



**Carver
County
Parks**

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, MN 55322

**Park Commission Meeting
Wednesday, June 13, 2018**

**Baylor Regional Park
Visitor Center
10775 County Road 30
Norwood Young America, 55397**

Site Tour 6:00pm

Regular Meeting 7:15pm

Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call (7:15 p.m.)
- 2) Approval of the May 16, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes (7:16 p.m.)
- 3) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (7:17 p.m.)
- 4) Approval of Agenda (7:18 p.m.)
- 5) Commissioner Liaison Report (7:19 p.m.)
- 6) Open to the Public (7:25 p.m.)
- 7) New Business (7:30 p.m.)
 - a. Draft 2019 Operations & Maintenance Budget (Materials Distributed at Meeting)
 - b. Special Event Use Permits
 - i. Lake Waconia Triathlon
 - ii. Tonka Mud Run
- 8) Staff Reports (8:00 p.m.)
 - a. Lake Waconia Regional Park Construction Planning
 - i. Coney Island 30% Construction Plans
 - ii. Main Park Area Grading and Utility Plan
 - b. Upcoming Planning Work
 - c. Upcoming Maintenance Projects
 - d. Legislative Update
 - i. Lake Waconia Regional Park
 - ii. Metro. Council CIP
 - e. Veterans Memorial
 - f. Park Operations & Recreation Services Update
 - g. Transportation Enhancement Grant Applications
- 9) Commission Member Reports (8:45 p.m.)
- 10) Set Next Meeting Date (8:50 p.m.) – Proposed Date July 11, 2018
 - a. Tour- TBD
- 11) Adjourn Meeting (8:55 p.m.)

Please note if a Commission Member cannot attend the meeting, please call the Park Office at 952-466-5250.

R:\Parks\Park Commission\Agenda's\2018\6-13-18.docx

Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2018

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

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Connie Keller, Sam Pertz

Call to Order: Manders called the meeting to order at **(6:36p.m.)**

Staff welcomed representatives of the Metropolitan Council to the Park Commission meeting and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes: **(6:38p.m.)**
Aasen motioned to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2018 regular meeting minutes. Bruner seconded the motion.
Motion passed 7 to 0.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda: **(6:38p.m.)**
None

Approval of Agenda: **(6:38 p.m.)**
Bruner motioned to approve meeting agenda.
Aasen seconded the motion.
Motion passed 7 to 0.

Commissioner Liaison Report: **(6:39p.m.)**
Commissioner Lynch was unable to attend.

Open to the Public: **(6:39 p.m.)**
Lane Braaten and Lynn Dyers from City of Waconia present to listen in on plans for Lake Waconia Regional Park. Emmett Mullin, Dan Marckel and Council Member Deb Barber were present from the Metropolitan Council.

Parks and Trails Regional Policy Plan Update **(6:40p.m.)**

Staff stated that staff from the Metropolitan Council is here to update the Park Commission members about the update to the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

Mr. Mullin stated that the reason for their visit is to update everyone on the progress of the policy plan. Mullin stated that the policy guides the park system and the funding process and he and Marckel are here to explain and take questions from the Park Commission. Mullin stated that regional parks are nature based systems with large acreage. Marckel shared a paper point with Park Commission members. Items covered in the paper point; MN Statute requirements, prepare and adopt a long range system policy plan for the regional recreation open space, identify park and trail areas, acquisition and development, 5 year capital improvement program and estimate costs for the acquisitions and development. They comprehensively review the plan every four years and that is when they review and tweak the policy if needed.

Marckel stated that there are two main sections in the plan which include policies and strategies, and the Regional Parks System Plan. Also, stating that regional park system is nature based recreational activities. Other elements of the plan include facilities, siting, acquisition and criteria, planning strategies about equity, finance, and system protection. He shared a map of the regional parks system plan showing existing, planned and search areas in the metro area for trails and parks.

Questions or Comments

Bruner asked about the potential future sites in Carver County; Staff stated the Regional Policy Plan is consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan for Miller lake and the park search area in the Minnesota River Valley. Discussion was had on the search areas.

