



## CARVER COUNTY PARKS

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Division of Public Works

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### Park Commission

**Wednesday, April 13, 2016**

**6:30 p.m. Tour of Baylor Regional Park**

**7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting**  
**Baylor Regional Park, Visitor Center**  
**10775 County Road 33,**  
**Norwood Young America, MN 55397**

#### Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call (7:30 p.m.)
- 2) Approval of the March 16, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes (7:31 p.m.)
- 3) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (7:32 p.m.)
- 4) Approval of Agenda (7:33 p.m.)
- 5) Commissioner Liaison Report (7:35 p.m.)
- 6) Open to the Public (7:40 p.m.)
- 7) Park Commission Orientation Presentation (7:41 p.m.)
- 8) Discussion (7:55 p.m.)
  - a. Lake Waconia Regional Park Phase 1 Development Scenarios
  - b. Funding Options for Phase 1 Development Program
- 9) Staff Reports (8:35 p.m.)
  - a. Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Planning Work
  - b. Legislative Update
  - c. MN River Bluffs Regional Trail
  - d. Events and Activities
  - e. Resilient Communities Project, Engaging Under Represented Groups
  - f. Compliance with DNR Goose Management Procedures
- 10) Commission Member Reports (8:50 p.m.)
- 11) Set Next Tour/Meeting Date (8:55 p.m.) – Proposed date May 10<sup>th</sup>
- 12) Adjourn Meeting (9:00 p.m.)

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

**Draft**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 16, 2016**

**Members Present:** Carroll Aasen, Jim Boettcher, Jim Manders, Gerald Bruner, Ron Trick, Curt Kobilarcsik, Mark Lagergren

**Staff Present:** Marty Walsh, Connie Keller, Sam Pertz

**Call to Order:** Manders, called the meeting to order at **(6:30p.m.)**

**Introductions and Welcome of New Member (6:30p.m.)**

Park Commission members and Staff welcome Mr. Lagergren and introduce themselves to new Park Commission member Mr. Lagergren also shared information about himself.

**Election of Officers, Chair and Vice Chair (6:32p.m.)**

Election of new officers for Park Commission  
Trick nominated Manders for Chair all in favor – Manders is elected for Chair  
Boettcher nominated Aasen for Vice Chair all in favor – Aasen is elected for Vice Chair

**Approval of Minutes:** **(6:34p.m.)**

Aasen motioned to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2016 regular meeting minutes Trick seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 7 to 0

**Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:** **(6:34p.m.)**

None

**Approval of Agenda:** **(6:35p.m.)**

Trick motioned to approve meeting agenda  
Aasen seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 7 to 0.

**Commissioner Liaison Report:** **(7:17p.m.)**

Shared with Park Commission his conversation with Mr. McGillivray with The Trust for Public Land stated how nice it was to work with Mr. Walsh and what a good job he did with the process to acquiring Coney Island.

**Open to the Public:** **(6:35p.m.)**

Mr. Hiltner and Mr. Falkner with the MAS were here to talk about the Observatory at Baylor Park

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

**A. Minnesota Astronomical Site Plan Amendment**

Mr. Hiltner was in attendance to present to the Park Commission the items that they would like to update at the Observatory at Baylor Regional Park which would require a site plan amendment. Staff showed pictures to the

Park Commission on what the site looks like at present and some of the concerns with existing features. Staff stated that MAS is also requesting the removal of a tree that interferes with observation of Mars.

Mr. Hiltner shared with the commission on the proposed plans and materials planned to be used at the site. Some of the items they are looking to improve include the gravel area around the observatory. He stated that they would like to relocate the observatory sign. They would improve the railing, and possibly change the step that is in front of classroom building. He stated that they will talk with contractors to see if it can be replaced or not. Mr. Hiltner shared a picture of the type of hand rail they are considering. Mr. Hiltner stated that they weren't planning on concrete replacing the gravel but keeping it gravel and just expanding it out further.

Bruner asked about the height of the retaining wall; Mr. Hiltner stated that high of wall will vary in different locations.

