



CARVER COUNTY PARKS

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Division of Public Works

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Carver County Park Commission Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 13th 2011
Carver County Public Works Building
11360 Hwy 212
Cologne, MN 55322

6:00 p.m. Tour Dakota Rail Regional Trail

Park Commissioners will Depart the Public Works Building

Regular Meeting 8:00 p.m.

Park Commissioners Return from Tour

Agenda

- 1) Call Regular Meeting to Order (8:00 p.m.)
- 2) Roll Call (8:01 p.m.)
- 3) Approval of the March 2, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes (8:02 p.m.)
- 4) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (8:03 p.m.)
- 5) Approval of Agenda (8:04 p.m.)
- 6) Open to the Public (8:05 p.m.)
- 7) Commissioner Liaison Report (8:10 p.m.)
- 8) Election of Officers (8:15 p.m.)
- 9) Discussion
 - a. Request for K-9 Rescue Training in Park Areas (8:20)
- 10) Staff Reports (8:45 p.m.)
 - a. TH 41 Trail and Underpass (Marty)
 - b. Dakota Rail Regional Trail (Marty)
 - c. Union Pacific Railroad Acquisition (Marty)
 - d. Events, Activities (Lenny)
 - e. Legislative Update (Marty)
 - f. Annual Use Estimate
- 11) Commission Member Reports (8:50 p.m.)
- 12) Set Next Meeting Date (8:55 p.m.)
- 13) 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 and Public Hearing Minutes
March 2nd, 2011 Regular Meeting and Grant Public Hearing

Members Present: Neil Wingert, Jerald Moja, Thomas Hermann, Myron Karki, Commissioner Tim Lynch.

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Lenny Klevan Schmitz

Prior to the official meeting from 6:30-7 p.m. Carver County Parks held an open house for public to learn more about the two proposed grant application projects :

1. Lake Waconia Regional Park Playground Development
2. Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Boat access Consolidation and Redevelopment.

Public Present: Susan Wakefield, Scott Wakefield, Jim Sanborn, Jim Nash, Carrol Aasen, Rodney Golden.

CALL TO ORDER - Wingert called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

MINUTES - Moja motioned to approve the February 9th, 2011 minutes. Karki seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS - Park Commission Chair Wingert welcomed those in attendance for the public hearing for the two proposed grant applications. Wingert briefly stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to inform the public of Carver County's grant applications through the Park Legacy Grant Program and to make sure the public is aware of the costs including local match and long term operations and maintenance associated with the grants if Carver County were to be successful with either or both grants.

Lake Waconia Regional Park Playground Development Grant:

Klevan Schmitz briefly explained the playground design and the costs associated with the grant including development costs and the anticipated 20 year cost for operations and maintenance of a new playground. A handout was provided for all in attendance with additional information about the grant including a general project description, development costs, proposed implementation schedule and the 20 year operation and maintenance costs.

After Klevan Schmitz's presentation, Chair Wingert asked for some additional detail about the playground equipment picked out for the project. Klevan Schmitz provided some additional information about the pieces of equipment in the playground plan.

Wingert Opened up the Public hearing for the public:

Susan Wakefield – 7501 Edgebrook Dr., St. Louis Park – Inquired about the future plans for restrooms in the park indicating that the existing restroom facility is further from the beach and playground than a family would like especially if you are there with multiple kids. Additional, she asked what, if any, seating will be provided around the play equipment for parents to sit on while kids play.

Walsh provided answers to Ms. Wakefield's questions, first indicating that future development in the park moves the restroom facility closer to the beach and playground area, but that likely will not occur for some time. Walsh noted that staff is considering the addition of a portable restroom closer to the area for the purpose of providing better and closer access in the interim. Secondly, Walsh pointed out the planned raised planting containers are designed to provide seating for parents along with the shaded picnic table areas.

Jim Nash – 1318 Dunsmore Dr., Waconia – Asked if staff and the Park Commission have determined where the local match would come from for the grants besides an increase in the county levy? Walsh responded outlining a variety of sources which staff has indicated as potential funding sources for the match if Carver County were successful with the grant. Possible funding sources includes: Parks Designated Fund account (revolving fund primarily used for land acquisition to date), Carver County CIP Program, Met Council Regional Funding Grants, other local partnerships and grants.

Jim Sanborn – 308 w 5th street, Waconia – Questioned the need for another playground in the area. Mr. Sanborn indicated that currently in the City of Waconia there are 13 city parks and 4 schools which have playground. He also asked about the need for a water play table next to a beach which has lots of water and sand already. Lastly, Mr. Sanborn expressed some concerns about the cost of the playground indicating that this one playground may be more expensive than the 13 in Waconia combined.