Manders also asked about the red dots in Carver County and the Minnesota River Valley property. He questioned if that would be a cooperative with the wildlife refuge; staff stated that there is language in the comprehensive plan that does state that it could be a joint plan or a standalone if partnership is not obtained. Discussion was had on the property and other joint efforts that other counties that have worked with the DNR, wildlife and fisheries.

Bruner commented about the dot on the map for the search areas and was wondering if these are the only parks to be added; Mullin and Marckel stated that this is a discussion that will happen in 2019 with the council to have a clearer vision and criteria of what is a regional park and trail. Discussion was had on the process of searching for areas, funding and changes of the comprehensive plans for each county.

Barber stated that the trails comprehensive plan will be a big topic over the next few years. Discussion was had on the trail transportation policy and bike trails.

Staff reviewed the acquisition for the Lake Waconia Regional Park and shared the process of these funds. Staff also shared the background on the funding and reimbursement of these funds back to the county which has spanned over 16 years, also stating that there is still more money to be reimbursed. Staff stated that the policy update won't address this funding process but might be something to address in the future. Staff also shared other sources of funds that are obtain from the Parks and Trails Legacy funds; staff shared a handout with the cost of development of the Lake Waconia Regional Park. If all of our yearly allocation of the legacy funds were applied, it would take over 37 years to fund the improvements to the park. Staff stated that it would nice in the future that there would be funds to jump start underfunded parks or smaller agencies so they can upgrade their parks to get the users into the parks like the larger agencies. Discussion was had on these challenges and the funding possibilities for funding and meeting the criteria for these other funds.

Staff also shared that the equity usable grants and how those funds could help us update things to help attract users to the parks. Staff also stated that making the grant process to amend grants an easier process is desired. Mullin stated that they are looking into this process and hoping making it an easier process.

Staff also asked about the Regional Bikes Transit Network and is this system really right for suburban/rural areas and should it reflect getting people in the suburban/rural areas to a bus transit station instead of all the way downtown. Staff stated that when applying for transportation enhancement funds for new trails, the cap is five million. Larger projects should compete against themselves and the projects in suburban area should also compete against themselves to help distribute dollars. Discussion was had on the RBTN and the process of these funds and how it will evolve and will be updated. Mullin stated that they are looking to sit down with the bicycle transportation people to enhance this process.

Marckel shared the time frame for the plan update and stated that it will be out for public comments in August and public hearing in September with the hope to have it updated by November 2018 for council to adopt the updated policy plan.

Marckel shared the process to updated the plan which consisted of community engagement, park implementing agency planning sessions, internal staff teams, council member work groups, Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission , and engagement with park agency boards/commissions. Marckel also shared the work areas for policy plan update which consist of statutory requirements, responding to legislation, update, align, and strengthen policy language. Marckel also stated that they will have a new element which is administrative program guide which will complement the policy plan and provide efficiencies to complement the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan and will not affect system plan map or local comprehensive plans.

Marckel also shared items for future planning process for 2019 and beyond.

Bruner asked if the uniqueness of Coney Island would qualify for more funding for the island; Mullin stated that are interested in the island and realizes that funding is not easy to be obtained. Marckel stated funding is limited and the uniqueness does not move it up for funding. Discussion was had on funding and the challenges to obtain these funds, and do we set new criteria in the policy or consider other funding options.

Staff stated the funds used to purchase the island and that process and the funds that we do have to help with the cleanup of the island and the challenges to get funding for the main parks. Staff shared a graph on the O & M appropriations and the actual costs for the parks and how the gap is getting further and further apart. Discussion was had on the funding on how the funds are spread throughout the state to the state parks and the regional parks and educating legislators on funding to the parks and the ongoing costs. Discussion was had on state bonding and the Met Council funding and overall strategies.

Manders asked about the request for \$15 M in state bond to achieve \$51 M for the regional parks system and if that would be addressed in staff updates; Staff stated we hope to know more on Monday on the outcome of the bonding bill.

No other questions or comments

Site Tour of Lake Waconia Regional Park (7:50 p.m.)

