



**Carver
County
Parks**

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, MN55322

**Park Commission Meeting
Wednesday, May 16, 2018
6:30pm**

**Lake Waconia Regional Park
Waconia Event Center
8155 Paradise Lane,
Waconia, MN 55387**

Regular Meeting Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call (6:30 p.m.)
- 2) Approval of the April 11, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes (6:31 p.m.)
- 3) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (6:31 p.m.)
- 4) Approval of Agenda (6:32 p.m.)
- 5) Commissioner Liaison Report (6:33 p.m.)
- 6) Open to the Public (6:35 p.m.)
- 7) Parks and Trails Regional Policy Plan Update 6:40pm
- 8) Site Tour of Lake Waconia Regional Park (7:15 p.m.)
- 9) New Business (8:00 p.m.)
 - a. 4th of July Firework Display – Special Event Use Permit(s)
 - b. Parks and Trails Legacy Fund 2020, 2021 Project Recommendations
 - c. Considerations for 2019 Budget Schedules
- 10) Staff Reports (8:15 p.m.)
 - a. Legislative Update
 - b. TH 5 Regional Trail Connection
 - c. Lake Waconia Regional Park Construction Planning
 - i. Coney Island
 - ii. Main Park Area Grading and Utility Plan
 - d. Park Operations & Recreation Services Update
- 11) Commission Member Reports (8:30 p.m.)
- 12) Set Next Meeting Date (8:35 p.m.) – Proposed Date June 13, 2018
 - a. Tour- Baylor Regional Park
- 13) Adjourn Meeting (8:40 p.m.)

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

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Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2018

Members Present: Carroll Aasen, Gerald Bruner, Curt Kobilarcsik, Mark Lagergren, Jim Boettcher , John Fahey, Jim Manders and Commissioner Tim Lynch

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Connie Keller, Sam Pertz

Call to Order: (6:31p.m.) Manders called the meeting to order at

Approval of Minutes: (6:31p.m.)
Bruner motioned to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2018 regular meeting minutes. Aasen seconded the motion.
Motion passed 7 to 0.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda: (6:31p.m.)
Staff noted a revised agenda item – added under old business, Astronomical Society revised plan for railing.

Approval of Agenda: (6:32 p.m.)
Aasen motioned to approve meeting agenda.
Boettcher seconded the motion.
Motion passed 7 to 0.

Commissioner Liaison Report: (6:32p.m.)
No Comments

Open to the Public: (6:32 p.m.)
Matt Wassale is present from the City of Waconia Parks Board – stated he was present to listen in on what is going on in the parks and establish communication.

Old Business (6:56 p.m.)

A. Minnesota Astronomical Society Railing

Staff asked Merle Hiltner to present to park commission members the new design for the railing at the observatory at Baylor Regional Park. Hiltner shared the new design of railing which is different than the design that was presented at the last park commission meeting in March. The new design consisted of less spindles on the area that surrounds the Onan Observatory and the area around the Casby area would consist of railing that is compliant with code.

Staff asked about the materials and the space between spindles; Hiltner stated that the material is steel and shared the thoughts on the new railing and the spacing of railings and reasoning behind it.

Staff asked if they would need a permit; Hiltner stated no permit is required but spacing needs to meet code. Discussion was had on railing and the appearance of the railing. Staff asked how it is going to look, Hiltner stated that it will look great, better than what they have now.

Staff asked for Park Commission approval if they are ok with what has been presented. Staff also stated that they will send the plan to the inspector to make sure there is no need for a permit and have it on record. Staff stated that they do feel it is a safety improvement.

Questions or Comments:

Lagergren asked Hiltner to point out where the railings were being placed on the map presented; Hiltner pointed out the location for each type of railing.

Manders asked if they will need to have lighting on the railing; Hiltner stated that there will be lighting on the stairs but not on the railing, they will also have electrical outlets on some of the poles.

No other questions or comments.

Bruner motioned to approve the new railing that is being proposed and installation.

Aasen second the motion.

All in Favor, motion passes 7 to 0.

New Business

A. Revised Goose Management Plan (6:33 p.m.)

Staff is asking the park commission to approve two new revisions to the goose management plan; these revisions will be added to the management plan that was established in 2016.

