



**Carver
County
Parks**

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, MN55322

**Park Commission Meeting
Wednesday, August 22, 2018**

**Lake Minnewashta Regional Park
Maintenance Garage
6900 Hazeltine Blvd
Chanhassen, 55331**

Park Tour 6:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call (7:30 p.m.)
- 2) Approval of the July 11, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes (7:30 p.m.)
- 3) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (7:31 p.m.)
- 4) Approval of Agenda (7:31 p.m.)
- 5) Commissioner Liaison Report (7:32 p.m.)
- 6) Open to the Public (7:35 p.m.)
- 7) Consent Agenda (7:40 p.m.)
 - a. Special Event Permits
 - i. ISD 108- Special Event Permit for Cross Country Meets
 - ii. Competitive Speed Walking Marathon
- 8) New Business (7:45 p.m.)
 - a. Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail Acquisition Master Plan Amendment
 - b. 2040 Metropolitan Council Regional Park Policy Plan Update
- 9) Staff Reports (8:15 p.m.)
 - a. Lake Waconia Regional Park Construction Planning
 - b. MN River Bluffs Slope Failure
 - c. TH 5 Arboretum Regional Trail Connection
 - d. Park and Trails Legacy Fund Board Action
 - e. Park Operations & Recreation Services Update
- 10) Commission Member Reports (8:30 p.m.)
- 11) Set Next Meeting Date (8:35 p.m.) – Proposed Date September 19, 2018
- 12) Adjourn Meeting (8:40 p.m.)

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

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Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2018

Members Present: Carroll Aasen, Gerald Bruner, Jim Boettcher, Jim Manders – Tour and Meeting, Curt Kobilarcsik – attended meeting

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Connie Keller, Sam Pertz

Tour of Lake Nikomis Hiawatha Regional Park, Tour of Bde Maka Ska Regional Park and Tour of French Regional Park: (12:30p.m.)

Staff and park commission members toured three regional parks, staff from the Minneapolis Park Board and Three Rivers Park District gave the park commission members and park staff a tour of each location explaining the things that each park offers also sharing maintenance information for each park and background on why things are done at each park.

Call to Order: Manders called the meeting to order at **(6:22p.m.)**.

Approval of Minutes: **(6:23p.m.)**
Bruner motioned to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2018 regular meeting minutes Aasen seconded the motion.
Motion passed 5 to 0.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda: **(6:23p.m.)**
None

Approval of Agenda: **(6:23 p.m.)**
Aasen motioned to approve meeting agenda.
Bruner seconded the motion.
Motion passed 5 to 0.

Commissioner Liaison Report: **(6:23.m.)**
Not present

Open to the Public: **(6:23 p.m.)**
None Present

New Business **(6:24p.m.)**
A. Proposed Fee Schedule Changes

Staff stated the reasoning for bringing the proposed 2019 fee increases which are normally done in the fall. The County is requesting that this process be done to better align with budget process.

Staff presented to park commission members the items that they are proposing new fees for the 2019 season and the reasoning behind the increases. Items that were shared for increases are the daily and annual parking permits, camping rates, shelter rentals. The shelter rentals are to help make a cleaner fee schedule for the shelters and they have not seen an increase in a few years. Staff shared that rate increases to be more in line with market rate, explaining the process for choosing prices for the shelters and permits.

Staff asked the park commission if they had any questions on the permits prices, Kobilarcsik asked about the cost of McLeod County prices and are we in line with them; staff stated that they are lower than us but they have less service. Staff reviewed the other regional park fees and their permit costs and how they come up with their prices. Discussion was had on the permit fees and reasoning behind the permitting fees.

Staff stated that we have not made huge increases so we don't turn people away; staff stated we try and be in the middle of the road with pricing. Kobilarcsik asked if there is discussion at the County Board level. Staff stated that they really don't. If there are questions, that might come from the County Finance Department. The fee schedule goes to the County Board for final approval at a regular meeting. Discussion was had on the process.

