



CARVER COUNTY PARKS

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Division of Public Works

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Park Commission Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Public Works Building

11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN

Regular Meeting Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call (6:30 p.m.)
- 2) Approval of the November 13, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes (6:31 p.m.)
- 3) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (6:32 p.m.)
- 4) Approval of Agenda (6:33 p.m.)
- 5) Open to the Public (6:35 p.m.)
- 6) Old Business (6:40)
 - a. Aerator Operation Guidelines/Policy
 - b. Lake Minnewashta Conceptual Designs
- 7) New Business (7:15 p.m.)
 - a. Designated Areas for Alcohol (Beer and Wine) Consumption
 - b. Permitting County Operated Programs Involving Archery, Atle Atle, BB Guns or Similar Guns
 - c. Lake Bavaria Boat Access -Cooperative Plank Agreement
- 8) Staff Reports (7:45 p.m.)
 - a. Yearend Recreation Report
 - b. Campground Operations
 - c. Trail Pavement Management Plan
 - d. 2040 Regional Park Policy Planning Activity
 - i. Parks
 - ii. Bicycle
 - e. Southwest Regional Trail
 - f. Phase II of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail
 - g. Lake Minnewashta Park and TH 41 Trail
 - h. Events and Activities
- 9) Commission Member Reports (8:25 p.m.)
- 10) Set Next Meeting Date (8:30 p.m.)
- 11) Adjourn Meeting (8:30 p.m.)

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

Draft **Meeting Minutes** November 13, 2013

Members Present: Myron Karki, Jim Manders, Carroll Aasen, Cindy Dobratz, Ron Trick, Tom Hermann, Josh Ives

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Sam Pertz, Connie Keller

CALL TO ORDER: Karki called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

MINUTES: 6:30p.m. Manders motioned to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2013 regular meeting minutes. Hermann seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 to 0.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda: 6:32p.m.
Add Park Commission upcoming vacancies to Staff Reports

AGENDA: 6:33p.m. Trick motioned to approve meeting agenda, Hermann seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 to 0.

DISCUSSION: **Aerator Operations on Eagle Lake - (6:33pm)**

Staff presented a Power Point on the Aeration on Eagle Lake - Points from presentation are as follows:

Eagle Lake Aeration Overview

- Purpose of the Discussion
- History
- Installation Process
- Public Interest
- Risks
- Recommendation
- Next Steps

Purpose

- Improve Communication
 - Public
 - Staff
 - Parks
 - Land and Water
- County Board Members

Eagle Lake Aeration History

- Aerators seasonally installed on Eagle Lake since late 80's
- 2-4 aerators in operation (generally 2 plus backup)
- Managed by Parks Department
- Expert recommendations help guide Parks Department in Management Efforts
 - County Land & Water Management Department & MN DNR

Eagle Lake Aeration Installation Process

- Affidavit submission to local papers
 - No more than 60 days prior to use
- Wait until lake completely freezes over
 - Signage "WARNING THIN INCE" positioned on lake by Staff
 - Proper installation of aerators
- Regular monitoring of dissolved oxygen (DO) readings
 - DNR experts and County WMO experts
 - Monthly readings
- Remain in operation until open water on lake is sufficient
 - "WARNING THIN ICE" signs cannot be maintained
- Removal of aerators & signage for season

Public Interest in Eagle Lake Aeration

- Public Interest
 - Concern for health of fishery in lake
 - Reports of fish "die off"
 - Reporting "lazy, lethargic" fish – particularly pan fish
- Inquiries concerning management of aerators
 - Why haven't they been installed? - Because sufficient oxygen levels registered up until March when weather did not improve and oxygen levels did drop.

Guiding Principles for Aeration Efforts

- Work to prevent winter kill of Fishery
- Continue operations of aerators
- Work to maintain sufficient DO levels
 - Guided by recommendations from experts & routine water testing – 2x per month
 - Install aerators in preparedness for the need
 - Install aerators when conditions warrant, with anticipation of early-mid January usage
 - Consider environmental factors such as timing of freeze over, depth of snow & ice
 - Operate aerators when DO levels approach 5ppm
- Adhere to permitting process
 - Obtain permit from DNR annually
- Communication to Public
 - Notices/Affidavits
 - Properly maintained signage
 - Operating guidelines or written policy shared
- Monitor System
 - DNR inspections of aeration process
 - Inspection report provided to Park Staff

Risks with Eagle Lake Aeration

- Not "fool-proof"
 - Power outage
 - Equipment failure or possible theft
 - Weather conditions vary from year to year
 - Unanticipated weather events
 - Natural occurrences within lake/fishery
 - Disease, other chemical imbalances in water, etc.
 - Human – Possible to make mistakes
 - When to turn on, how many to use?
 - Unforeseen outcomes of refining operations
 - Safety-open water condition
 - County Exposure to risks
 - Fish die-off