Staff went out to the park with Park Commission members and City of Waconia staff members and shared a map of the park and on the potential updates to park if funding becomes available. Staff shared that Metropolitan Council will be coming through the park with a sewer project and stated that we are hoping to grade a trail that would go through the park and go out to Hwy 92. Staff is working with consultant with a grading plan for the park. Questions came up about trail on Hwy 92 and the process of funding a trail up to Island View Golf Course and trail eventually to the Dakota Rail Regional Trail.

Staff shared other information on the structures in the park and there longevity. Staff shared information of the power poles still in the park and how they should be removed shortly.

Staff stated that there is no time line on the DNR project inside the park. Discussion was had on the DNR funding and if these funds would be used to start this project.

Staff pointed out the Event Center and stated meeting with the County Board on running the Event Center, and events that are scheduled to use the Event Center in the short term.

Staff shared larger events that are held inside the park, like endurance events, the 4th of July fireworks and potential larger events that could come into the parks.

Staff stated that Parkside Church has finished their project and have restored the area that was crossed inside the park.

Questions or Comments:

Dyers asked about the trail that is planned for Regional Trail along Hwy 5 to Waconia; Staff stated this is part of the 2040 comprehensive plan and has not been a master plan for this portion yet. Discussion was had on possible corridors for this trail, which could go through Carver Park Reserve and also other trail alignments around Lake Waconia. Questions also came up about use numbers and funding.

New Business (8:26p.m.)

A. 4th of July Firework Display – Special Use Permit(s)

Staff presented to Park Commission Members the proposed permit request for activities inside the Lake Waconia Regional Park and Lake Minnewashta Regional Park for 4th of July displays. Staff gave the particulars for each park and sharing that the Waconia Chamber of Commerce is requesting a permit at Lake Waconia Regional Park and USA Compliance is requesting a permit for Lake Minnewashta Regional Park on behalf of the Lake Minnewashta HOA. Staff also stated that the Waconia Chamber is also requesting that they be able to coordinate with scout groups to collect donations to offset the cost of the fireworks. Staff is asking for the Park Commission's recommendations for approval for the special use permits to go to County Board.

Fahey motioned to approve the special use permits for 4th of July Firework Displays in the parks
Aasen seconds the motion.
Motion passes 7 to 0.

B. Parks and Trails Legacy Fund 2020, 2021 Project Recommendations

Staff shared with Park Commission members a list of project recommendations to be funded with the 2020 and 2021 legacy funds. The list consists of TH5 Arboretum Trail Connection, Coney Island development, MN River Bluffs slope failure correction, LMP playground, Baylor board walk, LMP trail Lighting, LWP Trail development. Staff is recommending the TH 5 project and the Lake Waconia and Coney Island projects be the two projects slated for the 2020 and 2021 funds.

Questions or Comments:

Manders stated that it boils down to resource and the development of Coney Island; Staff stated that if we don't do a good a quality job with development on the island, there is a chance that the improvement won't be respected and it will be vandalized. Manders asked if some of these funds addressing the development of island or access to island; Staff stated that it would do both to get people to and from the Island. Staff stated that we don't know enough about costs at this point. Manders asked if there is good publicity and would that change the funding for the island; Staff it might help.

Aasen motions to accept the staff recommendations of the TH 5 Arboretum Trail Connection project and the Lake Waconia and Coney Island Development.

Kobilarcsik seconds the motion

All in Favor

Motion passes 7 to 0.

C. Considerations for 2019 Budget Schedules

Staff stated that the 2019 budget process is underway and staff wanted to share at this time the different schedules for the county budget. The Schedules are Schedule A – Net Levy Increase, Schedule B is staffing increase, Schedule E is software or other one time projects.

Staff is proposing for Schedule A is eliminating entrance fee's which would mean a net increase in levy funds to offset the loss of entrance fees currently, this is included with all county levy increases. Discussion was had on the loss of fees and if there would be staff in the park and would this get more people into the parks.

Staff stated that the Scheduled B is a staffing request for a full time manager staff person and additional seasonal staffing. Scheduled E was funding for projects.