Staff shared the two revisions that they are proposing; first tactic would be an application of a product with white grape based liquid name "Flight Control Plus" which is applied to the areas that the geese feed and congregate. The geese do not like the taste of this product. The product gives off an ultraviolet reflection that geese do not like. It is applied when the snow disappears and the grass starts to green up.

The second tactic is the installation of a product called "Away with Geese" which is a strobe lighting system. This lighting system is designed to interrupt the sleeping habits of the geese. Staff explained how they are installed at the beach areas and in the water. The lights were installed late last year. Installation will occur earlier to see if that helps to be more of a deterrent.

Staff stated that these two proposed tactics have been recommended by other park agencies.

Staff would like to add these two tactics to the Goose Management Plan, staff is hoping by adding these two tactics they will reduce the need for trapping and removal services as well as the high cost for this service.

Staff requested that the park commission approve the changes to the Canadian Goose Management Plan.

Questions or Comments:

Lagergren asked if there is any effect of the flight control product to public; Staff stated that it is not harmful to humans and we would put signage up when we treat.

Bruner asked about the cost of trapping; Staff explained the cost per bird and base charge.

Lynch asked if we should get these items out now; staff stated work is progressing on getting the lights out, but with pending snow, we are holding off applying the flight control.

Manders asked about the success with other agencies; staff stated that the other agencies have had a lot of great success with the flight control product, not much feedback on the Away with Geese. Staff did say that Washington County was using this product and has had good success. Staff stated that they are trying to find a cost effective method with dealing with the goose population. Discussion was had on how these products work and if there have been any comments from lakeshore owners about the goose population on the beaches and the problems they cause.

Bruner asked if the chemical product goes into the water does it cause any issues; staff stated that it doesn't indicate anything but it is not put in the water or sand. Staff stated that it is an organic product, white grape juice.

Boettcher looked up the chemical in the product and shared the information that was found. Discussion was had on product information and if the park commission members are comfortable using this product.

Kobilarcsik motioned to recommend adding the two tactics to the Goose Management Plan conditional on hearing back from staff that it is a safe application.

Lagergren second the motion.

Motion passes 7 to 0.

No other Questions or Comments

B. Free Afternoon in the Park Proposal (7:11 p.m.)

Staff reviewed what was presented at previous park commission meeting about application for SHIP funds and stated that the greatest support was for the free afternoon in the park pilot program.

Staff shared highlights of the two year proposed pilot program. Free admittance Sunday afternoons from 3:00pm to 10:00pm Memorial Day through Labor Day is proposed. Staff stated that there will be some revenue reduction. SHIP funds will be used to off-set these a reduction in revenue for 2018. Staff will record number of vehicles coming into the park for the free time period. Staff stated that in 2019 we might have to raise permit rates, camping rates to off-set revenue lost.

Staff stated that they will take to the County Board if park commission is ok and then communicate it to the public.

Staff stated we don't know if this will increase shelter use on Sunday afternoons or if we will require more maintenance to park facilities.

Staff asked Commissioner Lynch what type of item this would be for the County Board; Lynch stated that it would be a consent item.

Questions or Comments:

Manders asked if some groups would take advantage of this; Staff stated that is for day users and not special use groups. Asked about communicating to public; staff stated we will have something that goes out that clearly spells out the day and time.

Aasen makes motion to approve program as presented.

Boettcher seconds motion.

Motion approved 7 to 0.

Informational Presentations (7:19 p.m.)

A. Waconia Event Center

Staff shared background information on the Waconia Event Center, staff stated that they have been researching other options for the Event Center like Mobile/Modular kitchens, remodeling the kitchen and the costs associated with these options. Staff also shared operational costs for the building depending on service model selected; those items consist of custodial, snow plowing, trash, utilities, tables & chairs, building and grounds stewardship, and building manager. Staff also shared list and cost of items that would need to be repaired or updated in the near future.

Staff stated that they are planning on taking this information to County Board April 24th, to implement the town hall model, also stating that the revenue may not cover the expenses. Staff stated that we need to create a sustainable plan which we will need to understand the Board's objectives, obtain quantitative building data like a market analysis, engage community stakeholders, consider partnerships, develop a building program of activities/functions, and space allocation.

Staff shared an aerial view of the Event Center pointing out the parking lot and repairs needed. Staff also shared a layout of the 'Event Center inside.

Staff shared a stewardship summary over the last eight years with expenses and revenues. Staff also shared the 2017 bookings and the size of some of the events held at the Event Center.

