehaha Watershed District, Riley Purgatory Watershed District and the DNR. Staff stated we continue to be on a tight timeline, this will go to the board for a June 2<sup>nd</sup> for approval. For us to maintain the federal funds, the contractor would have to have a first claim by mid-June for payment by end of June. Staff shared that we are unable to have a land bridge and now we will have a boardwalk in the arboretum between Minnewashta Parkway and the entrance gate. This will be about a 1000-foot bridge. Staff also shared that the box culvert at Hwy 4, the elevation of this culvert can be raised by 3 ½ to 4 feet. This will reduce the retaining wall that would be needed and provide a cost savings. Staff stated that these are two major changes to this project.

Staff had mentioned the possibility of a special meeting to make recommendation for this project.

Staff stated that one of the benefits for the boardwalk is work could possibly be done in the winter when the ground is frozen and hopefully this will be reflected in bid prices.

**Questions or Comments:**

Modeen asked what permitting agency was instrumental in making these changes; Staff stated that the Corps of Engineers and the other permitting agencies followed suit. Conversation was had on the disturbance to the wetland.

Bruner asked if the bridge is similar to the bridge at Baylor Regional Park; Staff stated at Baylor the boardwalk floats. The bridge proposed would be a stronger type of boardwalk that you could drive light equipment on it, it would rest on piers.

Boettcher asked with all the permits being obtained, what would be the completion date; Staff stated July 2021 possibly. Work would fully start in fall or late this summer 2020. Conversation was had on the box culvert at Hwy 41 and not wanting to close the road down again after the closure of the Cty. Rd. 18/ Hwy 41 project.

No other comments or questions.

***ii. Coney Island***

Staff stated that the contractor has resumed work on the island, they have about two to three weeks of work left on the retaining wall and slope behind the wall, topsoil and seeding the area. The trail will have an aggregate surface and this aggregate will have a binding product to help with erosion and also wear resistant. Areas next to lake will get a granite aggregate as opposed to limestone aggregate. The four dock areas will have this granite aggregate placed in those areas. Staff stated that last fall picnic tables, grills and fire rings were installed. Misc. items that still need to be taking care of are a boat house that needs to be removed if funding holds up. A number of debris piles that need to be fenced off until they are able to be removed, other structures will be fence off also. Staff stated that these projects have been a great start, but we hope to have additional cleanup, trail construction, asbestos cleanup and vault latrines on the island. We hope to possibly have people out to the island by mid-summer.

Possible park commission tour was mentioned for the island in June.

No questions or comments

**iii. Lake Waconia Regional Park Main Park Areas**

Staff shared that the work stopped last fall abruptly due to weather conditions. Last fall site grading was completed along with the majority of city utility work, sewer and water lines installed. This spring the remaining utility works was completed, storm water piping installed and restarted grading work. Staff reminded what this phase of work included and what it does not like; playgrounds, picnic shelters, docking services or restrooms. Staff stated that there will be a noticeable elevation change between park and ballroom facility. Staff stated that the substantial completion date for the project is June 15<sup>th</sup>. This includes grass seeding, pavement for roads and parking lots, storm water ponds, trail connection from town and from park to County Rd. 92.

Staff also shared that the work on the DNR watercraft access is underway.

Questions or Comments:

Boettcher asked if the DNR site will open at the same time as at the park; the DNR does not have a planned opening date at this time and it may be later than when the park opens.

No other questions or comments

**iv. MN River Bluffs Regional Trail**

Staff shared that this project bid opening on May 26<sup>th</sup>, the work would not begin after July 1<sup>st</sup> due to endangered species in the area. Staff is not sure on the completion date of this project. This project is being led by the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority. After this project is completed, we would purchase the railroad corridor with regional funds and then it will become our responsibility from the East County line to Carver.

Questions or Comments:

Bruner asked when they redo the Hwy 101 corridor, how will this affect this trail; Staff stated that they will be installing a bridge that will go over the new 101 alignment for this trail.

No other questions or comments.

**B. Park System Operations & Recreation Services COVID19 Planning**

Staff shared reviewed information park commission members. Parks remained open but we had all our restrooms closed but reopened as of May 4<sup>th</sup>. We have kept out playgrounds open but have signage at the playgrounds with COVID19 information. Camping has been postponed for two weeks or until further notice. Bathrooms are open and we have implemented a twice a day cleaning during the week and also on weekends. We have placed portable biffs at the trailheads due to some complaints from trail users. Outdoor programming has been canceled until May 18<sup>th</sup>, possibly some light programming later in May. Staff also shared some of the videos that have been made for the parks by some of the programmers and shared were those can be found. Summer camps and programs will be done this summer and will have more self-guided activities.

Staff stated that all special use permits have been pushed off to the fall or have been canceled. Staff mentioned that the Waconia Chamber of Commerce has decided not to do the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks and they could also be canceled at Lake Minnewashta.

Shelter reservations have been canceled through June 1<sup>st</sup>, will start contacting June reservation here shortly once we have conversation with public health on shelters.

Beaches are closed. After talking with other park agencies, we might be able to open up with some controlled measures. Still working through what that might look like.

Staff stated that we have brought on some season workers, less then we have had in previous years.

Our campground hosts have arrived, and we will start training for planned new opening of Memorial Day weekend. Changes include no lobby hours, check-ins by way of curb side, additional signage for single use bathrooms, hands free door opens, hand sanitizers, sneeze screens in the campground office and honor box for firewood sales.

When Lake Waconia Regional Park does open, we will utilize portable biffy's and hand wash stations.

Staff also shared that we will implement a two-week assessment strategy for reservations; Staff did comment that the large Girl Scout camps have canceled their activities for 2020.

Staff shared calls from the public asking if we are open or closed. We are using social media, eblasts, and signage in the parks and working on more videos with parks information.

Questions or Comments:

Boettcher asked if there have been any communications for the boat landing at Minnewashta and beach area. Staff stated that we are working on signage at the boat landing and have informed the Sheriff's Office. Some of the signage will exclude car parking without trailer. Conversation was had on why cars without trailers are parking in this area and working with CSO's on monitoring this area.

No other questions or comments:

**Commission Member Reports: (8:05p.m.)**

Boettcher mentioned that City of Chanhassen will have the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display. Conversation was had on the firework display.

**Next Meeting Date: (8:08 p.m.)**

Next meeting will be on May 28, 2020.

This meeting will be a special meeting to make recommendation to award contract for the TH5 trail. We will also review current operations.

**Adjourn Meeting: (8:11 p.m.)**

Bruner motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Boettcher seconded the motion.

Motion passed 7 to 0.

Final Minutes prepared by Connie Keller

Approved by Commission Chair

