



CARVER COUNTY PARKS

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Division of Public Works

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Carver County Park Commission Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Conference Room #1

Public Works Headquarters Building
11360 Hwy 212 West
Cologne, MN 55322

Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting to Order (7:00 p.m.)
- 2) Roll Call (7:01 p.m.)
- 3) Approval of the February 10, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes (7:02 p.m.)
- 4) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (7:03 p.m.)
- 5) Approval of Agenda (7:04 p.m.)
- 6) Commissioner Liaison Report (7:05 p.m.)
- 7) Open to the Public (7:10 p.m.)
- 8) Discussion (7:15 p.m.)
 - a. Annual Report to the County Board (Walsh)
- 9) New Business (7:35 p.m.)
 - a. Promotional Incentive for Camping at Baylor Park (Klevan Schmitz)
 - b. Geochaching –Guideline Revision (Klevan Schmitz)
- 10) Staff Reports (8:15 p.m.)
 - a. Update on the Dakota Rail Regional Trail (Walsh)
 - i. Ground Breaking Ceremony
 - b. Update on the Lake Minnewashta Regional Park/TH 41 Trail and Underpass (Walsh)
 - c. Events, Activities (Klevan Schmitz)
 - d. Regional Park Foundation Update (Walsh)
 - e. Legislative Update (Walsh)
- 11) Commission Member Reports (8:30 p.m.)
 - a. Equestrian Sub Committee
- 12) Set Next Meeting Date (8:40 p.m.)
- 13) Adjourn Meeting (8:45 p.m.)

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

Meeting Minutes

February 10th, 2010 Regular Meeting

Members Present: Myron Karki, Gail Von Bargen, Neil Wingert, Jerald Moja

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Lenny Klevan Schmitz

Public Present: N/A

CALL TO ORDER - Wingert called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS-

Karki nominated Wingert for Chair of the Park Commission for 2010. Moja seconded motion. Wingert accepted. No further nominations. All approved motion.

Von Bargen nominated Moja for Vice-Chair of Park Commission for 2010. Karki seconded motion. Moja accepted. No further nominations. All approved motion.

MINUTES - Karki motioned to approve the November 2009 minutes. Von Bargen seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Karki motioned to approve the January 2010 minutes. Wingert seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

AGENDA- Moja motioned to approve the agenda. Wingert seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

LIAISON REPORT- N/A

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC- N/A

NEW BUSINESS -

- a. Request for event flag pole installation at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park

Walsh summarized the presentation made last month by Savannah Riese, Meaghan Walker, and Sara Morton of Girl Scout Troup 11257 who had requested to install two event flag poles at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park near picnic area #5. The scouts had proposed that the two flag poles be installed and have a permanent base anchoring system and poles which would be erected on an event or as needed basis.

Park commission members all expressed support for the installation of the flag pole(s) and discussed the benefits of the two potential sites. After some discussion Karki motioned to approve the installation of the flag pole(s) by the Girl Scouts for their Silver Award at the originally requested location (site A). Von Barga seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

b. Metropolitan Councils Open Space Policy Plan Update

Walsh reported that at the September 2009 Park Commission meeting it was discussed that the Metropolitan Council will be updating 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan. As a part of the update Regional Park Implementing Agencies would have opportunity to support existing plan elements that are not yet master planned or acquired for parks and trails, add new parks and trail units for consideration, and or reduce possible plan elements that are not yet master planned or acquired for parks and trails. Existing park and regional trail elements such as Baylor, Lake Minnewashta, Lake Waconia, Dakota Rail Regional Trail and the Southwest Regional Trail Connection are a part of the Metropolitan Regional Park and Trail System.

For the purpose of this report, new trail units which could warrant possible inclusion into the regional system are indicated below. The Draft 2030 County Comprehensive Plan did not indicate any new park areas which are not already considered in the regional park policy plan.