Staff shared some possible funding sources for the Event Center.

Staff stated after they meet with County Board they will have a direction to move forward.

Questions or Comments:

Kobilarcsik asked if the structural integrity of building; Staff stated that we are not aware of any structural defects, roof is only five to six years old.

Bruner stated that it seems to be a lot of weddings; is there any way to guess building use with an added population that might want to use the building; Staff stated that it something a market analysis would help determine.

Fahey asked about the cost for repairs and if this is preliminary; Staff stated this list was put together by the Facilities Department and not exact costs.

Manders asked how long are we looking to keep this Event Center going; Staff stated that this is a Board decision and hard to go away from something that the community wants to keep. Manders stated do we put a lot of money into something that we will have for a short period of time.

Wessale from the public made a comment and stated that they looked at the Event Center and stated that they didn't go with Event Center due to the fees associated with renting it. They wanted to be able to have the caterer of their choice. He thinks if you can make it a full service with a wedding option it might be more attractive.

B. 2017 Year Review

Staff shared department highlights for 2017 – items shared included projects completed in 2017 or got underway in 2017. They are the MN River Bluffs Regional Trail paving, Parkside Church utility connection that goes through part of Lake Waconia Regional Park, veteran's memorial began work on the site and they are planning on full construction this summer of the monument, Coney Island historical work was completed on the island, the relocation of the utility poles on CO. Rd. 92. Staff also shared items that were done by the maintenance staff in 2017; repair of fishing pier, repair of picnic tables, tree removal, built new woodshed at Baylor, install bollards on the Dakota Regional Trail, and the daily maintenance at all the parks buildings, beaches, docks, campground.

Staff shared information on the Rec & Vol. Programs for 2017, sharing the number of participants reached, how many public opportunities, sharing the number of special events which included the largest event which was the Jack-o-Lantern Trail of Fun which was a partnership with City of Chaska Park and Rec and had over 1500 people attend. Staff shared new programs for 2017 which included the MN River In a Day trip with DNR, additional paddle and grub programs and more outreach programming and summer explores program with the school district. Staff shared programs in 2018 which consist of numerous youth camps, family and private programs, try-it programs and Coney Island cleanup event to name a few.

Staff shared items that were started in 2017 and will continue on into 2018; TH 5 Master Plan that was started about a year ago was submitted to Metropolitan Council for a June approval, construction plans for Coney Island. The TH 5 construction plan; staff shared a map of the area in question and a trail alignment that the U of M Arboretum would like to see, also work on the utility and grading plan for the main park area for Lake Waconia Regional Park.

Staff shared general operations information from 2017. Items covered included usage and growth over the last seven years for the County's regional parks and trails. Other statistics included number of staff, numbers of issued permit for vehicles, shelter reservations, campground reservations, and revenue generated. Staff also shared the number of special events held throughout the park system in 2017 along with pictures of these events.

Other information provided included using the caretaker house at Lake Minnewashta for winter rentals, zebra mussels found at Lake Minnewashta boat access, using the NYA shed for park purposes, beach closures due to water conditions, number of services contracts implemented, website views, stronger focus on social media, and having our 2018 camp hosts secured in August of 2017. Staff shared with park commission campground host responsibilities.

C. Draft 2018 Work Plan

Staff shared a power point listing the 2018 draft work program, items on the list are planning and consulting for Baylor Regional Park master plan, camper cabin site plan possibly, Waconia Regional Park – Coney Island construction plan, mainland park grading and utility plan, Waconia Event Center building study, historical and archaeological grant application. 2018 misc. trail projects range from master plans, environmental assessments, wetland restoration, erosion control on North Shore Road, completing review by Met Council for the TH 5 master plan, construction plans for TH 5 trail and transportation enhancement application. Natural Resource Management for Emerald Ash Borer plan. Staff covered capital construction, maintenance and purchases which consist of Coney Island land site work, trial grading on Co Rd 92 and complete the Xcel power line relocation, staff also covered purchases of reservation software, service dock at Lake Waconia Park.

Staff reviewed a list of small capital maintenance projects for 2018 at all three parks and on the trails, replacement for grills, inspection of shelters, tree removal, playground signage, restroom painting and floor improvements, remove old house at LMP, concrete repairs, campground improvements, Boardwalk repairs, fencing and landscaping repair, lighting, seal coating, playground surface replacement, emerald ash borer management.

