Carver
County
Parks
11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, MN 55322

Park Commission Special Meeting
Wednesday, June 10, 2020

WebEx Meeting
Call this number: 1-415-655-0002
Enter Access Code: 1461652596
Meeting Password: ZpqCp427X7s

Regular meeting 6:30pm

Agenda

1) Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call (6:30 p.m.)
2) Approval of the May 28,2020 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. 2021 Operating Budget (Materials Provided During Meeting)
8) Staff Reports (7:30 p.m.)
    a. TH 5 Regional Trail
    b. Lake Waconia Regional Park
    c. Coney Island
    d. Park Operations
9) Commission Member Reports (7:45 p.m.)
10) Set Next Meeting Date (7:50p.m.) – July 8, 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 28, 2020

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

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Connie Keller

Call to Order: **(6:45p.m.)**
Bruner called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes: **(6:46 p.m.)**
Modeen requested spelling error correction for " Corps" of Engineers and "suit".
Van Eyll motioned to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2020 meeting minutes with changes.
Modeen seconded the motion.
Motion passed 7 to 0.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda: **(6:48p.m.)**

Approval of Agenda: **(6:48 p.m.)**
Kobilarcsik motioned to approve meeting agenda.
Welvaert seconded the motion.
Motion passed 7 to 0.

Commissioner Liaison Report: **(6:48 p.m.)**
Not Present

Open to the Public: **(6:49p.m.)**
None present

New Business **(6:49p.m.)**

a. Recommendation of TH 5 Arboretum Connection Trail Bid

Staff shared background on this project with park commission members. Staff shared that they have been working on the project since 2016 when we started the master plan trail alignment along highway 5. The application for Federal funds was submitted in 2014 and in 2015. We were notified that funds would be available and that kickstarted the masterplan work in 2016 to become eligible for regional funding. Staff shared that this is the only gap for connecting the trail from Victoria to Chanhassen without using Hwy 5. Staff shared maps of the location of this trail, and commented about the portion of property that lifetime fitness has donated for trail right-of- way. Staff shared the project significance; it completes the only off-road trail gap between Minnewashta Parkway and Eden Prairie, connects regionally significant facilities of the Arboretum, Carver Park Reserve, Lake Minnetonka RT, Lake Minnewashta RP and Hwy 5 RT.

Staff also shared a PowerPoint with a rendering of what the underpass would look like at Hwy 41, the aerial view of the location of the underpass and trail that would sit behind the Arboretum sign that is located at Hwy 5 and Hwy 41. Staff stated that the trail will pull away from Hwy 5 and go into the Arboretum and cross at the entrance building. The trail will follow the parking lot, link to a boardwalk in the wetland area and connect with the underpass at Minnewashta Parkway. Staff shared pictures of what the

boardwalk could possible look like. Staff stated that this trail will be 14 feet wide and a lightweight vehicle would be able to drive on it.

Staff shared the bid summary and stated that these numbers came in a lot higher than engineers estimate. Low bid was Veit & Company.

Staff recommended support for moving ahead with the project and listed the following: all partnering agencies continue to be supportive, cost participating is proportionate, retains federal funds, avoids future cost of trail on TH5, trail located out of road right-of-way, an enormous effort to this point with master planning, good will with partners, and next opportunity would be a number of year into the future.

Staff is working with Finance Department on how to fund its share of the project.

Bruner Motion to approve the TH5 Regional Trail low bid.
Kobilarcsik second the motion.
Motion approved 7 to 0.

Questions or Comments:
Lagergren asked how close is the trail to Hwy 5 and is there any safety issues; Staff stated that it is not that close to the Hwy and not a safety issue.

Bruner stated he doesn't see a downside to having this trail coming into the arboretum.

Bruner asked what type of product is used for the boardwalk; Staff stated that it will be treated wood product.

Kobilarcsik asked what is in the budget for this project; Staff stated partners contribution is 25% for each of the total. The county contribution is 50% of the project costs. Federal funds reduce everyone's cost proportionately. The county's portion would be a little over 3 million.

Boettcher stated that at the Chanhassen park meeting, the cost was shared. It looks like it has gone up a lot over the last 6 months and thinks we should get it built as quickly as possible. Conversation was had on the cost and potential reasons behind it. Also asked if the Arboretum is still onboard; staff stated yes.

Kobilarcsik stated that is a vital trail connection to this area and would be well received by the public to have that connection through the Arboretum and that this project needs to go forward. Conversation was had on the trail connection in this area and the look of the boardwalk and the underpass area.

No other questions or comments

b. Draft Campgrounds Operation Plan

Staff shared with park commission members an operations plan and guidelines for the campground to open. Staff stated that the campground facility will open on June 1st. Staff stated they are working on minimizing customer contact. Staff shared how visitors are to use a window at the barn to check in, encouraging people to make reservations on-line or by phone. Firewood will be a self-pay system, no ice sales. We will have no lobby hours. The lobby will remain closed. We will be sending out prearrival notices to campers before they come to park and provided handouts when they arrive. Campground restrooms are cleaned at a higher rate during the week and weekend. We have done some things in the bathrooms to align with COVID compliance guidelines by installing paper towel dispensers and disconnecting air hand dryers, added toe openers so you don't have to use a door handle and use your foot. If we do meet with customers in the lobby area, we will have glass screens. We will supply staff with PPE for their use. Staff is trained on other CCD guidelines. There is no group camping currently, and we are not renting equipment. We have offered full refunds up to this point, we will revert to our refund policy once we open.