The Regional Park Policy Plan describes regional trails as: Trail corridors that are intended to provide for recreational travel along linear pathways throughout the metropolitan area. They are selected to follow natural or linear features that traverse areas of scenic appeal and/or historical, architectural and developmental interest while assuring that the trail treadway will have no adverse effect on the natural resource base. The regional trails are selected to pass through, or provide access to, elements in the regional parks system. The parks and park reserves perform the important function of providing places for parking, comfort facilities, safe water supplies, etc. Trails also are selected for their ability to intersect with local trail networks, with the regional trails functioning much like regional highways that interconnect with more local arterials and collector streets. Experience has indicated that people tend to prefer trails that are relatively close to where they live. In the metropolitan area, a 1998-99 Council survey on users of regional trails found a strong local-use pattern. More than 75 percent of trail visitors surveyed lived within 3 miles of the trails they used. However, trail users are traveling from one city or county to another. It is this inter-jurisdictional trail length that makes these trails regionally significant.

Possible Trail Considerations Include:

- The Waconia to Carver Trail is supported by the 2030 Regional Park Policy Plan and conceptually consistent with the Draft 2030 County Comprehensive plan. Additionally, the trail is consistent with regional policy of connecting regional elements of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail, Lake Waconia Regional Park and connecting to local trail networks of the Cities of Carver and

Waconia.

- The Union Pacific Rail line is supported by the 2020 comprehensive Plan and Draft 2030 Comprehensive Plan. This trail is consistent with regional policy plan connecting regional elements of the proposed trail search corridor in Scott County, the Southwest Regional Trail connection Chaska to Victoria, and the Minnesota River valley Bluff Regional Trail. The proposed trail has connections with DNR state recreation lands and United States Fish and Wildlife property. This trail would connect local trail networks of the City of Chaska and City of Carver.
- The Lake Waconia - Carver Park Reserve Trail is supported by the Draft 2030 County Comprehensive Plan. The trail connects the regional park areas of Carver Park Reserve and Lake Waconia Regional Park. The trail is also consistent with an existing planned regional trail along the east side of Lake Waconia which extends from the park to the Dakota Rail Regional Trail. Trail networks of the City of Waconia and City of Victoria would be connected to this trail alignment. Note that this segment of trail replaces the regional trail alignment along TH 5 at this location.
- The Arboretum- Lake Minnewashta Trail is supported by the Draft 2030 County comprehensive Plan. As the name indicates the regional park area and Minnesota Landscape Arboretum would be connected by the trail. Additionally, the trail is consistent or connects the planned regional trail along TH 5 which would connect the trail systems of Chanhassen and Victoria.
- The Extension of Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail is supported by the Draft 2030 County comprehensive Plan. The trail is consistent with regional policy plan connecting regional element of the proposed trail search corridor in Scott County, the Southwest Regional Trail connection Chaska to Victoria. The proposed trail has connections with DNR state recreation lands and United States Fish and Wildlife property. This trail would connect local trail networks of the City of Chaska and City of Carver.
- County Road 10 Trail is supported by the Draft 2030 County comprehensive Plan. The trail is consistent with regional policy plan connecting the elements of the Luce Line Trail, Dakota Rail Regional Trail, the Southwest Regional Trail Connection and trail systems of the City of Waconia with the City of Chaska.

Trails which have regional status would be eligible for regional funding. Additionally, trails identified as having regional status tend to be eligible for other funding sources such as Federal Transportation Enhancement Grants, Parks and Trail Fund Grants or other sources.

Moja made a motion that staff proposed all six trails for regional consideration to the planning and zoning department. Von Barga seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0

c. Review Goals and Objectives for 2009

Walsh provided a handout of the Goals and Objectives which staff has developed for 2010 and 2011. Wingert requested that staff quickly review the list with the park commission and indicate what the priority of each is for staff to give the park commission a better understanding of the goals and objectives. Walsh then led the discussion and updated the park commission on the goals and objectives and indicated how staff would prioritize them.

STAFF REPORTS-

a. Update on the Dakota Rail Regional Trail

Walsh indicated that Chard Excavating and Tiling, Inc. is the apparent low bidder. They are responding to MNDOT's requests for information. MNDOT has not yet authorized work to begin, but anticipate this in the near future. Walsh also noted that the project could potentially be fully funded by ARRA (Economic Stimulus Funding) instead of Transportation Enhancement Funds and County dollars, which would free up county funds for the Lake Minnewashta Regional Park box culvert and trail project scheduled for 2011.

b. Park Addressing

Klevan Schmitz presented information about staff's work to address the buildings and high use facilities within the parks which will make it easier for emergency responders to get to someone in the event of an emergency.