- Accident

Benefits of the Eagle Lake Aeration

- Healthy Fishery
 - Maintain an environment suitable for many species of fish
 - Maintain landowner satisfaction
 - Enhances recreational opportunities and user satisfaction
 - Camping
 - Fishing
 - Shore
 - Boat

Recommendations from DNR Fisheries Staff

- Install aerators yearly to avoid winter kill
 - DNR does not recommend allowing a winter kill of Fishery
- Proper Installation
 - One placed behind another
 - No more than 70' apart recommended
 - Pointing SE (all pointing same direction) if possible – we point south/southwest
 - Minimum of 2 units typically
 - Place in deeper areas of lake if possible
- Maintain DO reading of minimum 5ppm
 - Will suffice for all fish species
- Conditions vary year to year, experience gained in 20+ year history in operation of aerators
 - Following general operations procedures for aerator operations
 - Refining operation through experience
 - Best management practices

Next Steps

- Obtain Feed back
 - Citizen Participation
 - Public
 - Park Commission
 - Staff input
- Draft Aeration Guidelines or Policy Language
 - Continue to seek similar guidelines/policy others are using
 - City of Chanhassen Parks Department aerators on Lake Susan
- Adopt Aeration Guidelines or Policy
 - Park Commission Recommendation – December

Home owners living around Eagle Lake in attendance: Charles & Debra Schrupp and Dave Zellman
 Also present where: Charlie Sawdey from Carver County Planning & Water Services and Daryl Ellison from DNR

Comments and Questions:

Karki asked how large is Eagle Lake? The size of lake is approximately 233 acres

Mr. Schrupp – Asked if funding of the aeration is funding through county taxes? Staff said yes it is.
 Wondering if the position of the aerators where they are positioned puts an equal oxygen level throughout the lake. Mr. Ellison from the DNR replied – it depends on how long the aerators are running.
 He believes that there is not an equal amount of oxygen in the lake and he did see after the ice went out last year that he did see fish dye off.

Dobratz asked if they were used last year, Staff said they did not need use them last winter, because oxygen levels were good right up until March. Things got worst in March instead of improving

Sawdey commented that turning the aerators' on late in the season could also initiate a fish kill off, if turning them on late.

Trick asked would putting them in earlier would that help, Staff said they need to refine the process and get them ready to go in. We have experienced some complaints about opening up a large area of water. So our goal is have a certain point that we turn them on, by sampling water oxygen level.

Sawdey – said the test once a month for oxygen levels in the lake. Also said fish will follow the oxygen.

Do we need to refine the turn on date, regardless of Oxygen levels?

Ellison commented that you can have good oxygen levels and they can drop suddenly. Winter conditions and changes in weather can change things.

Dobratz – Should we be more aggressive in testing the water and turning on the aerators.

Should we be testing the water every week and half would we be able to catch the oxygen levels and would it be beneficial. Sawdey replied yes it would probably be beneficial and we might be able to catch low levels faster.

What is the cost of running the aerators, Staff said we have a long history of cost and cost runs about \$300 a month, with the highest bills in February. With them being turned on end of January and trailing off in March. We don't keep track of the staff time, putting out signs and getting them ready to go.

Mr. Shrupp would like to see them started on February 1st or the end of January for sure. No later than the 15th of January.

Staff said we have them ready to go; it's just a matter of flipping a switch when we feel it's time.

Staff will draft up some language for the next meeting in December.

No other Questions or Comments

Open to the Public:

(7:09 p.m.)

Spencer Murphy - Works for Snap fitness and a small part of the company deals with parks and recreation and so he thought he come and observe a Park Commission meeting.

Old Business:

(7:10p.m.)

A. Lake Minnewashta Conceptual Designs -

Walsh presented Power point on three of the Entrance Concept with pros and cons for each entrance at Lake Minnewashta Park - points of Power Point presented.

❖ *Entrance*

Concept A Entrance

- Gate house on right side
- Staff Parking
- Service lane right side, bypass lane to left side
- Outbound lane
 - Pros
 - Similar to Baylor

- Cons
 - Less convenient to customer
 - Less efficient
 - Car doors opening up-need more space in service lane
 - Left turn exit lane needed

Concept B Entrance

- Gate house center median
- Left and right lanes on either side of gate house
- Staff Parking
- Outbound lane
 - Pros
 - Two Service lanes
 - Cons
 - Driver side away from attendant in left lane
 - Blind side traffic merging
 - Possibly confusing as to which side one needs to go for by pass, quick decision from TH41
 - Difficult to exit from left entrance lane
 - Need left turn exit lane
 - Attendant Safety

Concept C Entrance

- Gate house left hand side
- Two Entrance lanes
- Bypass lane, right side
- Service lane, left side
- Staff Parking
- Outbound Lane
 - Pros
 - Easier decision which lane to get into & opportunity to correct
 - Vehicles to one side, easier for the attendant service, monitoring
 - Cons
 - Need left turn exit lane
 - Attendant Safety

Concept C Entrance - Staff Recommended

Question & Comments:

Ives questioned why is there such a large area behind the gate house and the exit lane, Staff is to accommodate a large turning area, so if someone comes into park and decides they do not want to enter park they can make the turn to exit, or if it is after hours and gate closed they can exit the park, that is a few of the reasons planned like that.