Lagergren stated that the height of the retaining wall in the SW corner was pretty low only about 2ft high and he also questioned on where the tree was that they want to have removed; Mr. Hiltner agreed on height of wall and pointed out on map area of tree in question.

Conversation was had on pad and the use of gravel instead of concrete and height of path.

Mr. Hiltner stated why they would like to remove the tree stating that it is an obstruction for the observation of Mars. He also stated that in coming years it will obstruct other plants, until at least 2020 when planet viewing will be at its best. Mr. Hiltner stated that they would replace the tree to be put somewhere else in the park away from the observatory.

Staff asked if we remove this tree will there be others that will need to be removed; Mr. Hiltner stated that there is a tree in the parking lot that could become a problem, but it wouldn't be for a while.

Conversation was had on the trees around the observatory and problems that might come to light in the future, and were we might not want to place trees in the future. Staff stated that we need to have a mutual understanding of tree removal in the future.

Staff asked Mr. Hiltner if they had the money to complete the work; Mr. Hiltner stated yes they have budgeted for it.

Manders asked what type of budget they have for improvements; Mr. Hiltner stated that he didn't have the exact amount but was thinking about possibly \$4,000.

Bruner asked about the cost to remove tree; Mr. Hiltner stated that they were hoping the parks department would help remove it.

Staff stated that they would be willing to remove the tree when the work at the observatory was completed. Mr. Hiltner stated that might be an issue to have all the work done by memorial weekend, they are planning a star party Memorial Day weekend that is just for viewing of Mars, and would like to have the tree removed before then. Due to being an all voluntary organization and getting people out to do work before then might be tricky.

Trick stated that the money you have allocated for this project, couldn't you tell who you hire that you need it done by this date or are you planning on doing everything yourself? Mr. Hiltner stated that he could try and get someone out there for the concrete work as soon as possible.

Staff reaffirmed that gravel is being used and not asphalt or concrete around the outside edge of observatory.

Manders reviewed the items that are planned on being updating which are the gravel around observatory, adjustment of grade around the classroom, the railing and removal of tree.

Bruner stated that he feels we should remove the tree as soon as we can.

Staff summarized the site plan to the park commission which consist of railing, block retaining wall, use of gravel or concrete and the removal of tree, staff would like to review materials being used to make sure there is consistent with existing. We should also add a not to exceed completion date.

Trick stated he understands that getting volunteers out to do work is a challenge, but feels we should have a completion date; Mr. Hiltner stated that a completion date would be based on availability of contractors and volunteers.

Kobilarcsik stated that is ok with plans, but would like to see a plan for future trees in the parks with elevations and establishing a plan that indicates a tree free zone; Mr. Hiltner stated that he could put something together.

Staff asked for park commission to motion for the approved surface, the matching of existing material to what is already out there, that the materials for the railing and retaining wall be approved by staff, set a completion date and the removal of the tree and the tree clear zone.

Aasen made a motion to go with plan as presented with use of red rock, railings and retaining wall that are approved by staff, tree removal and completion date that does not exceed July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.

Boettcher second the motion to approve

All in favor motion passes 7 to 0

No other Questions or Comments

**B. Three Rivers Park District Crow River Regional Trail Master Plan**

Staff shared with the Park Commission diagrams and maps of a proposed alignment for the Three Rivers Park District Crow River Regional Trail master plan. Staff stated that the Three Rivers Park District is requesting a trail alignment and connection to the Luce Line State Trail east of the City limits of Watertown and located within Watertown Township in Carver County.

Staff shared a staff report on the proposed trail alignment, from Mr. Kabat who is with the Planning & Water Management Department. Staff stated that the trail alignment is not a part of the County's Comprehensive plan for Parks and Trails at this time. The Trail alignment is supported by Metropolitan Council parks and Opens space staff. If the proposed master plan is approved by the Metropolitan Council the trail alignment would be eligible for funding through the Council.

Conversation was had on the proposed alignment of the trail; Staff shared maps.

Staff shared how this would impact the county master plan, it would indicate some type of cost participation from the County.