Klevan Schmitz indicated that most of the work is completed for Lake Waconia Regional Park and Baylor Regional Park, but asked for feedback from the Park Commission about selecting road names for the roads within Lake Minnewashta Regional Park. Some potential road names include:

Minnewashta Regional Park Road	Picnic Loop
Nature Lane	Scenic Drive
Outdoor Avenue	Four seasons Drive

A discussion took place about Lake Minnewashta Regional Park and the roads. Park commission members suggested that the Main park road be split into two names, Scenic Drive to the west and Nature Lane to the north and that the "loop" road by shelters 3, 4 & 5 be names Picnic Loop. Staff will bring these suggestions forward to administration, City of Chanhassen and Risk Management for consideration.

c. Events and Activities

Klevan Schmitz noted that on February 6th, there was a very good turnout at the candlelight ski event at Baylor. Staff estimates that over 150 people attended the event. Klevan Schmitz handed out a draft of the upcoming edition of the parks newsletter and invited members of the park commission to the following upcoming events:

- Feb 20th – History of Winter Recreation Program 11-1 at Baylor
- March 20th – Maple Syrup Open House 10-Noon at Baylor
- April 24th – Earth Day and April Stools Day event at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park from 10-Noon.
- June 12th – Minnewashta Mutt Strut Event at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park

d. Regional Park Foundation

Walsh noted that the last meeting of the Regional Park Foundation was December 10, 2009. It was also mentioned that the next meeting is scheduled for later in February and the agenda primarily is focusing on a 2010 work plan for the foundation.

f. Legislative Update

Walsh informed the park commission that Senate File 2302 has been introduced which is for the acquisition of land needed for Lake Waconia Regional Park. At this time it is not included in the proposed bonding bill, but could be added through conference committee or other legislative process. Anglers for Habitat are a non-profit organization which is lobbying and carrying the project forward at the legislature.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REPORTS

a. Equestrian Sub Committee

Karki informed the park commission that the subcommittee met in January and began compiling the questionnaires returned from various agencies and organizations pertaining to equestrian trails. Karki also noted that at the last meeting the group was reminded that their purpose is to research and develop criteria for future equestrian trails and not to plan a specific equestrian trail in Carver County at this time.

NEXT MEETING – March 10th, 2010 at the Public Works Headquarters Building in Cologne.

ADJOURN - Karki motioned to adjourn. Von Barga seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



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DIRECTORS REPORT

March 10, 2010
PARK COMMISSION MEETING

To: Members of the Park Commission
From: Martin Walsh, Parks Director
CC: Lyndon Robjent, County Engineer
Tim Lynch, County Commissioner
Date: 3/5/2010
Re: March 10, 2010 Park Commission Meeting

Discussion

A) Annual Report to the County Board Recommendation:

Staff will present a draft of the annual report to the County Board in the form of a power point presentation. Possible discussion points to cover in the presentation include park usage numbers, projects/Capital Improvements, and emerging issues.

New Business

A) Promotional Incentive for Camping at Baylor Park

Staff is considering a promotional incentive program to increase attendance and revenue during the weekdays at Baylor Regional Park Campground. Due to lower demand for camping during weekdays, the campground at Baylor Regional Park has unused capacity. Not only are sites available but caretaker and campground host service are provided during the week as well. A way to potentially increase use and revenue during the week is to provide some incentive to users such as offering a free night camping stay with the purchase of two or more camping

stays. Additional incentives could include free parking during their stay and/or other items such as free paddle boat rental or free disc golf.

Recommendation:

For the Commission's consideration the following promotional packages are recommended for the Baylor Regional Park Campground.