In response Park Commissioner Karki noted that Lake Waconia Regional Park attracts people from not just Waconia but regionally. Staff spoke briefly about the cost for a playground of this size indicating the playground is much larger than a typical "tot lot" or city park playground. The play area for this

playground will be about 10,000 sq. ft. in size. Park Commissioner Hermann also indicated that the location of this playground by the beach and lake make it unique and an asset to the community.

Chair Wingert asked if there were any more comments. Seeing no additional persons wanting to comment, Wingert closed the Public Hearing at 7:31 p.m.

Karki made a motion to recommend that the Carver County Board pass the resolution of support and for staff to submit the grant application for the playground development at Lake Waconia Regional Park. Moja seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Boat Access Consolidation and Redevelopment Grant

Chair Wingert asked staff for a presentation about the proposed project for which we applying for the grant.

Klevan Schmitz briefly explained the proposed boat access consolidation and redevelopment grant for Lake Minnewashta Regional Park and the costs associated with the grant including development costs and the anticipated 20 year cost for operations and maintenance. A handout was provided for all in attendance with additional information about the grant including a general project description, development costs, proposed implementation schedule and the 20 year operation and maintenance costs.

Commissioner Karki indicated that if successful that Carver County should make sure to well advertise the project in the hope to take advantage of a good bid climate due to the down economy.

Chair Wingert asked "if" we would be successful with both grant applications what is the commitment to accept them both? Walsh answered by stating "if" we are successful with both, staff would provide the County Board with the options for the local match for the grants and they would ultimately decide if Carver County should enter into the grant agreements for each project. Walsh did note previously that staff have already outlined in a memo to the Carver County Board a variety of funding options for each of the grant applications.

Chair Wingert invited those present for their comments about this grant.

Seeing no one interested in commenting Wingert Closed the comment section.

Karki made a motion to recommend that the Carver County Board pass the resolution of support and for staff to submit the grant application for the consolidation redevelopment of the boat access at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park. Hermann seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

LIAISON REPORT-

Commissioner Lynch mentioned that Carver County will not be hiring a lobbyist to assist with land acquisition for Lake Waconia Regional Park for 2011 and that he along with Public Works Director Lyndon Robjert, Marty Walsh Parks Director and Commissioner Ische will be meeting with the City of Waconia in a workshop session to discuss Lake Waconia Regional Park and the master planning process.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC- N/A

STAFF REPORTS-

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

Walsh reported that Engineering work is approximately 95% complete. MNDOT would like to meet and discuss some of the design exceptions that are planned due to constraints of the project area prior to final approval and bidding of the project. Once MNDOT has approved of the design, a schedule will be developed outlining when advertisement for bids and a bid due date is planned. A meeting is being planned concerning the large gas main to be relocated. The engineering consultant has prepared a preliminary engineer's estimate for the proposed project.

b. Dakota Rail Regional Trail

The landscaping plan and signage for the trailhead facility in Mayer are being finalized. Staff will attend the Mayer Park Commission on March 1st to present the plans for the trailhead for their review. Mayer has expressed some interest in cost sharing on the trailhead enhancements which will also be discussed at the meeting. Klevan Schmitz talked briefly about the trailhead sign and the ordinance requiring 25% of the sign be a masonry type product. Staff will be discussing the costs of this and may ask the City for a variance.

Testing of fencing material has determined that the fence material used on the project did not meet specifications and will be replaced by the contractor.

The grand opening celebration is being planned for May 21st from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Mayer Trailhead. Activities being planned for the grand opening include a bike clinic, ribbon cutting, family bike ride and refreshments.

Lastly, work will soon begin on planning for phase II of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail from Mayer west to the McLeod County Line.

c. Union Pacific Railroad/Extension of the Minnesota River Valley Bluffs Regional Trail

The purchase agreement was returned to Union Pacific Railroad with requested changes. Union Pacific is responded to the requested changes. Staff is working to follow up on responses that Union Pacific has provided.

d. Events and activities:

Upcoming events to be aware of include:

- Maple Syrup Open House – March 26th at Baylor Regional Park from 10 a.m. – Noon
- Earth Day/ park clean up at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park April 30th from 10 a.m. – Noon.

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.

e. Legislative Update

The Governor's budget proposed a 40% reduction in State General Fund appropriations for Metro Regional Parks operations and maintenance (\$1,428,000 reduction). For 2012, the Governor's Budget would reduce the amount of funding for operations and maintenance for Carver County from \$41,000 to \$24,500...a reduction of \$16,500.

NEXT MEETING – April 13th, 2011 at the Public Works HQ in cologne.

ADJOURN - Herman made a motion to adjourn. Karki seconded the motion. Motions passes 4-0 Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.