Some concern with spacing of some of our campsites and after visiting with DNR will monitor these sites and may have to add physical barriers. We will update guidelines as we learn more things and we test in the field and observe what is going on in the campground.

Questions or Comments:

Bruner asked if we are opening only weekends and not during the week and stated we should let people self-regulate at the campsites. Staff stated that we will be open during the week as well as the weekends after June 1st.

No other questions or comments

c. Draft Beach Operations Plan

Staff shared with park commission members that the beaches are signed closed at this time; Lake Waconia is closed due to the construction activity. Sheriff's office is helping with maintaining this closure. Staff shared other beaches that have also been closed in the area, which could make the Lake Minnewashta Regional Park very busy. Staff has been working with Public Health Dept. with a phased approach to opening services. Option 1 is closed beach; Option 2 is a self-guided; this approach would rely on the public to maintain their own social distancing and be willing to disperse on their own accord. Lifeguard services starting mid-June. Option 3 would be a full service; this would consist of additional service to help maintain social distancing and manage the overall capacity of users at the beach area under COVID guidelines and has lifeguard services. Park staff will briefly educate beach goers on the beach use guidelines and social spacing marked by a cone or picnic table and inform people when the beach is at capacity.

Staff stated that they don't know what will happen. Lake Minnewashta and Lake Waconia can be very busy during peak summer. Staff stated that we don't have to go with Option 3 right away. We can start with Option 2 and see what happens or use Option 3 when we know that the beach will be heavily used.

Comments from park commission were in favor of self-guided Option 2 approach with additional signage. If the beach becomes overcrowded; we can look at going to Option 3 to help with mitigation of the larger numbers at the beach.

Staff stated that the recommendation that had been delivered to the county board was option 2 with the self-guided process, but staff will talk to them about if crowds become too large.

Burner makes motion for Option 2 of the phased beach opening.
Modeen Second the Motion.
Motion passed 4 to 3.

Questions or Comments:

Bruner stated that he feels people should make their own decision when coming to the beach and if they think it is too crowded, they don't have to stay.

Modeen stated that taking a measured approach, and if things get out of control, we would have the option to close and reassess the options. He hopes people can follow the guidelines.

Kobilarcsik stated that going forward in a controlled manner is a good idea and having a controlled environment is a good idea also.

Van Eyll stated that he likes the phased approach and having somebody at the beach to control what is going on in the parks. Also stated people are going to use regardless of if it is open or not.

Modeen asked about if there has been discussion that if someone claims that they were at the beach. Is this a risk for the county? Staff stated that they have worked with Public Health. Public Health stated that if we could come up with a program that keep people socially spaced, they were in favor with a phased opening. Public Health would not be comfortable with crowds not following guidelines and we would have to get other options going forward if that happens.

No other Questions or Comments

d. Review Signage Design for Waconia Regional Park and Coney Island

Staff shared they are reviewing signage for Coney Island. The signage could be universal for the park system. Staff stated that they are working on signage to honor the Hoffman family with a monument or a Kiosk type sign. Staff shared renderings of different signage. Staff shared the two different options for kiosk signs sharing what they looked like. Also shared were different types of interpretive signs and two different options with visitor entrance monuments type signs and what they might look like. Staff is looking for feedback and what options that the park commission would like.

Staff said we will refine the signage and bring back at a later meeting.

Questions or Comments:
Bruner asked what the cost would be; Staff stated at this time we don't have cost. We are looking at style and if it is attractive, durable and the will public like it.

Staff asked park commission members what option they liked.
Bruner stated he like the option 2 for the kiosk sign and option 2 for the entrance sign.
Kobilarcsik likes option 2 for the kiosk sign and likes both entrance monuments.
Modeen likes option 2 for kiosk and likes option 1 for entrance monuments.
Boettcher likes the interpretive wayfinding signs and maybe using a scout group or local school to do these signs.
Van Eyll likes option 1 for the kiosk, and option 1 for the entrance sign.
Lagergren likes option 2 for the kiosk and likes both monument signs.

No other questions or comments

<u>Staff Reports:</u> (8:16 p.m.)

MN River Bluffs Regional Trail

Staff stated that the slope failure on the MN River Bluffs trail went out to bid and this project will go forward with work possibly beginning after July 1st.

Questions or Comments:
Kobilarcsik asked when this project will be completed; Staff stated that it will need to be completed by June of next year to hold on to the funding to obtain the trail.

Kobilarcsik stated that he saw in local newspaper that there were two pedestrian bridges being install on the new Hwy 101 corridor and asked if staff were aware of this. Staff was not aware; conversation was had on the washout area.

No other questions or comments.

<u>Commission Member Reports</u>: (8:20p.m.)

Boettcher State that City of Chanhassen is working on having a few different options to view the 4th of July fireworks display. The City of Chanhassen is working through those options currently. The flyover will still

take place. He also commented that Todd Hoffman and Todd Gerhardt are both retiring this year from the City of Chanhassen.

Bruner shared his Met Council meeting Highlights.

Next Meeting Date: (8:26 p.m.)
Next meeting will be on June 10, 2020.
This meeting could possibly be held at Lake Waconia Regional Park.

Adjourn Meeting: (8:26 p.m.)
Boettcher motioned to adjourn the meeting.
Van Eyll seconded the motion.
Motion passed 7 to 0.

Final Minutes prepared by Connie Keller

Approved by Commission Chair Gerald Bruner