



CARVER COUNTY PARKS

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Division of Public Works

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Carver County Park Commission Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Tour and Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Meet at the Carver County Government Center
Main Parking Area -Near Veterans Memorial

600 East 4th Street
Chaska, MN 55318

Agenda

- 1) Meet at Government Center Parking Lot (6:30 p.m.)
- 2) Call Meeting to Order (6:30 p.m.)
- 3) Roll Call (6:31 p.m.)
- 4) Approval of the February 10, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes (6:32 p.m.)
- 5) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (6:33 p.m.)
- 6) Approval of Agenda (6:34 p.m.)
- 7) Commissioner Liaison Report (6:35 p.m.)
- 8) Open to the Public (6:40 p.m.)
- 9) Tour of Union Pacific Railroad Corridor and Southwest Regional Trail Connection
Depart for the City of Carver (6:45p.m.)
- 10) Return to the Carver County Government Center (8:45)
- 11) Staff Reports (8:45 p.m.)
 - a. Update on the Dakota Rail Regional Trail (Walsh)
 - 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)
- 12) Commission Member Reports (8:50 p.m.)
 - a. Equestrian Sub Committee
- 13) Set Next Meeting Date (8:55 p.m.)
- 14) Adjourn Meeting (9:00 p.m.)

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

Meeting Minutes

March 10th, 2010 Regular Meeting

Members Present: Myron Karki, Gail Von Bargen, Neil Wingert, Jerald Moja, Richard Tieden, Thomas Hermann

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Lenny Klevan Schmitz, Commissioner Tim Lynch

Public Present: N/A

CALL TO ORDER - Wingert called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES - Karki motioned to approve the February 2010 minutes. Moja seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

AGENDA- Moja motioned to approve the agenda. Karki seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

LIAISON REPORT- Commissioner Lynch noted that Carver County has now purchased the Country Store Floral location to be part of Lake Waconia Regional Park. Lynch also inquired about plans for the Dakota Rail Trail in Saint Bonifacius, Walsh responded to the questions indicating that two new bridges are going to be built in 2010, one over TH 7 and one over CR 92. The bridges are planned to be completed just before our section of the trail. Lastly, Lynch indicated that a bill was introduced at the legislature for the purchase of the last parcel of land at Lake Waconia Regional Park, Walsh indicated that it was introduced but did not end up in the final bonding package which was approved.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC- N/A

DISCUSSION -

a. Annual Report to the County Board

Walsh went through a draft of the PowerPoint presentation he has been working on to present to the County Board in April or May of 2010. Walsh noted that he wanted to take a new direction with the presentation from past years and was trying to better educate the Board about what types of activities, programs and events take place in our park areas. Additionally, the presentation provided information about the increasing park use over the past 7-10 years and the additional revenue associated with the increase in use. Walsh also noted that this increase in use is also stretching the resources of the current staff. Lastly, the presentation had information about some of

the emerging issues the parks department is currently or will soon be facing.

Members of the park commission liked the new approach with the presentation and had several suggestions to staff about ways in which the presentation might be improved upon.

NEW BUSINESS -

a. Promotional Incentive for Camping at Baylor Regional Park

Klevan Schmitz presented information about 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 available 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.

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

Tieden motion to approval the camping packages as presented by staff. Von Barga seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

b. Geocaching – Guideline Revision

Klevan Schmitz explained that 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 that time, Geocaching was a 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 suggests 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.

Staff 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.

Von Bargaen motioned to approve the changes suggested for the Geocaching Guidelines. Karki seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

STAFF REPORTS-

a. Update on the Dakota Rail Regional Trail

Walsh indicated that the preconstruction meeting was held earlier in the day and that construction activity is expected to get started in April and be completed by December 2010. Walsh also invited members of the park commission to the Ground Breaking Ceremony schedule for Tuesday, March 30th. The time has not been set but likely will be late morning or early afternoon in Mayer.

b. Update on the Lake Minnewashta Regional Park/TH 41 Trail and Underpass

Walsh provided a brief update indicating staff is finishing up the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Chanhassen for the project. The MOA outlines the cost participation between the City and County and how federal dollars will be spent on the project.

c. Events and Activities

Klevan Schmitz handed out flyers for the upcoming Maple Syrup Open House and Earth Day/April Stools Day events and invited members of the park commission to attend and assist with the events. Klevan Schmitz also invited park commission members to a tree planting project scheduled for April 22nd at Lake Waconia Regional Park, but did mention that it is a weekday, making it tougher for members to participate.

d. Regional Park Foundation

Walsh noted that the last meeting of the Regional Park Foundation was February 18th, 2010. The focus of the foundation is currently finding ways in which to raise funding to support the operations of the organization.

f. Legislative Update

Walsh informed the park commission that Senate File 2302 which was introduced for the acquisition of land needed for Lake Waconia Regional Park was not included as part of the final bonding bill but as the bill stands currently 10.5 million is allocated for Regional Parks, but that number could be reduced or eliminated by line item vetoed, so it is yet to be determined. Lastly, Walsh indicated that Operations and Maintenance funding for 2010-2011 could be reduced by roughly \$6,000-\$7,000.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REPORTS

a. Equestrian Sub Committee

Karki informed the park commission that the subcommittee last met in February. Karki noted that the next meeting will be March 30th and they plan to begin outlining the criteria needed for successful equestrian facilities.

NEXT MEETING – April 21st, 2010 meet at the Carver County Government Center in Chaska and will include a tour of several locations:

- Union Pacific Rail Road
- Bridge over MN River at Carver
- Southwest Regional Trail Connection in Chaska
- Potentially Rapids Lake Unit of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge

ADJOURN - Karki motioned to adjourn. Hermann seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.