



CARVER COUNTY PARKS

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Division of Public Works

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Carver County Park Commission Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 4th 2011

Baylor Regional Park
10775 County Road 33
Norwood Young America, MN 55397

Park Tour 6:30 p.m.

Park Commissioners Assemble at the Visitor Center

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 April 13th, 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) Staff Reports (8:15 p.m.)
 - a. TH 41 Trail and Underpass (Marty)
 - b. Dakota Rail Regional Trail (Marty)
 - i. Phase I Construction
 - ii. Phase II Planning
 - c. Union Pacific Railroad Acquisition (Marty)
 - d. Events, Activities (Lenny)
 - e. Legislative Update (Marty)
- 9) Commission Member Reports (8:30 p.m.)
- 10) Set Next Meeting Date (8:35 p.m.)
- 11) Adjourn Meeting (8:40 p.m.)

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

Draft
Meeting Minutes
April 13th, 2011 Regular Meeting

Members Present: Neil Wingert, Jerald Moja, Thomas Hermann, Myron Karki, Cindy Dobratz, Jeff Anderson,

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Lenny Klevan Schmitz

Prior to the official meeting from 6:00-8 p.m. Staff took members of the Park Commission on a tour of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail from the west county line to County Road 155. Stops along the way included the trestle structures west of New Germany, large depot area in New Germany, Mayer Trailhead Facility, Donder's Creek, Goose Lake Drive and the rest area on the north side of Lake Waconia.

Public Present: Denise Schultz and Bob Theilen

CALL TO ORDER - Wingert called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

MINUTES - Karki motioned to approve the March 2nd, 2011 minutes. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

AGENDA- Karki motioned to approve the agenda. Hermann seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

LIAISON REPORT- N/A

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC- N/A

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Carver County Park Commission had some discussion about the positions of Chair and Vice Chair for 2011. Jerald Moja was elected chair for 2011 and Neil Wingert was elected vice-chair for 2011.

DISCUSSION

Staff has received a request to consider rescue training for dogs within our park areas. Owners of rescue dogs would like to use our park areas for training purposes. The activity of rescue training is done off-lease which would be permitted in the off-leash dog area but not in other areas of the park by County Ordinance. The request for training of K-9 search dogs is for areas outside of the off-leash dog area.

Bob Theilen and Denise Schultz of K-9 Search Services, a volunteer

organization, talked with the Park Commission about their organization and the need to have a variety of locations to train their service animals. Bob and Denise expressed their desire to be able to use any facilities available in the area for training either during the week and/or on weekends for a variety of training exercises throughout the year but most importantly in the winter months.

Denise and Bob answered a variety of questions from the park commission members and staff. In closing Denise and Bob indicated that their dogs are not just highly trained family pets but they are legally considered a service animal which makes them different from many other users.

STAFF REPORTS-

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

Walsh reported that Engineering work is nearing completion. Plans were submitted in February for review by MNDOT and comments were received. These comments were addressed and resubmitted to MNDOT in March. Additional comments from MNDOT are expected soon and our consulting engineer will work to provide information back to MNDOT in a timely manner. The project schedule has been lengthened due to the level of review required by MNDOT. The box culvert across TH 41 has increased the amount of reviews and time necessary to complete the reviews by MNDOT. As a result, it appears that the project would be bid midsummer and the award of the contract would not happen until September.

A meeting was held with Center Point Energy to discuss the large gas main in the right of-way. The gas main would interfere with the box culvert as initially planned. Upon further review, it appears that the box culvert can be lowered to avoid relocating the gas main. The gas main would remain in its present location which will be above the box culvert.

b. Dakota Rail Regional Trail

Work to install the Kiosk structure is planned to take place over the next week or so. Trailhead identification signage has been ordered. The landscaping plan is being tweaked to provide efficiencies in maintenance. Staff did present information to the Mayer Park Commission on March 1st for their review.

Staff has been looking for drainage problems along the corridor during the snow melt and frozen ground conditions to note where problems exist and seek possible solutions to the problems.

The chain link fencing that was installed has been determined that it meets specifications. The decorative fencing material has been determined that it 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.

Tentative dates to conduct a public process for input into the design of the depot areas in Mayer and New Germany are be considered for May 4th, 10th,11th, and 12th. This meeting will also kick off planning for phase II of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail from Mayer west to the McLeod County Line. Depending on the date selected for the kick off meeting the May Park Commission meeting might be rescheduled or rolled into the kick off meeting.

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

Walsh indicated that an agreement has been reached on the terms of the sale of the Union Pacific Railroad to Carver County. A title report is being prepared. The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) approved the master plan for the Extension of the Minnesota River Bluff Regional Trail and Scott County Connection at its April 5th meeting. The action by the MPOSC moves the anticipated adoption of the plan and approval of regional funding for this acquisition onto the Community Development Committee of the Metropolitan Council before consideration by the Council.

d. Events and activities:

Klevan Schmitz reported that the Maple Syrup Open House was held Saturday, March 26th at Baylor Regional Park from 10 a.m. – Noon. Despite the cool weather about 75 people attended the event.

Upcoming events to be aware of include:

April 29th – Arbor Day Tree Planting at Lake Waconia Regional Park with the Waconia High School Conservation Club 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

April 30th – Earth Day Park Clean up at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park from 10 a.m-Noon

May 7th – Kids Birding Clinic at Rapids Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge near Carver, MN. Event runs from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

May 21st – Dakota Rail Regional Trail Grand Opening at the Mayer Trailhead Facility 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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

Walsh informed the Park Commission that 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. House and Senate committees have introduced their own bill pertaining to O&M funding reduction of 20% and 15 % respectively.

f. Annual Use Estimates

The 2010 annual use estimate for the regional park system prepared by the Metropolitan Council was released April 2nd, 2011. The use estimate tracks visits to the system's 38 regional parks, 12 park reserves, 6 special recreation features and 33 regional trails of the seven county metropolitan area.

Each year Regional Park Implementing agencies such as Carver County conduct surveys which track the number of users that use regional parks and trails. The surveys are tabulated by staff at the Metropolitan Council and information is compiled into the Annual Use Estimate which provides information about the visitor use of the system and use by visitors to each agency.

The Regional Park system experienced 7.4% growth in visits going from 38,062,600 in 2009 to 40,867,500.

The regional parks of Carver County also saw an increased in growth going from 265,000 user visits to 307,000 user visits, a 15.5% growth in attendance.

NEXT MEETING – For May, at a date and time to be determined.

ADJOURN - Karki made a motion to adjourn. Anderson seconded the motion. Motions passes 6-0 Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.