Staff asked the park to recommend approval of the alignment of the trail in Carver County

Trick Motioned to approve

Kobilarcsik second motion

All in favor motion passes 7 to 0

Questions or Comments:

Manders asked about right-a-way; Staff stated we don't have that level of details at this point.

Aasen asked about the possible boat landing area at 26 and how it might affect people putting boats in.

Kobilarcsik state that he feels it is a good project and understands a need for grant funding but was wondering why we wouldn't use local dollars to make the connection due to the work that it would take to get grant funding. Staff stated that once the master plan is approved then you are eligible for grant funding, other funds would be CIP dollars through parks and trail funding.

Manders asked if we are talking about a paved surface; Staff stated that we probable would keep it a gravel surface due to the Luce Line being gravel.

No other Questions or Comments

**Discussion Items** (7:35p.m.)

**A. Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Planning Work**

**Coney Island**

Staff reviewed with the Park Commission the master plan work for the island; Staff shared that the consultant has suggested items or locations on the island be named using historical names. This was well received by the public. Staff pointed out the trail system on the plan, showing the wider trails and more foot path trails. Staff also pointed out areas of the trails that might be more challenging having trails in certain areas. Staff pointed out the rookery area, day use areas, potential dock areas, swim beach and boat beaching areas, locations of possible tower, shelter and restroom buildings staff also shared examples of types of buildings and reasoning behind the type of buildings.

**Questions or Comments:**

Manders asked about the yellow stars on the map; Staff stated that is where we would have kiosks structures.

Manders asked once we are comfortable with the plan will we start the cleanup on the island; Staff stated that once we are comfortable with master plan we would want to move forward with the cleanup, possible to go out for bid in the fall for winter cleanup into spring.

Bruner asked who approves the master plan; Staff stated that the park commission gives the recommendation to move forward, and then it would go to the County Planning and Zoning Commission for approval to amend the conditional use permit which would include the island, then it would go to the County Board for approval, once they approve then it would go to Metropolitan Council, Parks and Open Space, Community Development Committee and then on to the Council. In order to get funding you have to have an approved plan.

Lynch asked who services Big Island; Staff stated that the City of Orono services the Island, Three Rivers has some picnic areas but doesn't think they have any tables out there. Lynch also asked if the County will need to have a barge to service the island; Staff commented that we will have to have some sort of sturdy watercraft to get items from island to main land or vice versa.

Conversation was had on type of sturdy watercraft they might need and other uses for it.

Manders asked if all the stuff on the island would need to be removed; Staff stated that most of it will have to be removed.

Conversation was had on using some of the concrete that is on the island could be crushed for rock for the trails.

Aasen asked about bringing a barge onto Lake Waconia and if it would need to be decontaminated before it is brought on the lake; staff stated yes that would be something we would have to deal with.

Aasan also stated that is sees issues with the ice and water on some of the trails on the NW corner being a big issue; Staff stated that yes he sees that as a problem.

Aasan also asked what the consultant means by naturalize lake edge; Staff stated it might be removal of buckthorn or stabilizing the banks, but staff will get clarification from consultant.

Conversation was had on trial location and if people will tend to want to make their own paths if there are steep grades.

Kobilarcsik – commented that the ultimate goal for the trail should be a full loop around the island.

Staff stated that after the consultant presented the plan for the island, there was a round of applause which seemed to indicate that people like what they saw.

No more questions or comments

### **Main Park Area**

Staff presented to Park Commission the proposed plan for the main park areas, items covered trail locations coming from town indicating the width of trail being 12ft wide, which we would match instead of a 10ft trail at least to the beach and then going back to a 10ft trail. Staff indicated that the plan shows a separate entrance to church property.

Plan also indicated a new entrance to park with an entrance to the new boat landing, plan indicates new parking areas, and location of new shelters, restrooms, play area, possible central plaza, fishing pier, beaching area for boats, and trails. Staff stated that the plan keeps the ballroom by building around it and improving the building. Staff stated that the current 2001 master plan does not include the ballroom building. Having the ballroom in the master plan may mean we have to make it more accessible to the public. Staff also showed other features of the new master plan with other amenities and they would be located in the park.

