



CARVER COUNTY PARKS

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Division of Public Works

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Carver County Park Commission Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 2011

Conference Room #3

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

Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

- 1) Call Regular Meeting to Order (7:00 p.m.)
 - a. Welcome New Member Cindy Dobratz
 - b. Reappointment of Commissioner Karki
- 2) Roll Call (7:10 p.m.)
- 3) Approval of the December 8, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes (7:011 p.m.)
- 4) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (7:12 p.m.)
- 5) Approval of Agenda (7:13 p.m.)
- 6) Commissioner Liaison Report (7:14 p.m.)
- 7) Open to the Public (7:15 p.m.)
- 8) New Business (7:20 p.m.)
 - a. Review Goals and Activities of 2010
 - b. Proposed Grant Applications
- 9) Staff Reports (8:40 p.m.)
 - a. TH 41 Trail and Underpass (Marty)
 - b. Dakota Rail Regional Trail (Marty)
 - c. Union Pacific Railroad Acquisition (Marty)
 - d. 2010 Park Usage and Revenue Information (Lenny)
 - e. Events, Activities (Lenny)
 - f. Regional Park Foundation Update (Marty)
- 10) Commission Member Reports (8:50 p.m.)
- 11) Set Next Meeting Date (8:55 p.m.)
- 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
December 8th, 2010 Regular Meeting

Members Present: Neil Wingert, Jerald Moja, Thomas Hermann, Myron Karki, Gail Von Bargaen

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Lenny Klevan Schmitz

Public Present: Members of the Equestrian Sub Committee including Becky Scott, Carol Dunsmore, Mara Carlson, Suzanne Lowy

CALL TO ORDER - Wingert called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

MINUTES - Hermann motioned to approve the November 10th, 2010 minutes. Moja seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

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

LIAISON REPORT- N/A

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC- N/A

OLD BUSINESS

a. Equestrian Sub-Committee Report

Myron Karki who represented the Park Commission on the subcommittee spoke briefly about the history of the equestrian subcommittee. Karki talked about the site visits they took and the different experiences he had on horseback. Karki noted that equestrian trails plan is short and sweet and to the point and has referenced many different other sources but the most significant is the "Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads and Campgrounds" by the US Department of Agriculture by the Forest Service. Karki also mentioned the group explored the concepts of future park and trails for equestrian use in Carver County. Karki mentioned the realization is these things take large piece of land and hopes someday the right opportunity will present itself.

Other members of the equestrian subcommittee shared their thoughts and stories about the process of developing the report. They also shared their passion for horses and the importance of having these types of facilities within our park system.

Moja motioned and Von Bargaen seconded the motion to accept the Equestrian subcommittees report and thank them for their hard work. Motioned passed 5-0.

b. Master plan for the Extension of the MN River Bluffs Regional Trail and Scott County Connection

Walsh provided a brief recap about the process of acquiring the UP rail line from Chaska to Carver and over the Minnesota River into Scott County as part of a PowerPoint Presentation. Walsh noted that he met with the City of Carver this past Monday and they had a few suggestions to include into the master plan, which staff will be working on in the near future. Wingert suggested that more photos be added of the area and the bridge structures so people have a better understanding. Wingert also mentioned that the significances of this trail crossing the MN River where it does should be indicated as a significant crossing and explain the uniqueness and opportunity due to the habitat, migratory flyway and the major river.

Staff will be working with Scott County to finalize the Draft Master Plan for the trail and send it off to the Met Council for feedback and comment in the near future.

Karki motioned to approval of the draft master plan of the Minnesota River Bluffs and Scott County Connection to the County Board. Von Bargen seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

STAFF REPORTS-

a. Request for Signage at Bavaria Boat Access

The homeowners association, Friends of Lake Bavaria, have made contact with the DNR to replace obsolete signage at the County owned Lake Bavaria Boat Access. The Association worked with DNR officials to secure new signage pertaining to controlling and removing invasive species from boats and trailers. The County currently has small outdated signage at the access which primarily pertains to invasive plants such as milfoil. The new signs address any invasive species which might be transported by boating and fishing including Zebra Mussels. It is planned that county staff will pick up the sign soon and install as weather conditions would permit. The new sign is larger 3' x 4' and provides updated information that was previously on two signs.

Von Bargen motioned that a letter be sent to the Friends of Lake Bavaria acknowledging their work to secure the signage and proactive work to protect the lake and educate the public. Wingert seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

b. Commission Member Per Diem

Walsh reminded park commissioners to sign the attendance sheet for the 2010 year and let him know of any corrections so claims could be processed for their meeting per diems.

c. TH 41 Trail and Underpass

MNDOT's sub contractor, Envirosolutions conducted an archeological study of the construction area to determine if there are cultural resources present. Initial findings discovered a mound that needed further investigation. That mound was later determined that it was unlikely to be of archeological significance. Engineering work continues to further minimize impacts to adjacent property by adjusting the trail elevations to reduce the amount of temporary construction easements needed for the project. The last report indicates that all of the work to construct the trail would be done on public right-of-way or county owned land. Work to locate a large gas main and determine the pipes elevation in relation to excavation work planned for the trail took place. The engineering consultant has prepared a preliminary engineer's estimate for the proposed project. Staff continues to meet with adjacent land owners on an as needed basis to answer questions and address any concerns. Additionally staff just received a draft of the Project memorandum and will be reviewing in the near future.

d. Update on Dakota Rail Trail

Primary work remaining on the project includes the installation of the 80 foot pedestrian bridge at Donder's Creek and installation of approximately 2000 feet of bituminous trail surface. This bridge was to be installed November 18th. However, the bridge contractor under estimated the size of crane necessary to swing the bridge up and over the trees and into position at the bridge abutments. Setting the bridge has been rescheduled for December 10, 2010.

Pavement at Donder's Creek will occur next spring. This is the section that the crane must travel down to position the bridge. It was feared that the crane would cause damage to the pavement. This area was intentionally left unpaved until the bridge was installed.

Other work includes resolving a drainage issue at Goose Lake Drive. Design work for the drainage improvement has been completed and an agreement with the adjacent property owner has been drafted. It is likely that this work will occur next spring.

Our consulting engineer will make recommendation concerning two areas on the north side of Lake Waconia and on the south side of the trail. The former railroad embankment is quite steep and some erosion has occurred and it may be necessary to stabilize the embankments.

A final punch list of items for the contractor to complete is being developed and will be updated next spring for action by the contractor.

e. Events and Activities

Some upcoming events to be aware of include:

- Santa in the Park Event at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park on Saturday December 18th from 1-4 pm
- Winter Adventure Day Camp at Baylor Regional Park December 28-30

- Candlelight Ski/Walk at Baylor Regional Park January 8th from 6-9pm

Park commission members are invited to attend and help out with all of our events. This is a great chance to interact with the public and become more familiar with the park facilities.

Once snow conditions allow we will begin renting xx-ski at Baylor Regional Park and Lake Minnewashta Regional Park on Saturdays from 10-4 and Sundays from 11:30-4.

Lastly, on December 17th Lenny Klevan Schmitz will again be the local guest on the NYA Talk radio show talking about park events.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REPORTS

Karki noted that the Carver County Historical Society will be home to a Smithsonian Exhibit beginning December 11th.

NEXT MEETING – January 12th, 2011 at the Public Works building in Cologne.

ADJOURN - Hermann motioned to adjourn. Karki seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.