Staff reviewed recreation and operations program consisting of Waconia Event Center operational plan, update goose management plan, staff recruitment, hiring, and training, facility reservations and operations, special events, hosted events, programs and volunteer activities, rental equipment services, contracted services, SHIP Initiative, agency partnership.

Staff wanted to point out work plan items so these items can be pointed out on our summer tours of the parks and trails.

Staff Reports: (8:10 p.m.)

A. Legislative Update

Staff stated that we have requested \$5.57million state bonds for the Lake Waconia Regional Park, Hoppe and Jensen have introduced bills on this. We are not sure if we will be getting a hearing on this item.

The County receives CIP funding through the Metropolitan Council, state bonds are required to match Council bonds. The Governor has left the regional parks out of this bonding request. Staff explained the funding that could be lost, staff stated that they have been meeting with legislators to try and get their attention. Staff shared the number of people that use the regional parks in comparison to the state park system.

Questions or Comments:

Lagergren asked if this was an oversight; Staff stated that they don't know if it was or not.

Manders asked if all the other regional parks are doing something; Staff stated that the ten Regional park Implementing Agencies are working together in this effort. Staff stated that they meet regularly on Mondays. A hearing is scheduled in the House. Staff also stated that it looks like we will also have a Senate hearing.

B. TH 5 Regional Trail Connection

SRF continues to do the site survey work and is working on a project memorandum.

C. Lake Waconia Regional Park Construction Planning

i. Coney Island

Staff stated they are a little disappointed with archology firm that we don't have a draft letter (Determination of Effects Report) yet which is to be sent to SHPO. This could put us behind.

ii. Main Park Area

Consultant is working on layout and should see some diagrams this week, which is consistent with master plan.

D. Park Operations and Recreation Service Update

i. Recreation update:

We had great maple syrup week, not a lot of sap collected, great turnout for the open house, and wrapped up the archery series with Watertown. Staff shard pictures of these events.

Staff will hold an informal Earth Day event at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park dog park with cleanup of area, there will be a scout group at Baylor Park that will do a stick pick up in the campground.

Staff is planning an Arbor Day event on April 27th with planting trees with Southwest Christian School – if the frost is out of the ground by then.

ii. Operations Update:

Seasonal staff hiring has going well lots of new people. Camping opening weekend will begin on May 11th, Gate house staffing begin May 12th.

Staff stated that we will have two special event permits in May for approval which will be for the July 4th fireworks.

Staff stated that letters went out to homeowners for a potential prairie burn out at Baylor Regional Park.

E. Regional Parks Policy Plan Update & Meeting with Metro. Council Representatives

A meeting is planned with representatives from Metropolitan Park and Open Space Commission about changes in the policy plan. Staff stated that there will be changes to that policy, discussions have been going pretty well but some of the policies don't fit all parks agencies. They are planning on coming out to talk about the changes.

Staff stated we will meet with them and then go out to the park for a tour.

Commission Member Reports: (8:25 p.m.)

Bruner shared that he attended his first meeting at the Met Council committee, it was very interesting. He is one of a few rural representatives amongst the city people. Bruner shared his thoughts on the meeting. Conversation was had on Miller Lake being in the comprehensive plan and the process for bringing an area of Miller Lake into the park and trail system.

Boettcher stated that the Chanhassen Park and Rec talked about the TH 5 Trail and have lots of questions. Staff stated city staff are aware of the project, the costs participation and plan to get project going.

Manders asked about if staff will be tracking how many people come in to parks for the Sunday free day; Staff stated that yes we will track this for the first year. He also commented on the park programs he saw in the Chanhassen Recreation magazine and asked if we advertise these in other city recreation magazines; Staff stated that yes we do have them in our partners city magazines and also that we will be sending out the postcard that was shared at last month's meeting to all the rural addresses that don't typically get the publications that advertise camps and programs. Staff also stated that a flyer will be in the papers in the next week or so.

Next Meeting Date: (8:33 p.m.)

Next meeting will be on May 16, 2018 at 6:00p.m. Plan is to meet at Lake Waconia Regional Park
Staff will confirm this date and place.

Adjourn Meeting: (8:34 p.m.)

Boettcher motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Aasen seconded the motion.

Motion passed 7 to 0.

Final Minutes prepared by Connie Keller

Approved by Commission Chair