Most all Park Commissioners also like Concept C Entrance.

Ives liked Concept B - likes that the bypass lane is separate from the service lane. He likes C concept as well.

Karki asked if there is a need for a pull over for people leaving the park, Staff we have had discussion on that space, and need to decide what we want in that space. The swing out is to accommodate a larger vehicle trying to get out of the park.

Aasen - why not put the gate closer to TH 41, Staff they would like to get cars off 41, instead of someone realize the gate closed then being stuck on 41.

❖ Boat Access

Walsh presented two conceptual designs to the park commission on potential layouts for the boat access area at Lake Minnewashta Park – Presentation showed two layouts with comparison for both type lots

Staff Recommendation is for Concept B

- User Satisfaction
 - Everything is in sight
 - Angle parking for ease of parking
 - Shorter distance to water
 - More efficient traffic flow
 - Boat access etiquette design
- Cost less
 - Smaller foot print
 - Less grading
 - Less materials
 - Less storm water Management
- DNR has similar access designs

Comments & Questions:

Aasen – He did a little survey on the internet about boat access and parking - The results of this survey was that boaters like the pull through, but also like the angled parking. They like A & B concept equally. They would like to see more single vehicle parking, also suggested having a third of stalls that are extra-long for the bigger Vehicles.

Is it required to have two handicap stalls? Staff was not sure if it is a requirement; they will have to go back to engineer to see what is required.

Dobratz comment that she likes the one way design, for safety reasons.

Karki – likes the single car stalls for the people with canoes – would like to see curb low so you don't have people hit the front of their cars. Likes concept B

Is there lighting in the lot? Staff commented not at this point.

Manders – what is the logic of the 35 sites for the park, Staff thinks that the DNR came up with number based on acreage of the lake.

Karki - are the single car spots part of the number of allowed slots? Staff would need to talk with City of Chanhassen about single car slots and if they would be included as part of the allowed 35 slots. Would also have to visit with DNR for their feedback.

Karki asked what the plan for the back lot is; Staff stated they have no real plan at this time.

Staff said they would like to tweak plan B and make sure what we have planned is acceptable.

New Business: (7:53p.m.)

A. Fee for Service Schedule

Staff presented to Park Commission a list of some changes of some of the current fee's for Park use for 2014 with the increase of some fees and the addition to new offerings. New fees will be presented to the County Commissioners on December 12th for approval.

Staff Reports (8:04p.m.)

A. Project Updates - pictures shown of finished work

- i. Off Leash Dog area fence - Fence has been installed and the area is now completely fenced in. - Have received positive feedback from park patrons.
- ii. Lake Minnewashta Playground Trail - Asphalt leading to playground has been replaced.
- iii. Barricade Old Beach Lane - bollards have been installed waiting for fence to be installed sometime this week.
- iv. Cement work at Baylor - Beach shelter, cement work and sidewalk work has been finished
- v. Lake Minnewashta Park Tree Trimming - Removing diseased trees and making trails wider.

B. SW Regional Trail: Pictures shown on progress of projects

Victoria - Paving is almost completed, just working on backfill and cleanup.

Chaska - Paving has not started on this portion of trail but should start paving and finishing project by end of the month.

C. Phase II of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail :

One item still to resolve which will be worked on this week if temperatures are warm enough. That should finish this project.

D. Lake Minnewashta Park and TH 41 Trail:

This project is coming to an end, still some issues with gas line relocation, but conclusion in the works.

E. Events and Activities:

Working with Waconia and Watertown on Archery programs going on now and in the near future Santa in Park at Lake Minnewashta will be on December 14th - Santa will have one of his reindeer in attendance.

Candle Light Ski's coming up in January & February at Baylor and Lake Minnewashta Parks.

F. Park Commission upcoming vacancies:

Those who are up for reappointment should have been notified. If you are looking to continue you will need to get your application in.

Comments:

Karki term is up and he will not re-apply, he is taking on a new roll with Sheriff's Department.

Commission Member Reports: (8:18p.m.)

Good comments on SW Regional Trail, - People are generally happy with it.

Ives - LMP looks great, Wants to know when he can get on the new trail in Chaska!

Next Meeting Date: (8:20p.m.)

Next meeting will be on December 11th, 2013 at 6:30pm at Carver County Public Works building in Cologne

Adjourn Meeting: (8:21p.m.)

Hermann motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ives seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 to 0.