Staff shared with the commission some of the comments that were received from the public on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Questions or Comments:

Manders stated that the presenter at the public meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> did a good job.

Aasen, people at the meeting were concerned about a road to church and avoiding the wetland and the number of restroom in the park and boat access. Staff stated that at the boat access they may have biffs, staff will have to look at the more closely.

Lynch asked about the buildings if we have the event center would we have the other event building; Staff stated that it would be one or the other.

Aasen asked about having smaller picnic shelters scattered in other parts of the park for smaller groups; Staff stated that we might have other setting options for different size groups in the park, it is something we will need to work with consultant on and where shelters maybe placed.

Kobilarcsik asked about the sledding hill, he stated that it needs to be made more clear on the plan, due to being a bigger part of the park. He also questioned if the beach was big enough for the new park. Staff stated the beach is slightly larger than it is now.

Aasen asked about the sledding hill and how many days was it open; Staff stated that it was open about 3 -4 weeks Aasen asked would it pay to have a tow rope, lights and snow making; Staff stated adding those items would increase the cost to run the hill along with added insurance cost.

Boettcher asked about the splash pad being so close to beach and might that be a concern; Staff stated that it might be more of a water and sand play feature for creative play not necessarily a splash pad, similar to what we have at Lake Minnewashta and Baylor Park.

Manders asked about the parcel of land closer to town, is that a passive use space; Staff stated that it is more of a buffer from the neighborhood and church, possibly more of an observation area.

Kobilarcsik asked about a dog park on plan; staff stated that it did not make it as part of the plan; staff stated that there are already two large dog parks in the county along with upcoming city proposed dog parks and each of our regional parks has different features. Kobilarcsik stated that he supports not having a dog park; Staff stated we can't accomplish everything that people want to see in the park.

No other Questions or Comments

**B. Wildlife Concerns**

Staff shared with park commission existing park ordinance about the disturbance of wildlife in the parks except in nuisance situations. Staff shared examples of animals that have been removed from the parks things like geese, raccoons, relocated turtles, bees and wasp.

Staff commented on Commissioner Bruners concerns of the removal of cormorants from the island; staff stated that if a request to remove them from the island in the future, it would likely start with Park Commission to make recommendation.

Conversation was had on the removal of the animals in parks; Bruner stated that he wanted to make a motion on removal or killing of animals in the park that are protected animals.

Burner made a motion to not destroy any non-hostile wildlife or protected animals on County Parks land just because they are a nuisance.

No second motion

Motion failed

Questions or Comments:

Manders asked about the turtles; Staff stated most of the issues are with snapping turtles.

Aasesn – asked about bees, do we call in a bee keeper; staff stated it is more of wasps and not honey bees.

No other Questions and Comments

**Staff Reports:** (8:41 p.m.)

**A. MN River Bluffs RT**

Staff updated Park Commission on the MN River Bluffs trail, Staff stated that work will resume in April and hopefully will be completed by early June.

No Questions or Comments

**B. Legislative Update**

Legislature is in a short session, initially requested 11 million dollars in state bonds by Met Council, the Governor's budget supported \$10 million in State bonds with 7 million in Metro. Council bonds, which will go through various committees.

Staff explained the Metro Council bond amount and how it has not changed since the creation in 1974, staff stated that there is effort to have the bonding increased by 2018.

No Questions or Comments

**C. Events & Activities**

Maple Syrup open house at Baylor Park from 10:00 – 1:00 on March 19<sup>th</sup>  
Staff stated that lots of operational items taking place now to gear up for the summer!

No Question or Comments

**Commission Member Reports:** (8:53 p.m.)

None

**Next Meeting Date:** (8:54 p.m.)

Next meeting will be on April 13, 2016 at 6:30p.m. Meeting will be held at the Baylor Regional Park, meeting to take place in office reception area at Barn.

**Adjourn Meeting:** (8:56 p.m.)

Boettcher motioned to adjourn the meeting

Trick seconded the motion.

Motion passed 7 to 0.