Aasen Motion to approve the recommendations as presented by Park Staff

Kobilarcsik second the motion.

6 in favor 1 opposed.

Motion passes.

Questions or Comments

Bruner stated that this is a lot of money to lose when we have lots of things to do in the parks; not sure if he is for this approach. Lengthy discussion was had on eliminating the entrance fee and comments were made on Three Rivers Parks eliminating the entrance fees and that property taxes increased to offset this fee.

Manders asked if there is a formula for staffing needs; Staff stated that not aware if it is available for the counties.

Burner stated that he doesn't know if he can support this.

Fahey asked these recommendations go to County Board; Staff stated that we provide these request to county administrator then he will present the administrator budget for the whole county. Not all these will make the cut. Fahey stated that staffing might be one of the items that they cut; Staff stated that adding additional staffing is a challenge.

No Other Questions or Comments:

Staff Reports: (8:55 p.m.)

A. Legislative Update

Staff stated that there is no solid news and we hope to know more by Monday if Regional Parks is in the mix for funding and bonding for Lake Waconia Regional Park.

B. TH 5 Regional Trail Connection

Met with MNDOT on project to go over schedule and the process, we are in good shape with overall design progress and project memorandum.

C. Lake Waconia Regional Park Construction Planning

i. Coney Island

Staff has sent back the report with staff comments on determination and effects report with changes. Staff stated that they got it back to review again. Work is being done to advance a conversation with SHPO.

ii. Main Park Area

Consultant is working on site plan, balancing soil surplus, and what the future utility lines would look like. Staff stated that they have meet with developers for a proposed development to the north of the park. The issue is lack of sewer and water services up to that property; they are proposing to bring sewer and water through the park at their costs. At this point we don't have enough information on our development plan due to not knowing what our future facilities elevations might be.

D. Park Operations and Recreation Service Update

i. Recreation update:

Staff mentioned the Coney Island kick-off to cleanup and stated that there would be a formal invite sent out to all next week. Staff stated that they are trying to keep the buzz going about the island; there will be a number of items to kick off the island cleanup.

County Board approved the Sunday afternoon free day in the park; staff stated that we will still staff gate houses this year to take counts and direct people coming into the parks.

ii. Operations Update:

Campground is open and staffing will start at gate houses Memorial Day weekend.

Staff stated that we are still working on getting all permits for the construction phase to repair the North Shore Road/ Dakota Rail RT erosion area and hoping to have this completed by fall.

Staff shared that there might be opportunities to get soil to fill the area to bring the parking lot to grade for the Hwy 10 trailhead parking lot on the Dakota Regional Trail in Waconia

Staff presented to the County Board information on going forward with the Event Center at Lake Waconia Regional Park. Staff stated that there is more conversation that needs to take place to determine if weddings will be part of the overall plan. Staff shared the short term plan with the larger community events. Staff shared that items that need to be addressed for the stewardship of the building and the cost to do this and the resources needed to do this.

Staff also stated that in the long term there should be a building study to continue with the building as is. The County Board did not make a decision on this and staff will bring back to them next month.

No other Comments or Questions

Commission Member Reports: (9:11 p.m.)

Bruner stated that he would be at the Land Use Committee meeting and he intends to make sure to bring up the funding topic for the parks.

Boettcher stated that he thought the conversation with the Met Council people was good.

Next Meeting Date: (9:15 p.m.)

Next meeting will be on June 13, 2018 at 6:00p.m. Meet at Baylor Regional Park

Adjourn Meeting: (9:16 p.m.)

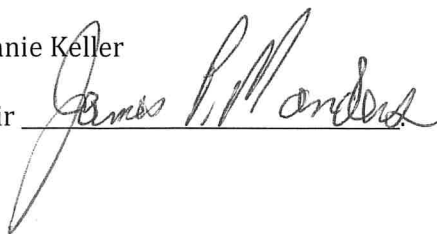
Boettcher motioned to adjourn the meeting

Aasen seconded the motion.

Motion passed 7 to 0.

Final Minutes prepared by Connie Keller

Approved by Commission Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James P. Mandus", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.