3 Night Stay

Utility Site \$48.00 + parking fee (one free night of camping with the purchase of two nights at \$21 ea. + \$6 reservation fee, value = \$69)

Primitive Site \$36.00 + parking (one free night of camping with the purchase of two nights at \$15 ea. + \$6 reservation fee, value = \$51)

4 Night Stay

Utility Site \$69.00 (one free night of camping and one free vehicle permit for length of stay with the purchase of three nights at \$21 ea. + \$6 reservation fee, value = \$110)

Primitive Site \$51.00 (one free night of camping and one free vehicle permit for length of stay with the purchase of three nights at \$15 + \$6 reservation fee, value = \$86)

Paddle Boat and Disc Golf Voucher/Coupon

As an additional incentive, campers making use of the promotional 3 night and 4 night stays would be issued a voucher/coupon that would be redeemable for 3, 1/2 hour paddle boat rentals, and receive 5 rentals sets for disc golf valid only during the corresponding promotional stay period. The value of the promotional coupon = \$40

B) Geocaching –Guideline Revision

In 2003 Carver County established guidelines for Geocaching in Carver County Park facilities. Geocaching is a form of electronic treasure hunting where hand held global positioning system (GPS) units is used to find caches. The caches are typically a small container with a trinket and perhaps a note pad. Visitors to the caches exchange trinkets and leave notes for the next visitor to the cache. Carver County has several geocache sites in the park system

At the time geocaching was new activity taking place in many parts of the world including in the regional parks. Since the guidelines were established Carver County has not had any issues or problems with geocaching and the activity has been easily monitored. Information suggest that it is a good way to bring additional visitors to the park system and is a way in which electronics can be used to attract people to the outdoors and our park areas.

Recently staff met with a member of the MN Geocaching Association about programs and

activities related to Geocaching in the park areas and ways to improve the caching experience. It was recommended that we make some minor changes to our guidelines and these changes would likely attract more users to place caches in our parks. Geocaching.com is the most recognized site for registering caches around the world and the site has some basic requirements which are in place to limit the density of caches in a park area, for instance no two caches can be within .1 miles (500+ feet) of another.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the following changes be made to the current geocaching guidelines:

1. Eliminate the number of caches which can be placed in a park since the system is self regulating and not permitted in beaches, picnic areas, wetlands, playgrounds. Additionally, there has not been an abundance of requests which would indicate that we would be overrun with geocache sites in our park areas.
2. Eliminate the number of caches which can be placed by a person in our system to encourage more caches to be placed in our parks. At the inception of our guidelines for geocaching there was concern that one person may monopolize all of the caches which we allowed per park area. With the potential to have a number of geocache sites, there is less of a concern that one person would plant numerous cache sites such that others couldn't participate with their own cache.
3. Remove the one year limitation. Caches can be placed in our parks for a period of one year with the option to renew for additional years. If the cache site is working and there are no problems with it, there may not be a need to terminate the cache.

Staff Reports:

A) Dakota Rail Regional Trail

The County Board has awarded the contract for Phase 1 of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail to Chard Excavating and Tiling, Inc. Staff is working to organize a ground breaking ceremony on Tuesday, March 30th.

B) Update on the Lake Minnewashta Regional Park/TH 41 Trail and Underpass

Staff from the City of Chanhassen and County Public Works Division continues to work on a memorandum of understanding which will outline the responsibilities of the two agencies for cost participation, maintenance and longer term capital investment for rehabilitation and reconstruction. The memorandum of understanding is a preliminary agreement which will provide help with the development of a joint powers agreement which will further define who will be responsible for which portions of the trail.

C) Events and activities:

Staff will update Commissioners upcoming Maple Syrup Demonstrations, Arbor Day/Earth Day Clean Up and April Stools Day

D) Regional Park Foundation

Regional Park Foundation met February 18, 2010. Items of discussion included 2010 work plan, 2010 budget, financial report, and coordinated giving campaigns.

E) Legislative Update

- a. SF 2302 was introduced requesting an appropriation for Carver County to acquire land needed for a boat access at Lake Waconia Regional Park. This senate file is no longer moving ahead and was not included in the State bonding bill.
- b. Conference Committee recommended 10.5 million for regional park capital improvements. For Carver County the recommendation would provide \$423,000 to reimburse the County for land acquisition at Lake Waconia Regional Park. This amount matches what the Metropolitan Council had requested.
- c. The Senate Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Budget Division Capital investment Committee made recommendation, to reduce funding for operations and maintenance of the Regional Park System. For state fiscal year 2011 Carver County could receive \$41,971 which is a \$6,282 reduction from the requested amount if adopted.