Staff shared the reasoning behind the all-inclusive parking fee for shelter rentals due to the wanting to move away from the tally & bill option and move to a flat fee for parking for a shelter group. Staff explained the process of the tally and bill system, reasoning behind moving away from this process and moving to an all on inclusive rate, fees being proposed during peak season and off peak season, and how the staff came up with these costs and dates for each season. Discussion was had on the topic of costs for the all-inclusive parking fee and giving the option to people that are renting the shelters for their events.

Staff shared the breakdown of the shelter into three groups – the A Flight facilities would consist of Community Room at Baylor and Shelter #5 at Lake Minnewashta. B Flight facilities would be Baylor Park Beach Shelter and Lake Waconia Shelter and C Flight would be Prairie Shelter at Baylor and Shelters 2, 3 & 4 at Lake Minnewashta. Staff shared the rental prices for these different flights of shelters on weekday and weekend. Staff also shared the group rates for non-profits for the shelters.

Discussion was had on comparable rates with other agencies on shelters and the determination of rates for our shelters.

Staff also shared the proposed fees for recreation and programming and the reasoning behind the slight increase.

Boettcher makes recommendation to accept the proposed fee increases for the 2019 fee schedule.

Bruner seconds the motion.

Motion approved 5 to 0.

Questions or Comments:

Aasen asked about the difference between full hookup service and utility site; Staff shared the difference on the two sites and why they full hookup is on the fee schedule.

Boettcher asked, what is the number of days considered for long term camping? Staff stated that it is six days.

Aasen asked about the camping rate for the Carver Park campsites; Staff stated that there services are less and they have no power sites – costs range between \$15 and \$19 per site. Discussion was had on fees for camping and other camp grounds.

Kobilarcsik asked why there is no shelter #1 at Lake Minnewashta; Staff shared the reasoning behind not having a shelter #1. It was supposed to be down by the beach area and it was never was put in due to a conflict of beach traffic and shelter traffic.

No Other Questions or Comments

B. Water Quality Testing for Beaches

Staff shared that they have had a couple beach closures over the last couple months and staff is questioning our level of confidence of whether the water testing results are resulting in unnecessary closures. Staff gave the history of the pilot program and why it got started and the reasoning for picking the threshold level of when a closure could occur. Staff shared the guidelines from a couple different agencies along with MNDOH and EPA and there testing thresholds and processes. Staff stated that they have talked to staff at Three Rivers Park District about why they picked their threshold number. They stated that they picked their number due to article from EPA. Below this level, people are not reporting getting ill, other agencies are also using the same threshold level of E.coli as Three Rivers Park District. Staff also stated that over the last 20 years, they only one outbreak of water borne illness has been reported and it was likely attributed to human illness. Discussion was on the testing process and how accurate is the testing.

Staff stated testing will be from the 2nd weekend in June to the 2nd weekend in August, we will test one sample from each beach instead of two, similar to other park agencies. We will keep track of factors such as: water temp, wind direction, and the number of birds (Geese) population at time of water test. We will compare this data with elevated test results and with any feedback from the public.

Discussion was had on goose populations on the beaches and if this could be a part of the issue when tests are elevated. Other agencies have stated that when they see large volumes of geese on beaches, that is usually when they see elevated tests.

Bruner motion to proceed with updates and alterations to the water monitoring/testing pilot program
Kobilarcsik second the motion
Motion passes 5 to 0.

Staff will start implementation the new procedure as soon as possible.

Questions or Comments:
Manders stated that is ok with raising the threshold number.

Bruner stated that he is ok with raising the threshold number also.

No other Comments or Questions

Staff Reports: (5:40 p.m.) Provided in route to Lake Minnewashta Regional Park

A. Lake Waconia Regional Park Construction Planning

i. Project Scoping

Staff shared that the funds that will be received will go for roads, utilities, parking lots and site grading. Staff stated that one of the issues we might have is taking out the bathroom due to the site grading and having to replace this structure. Staff stated that the funds received cannot be used for building; the cost of replacing this building could approach one million dollars. Staff stated that we have been working with a landscape architect with the scoping, and will start working with an architect and talking about a building program.

ii. Architectural Services

Staff stated that we will start to engage with an architect, staff stated that the County Board approved an engineering and architectural look at the Waconia Event Center building to see what is and what is not deficient and also do a market analysis; this will involve a public process with stakeholder groups to consider what services the building might support.

iii. Coney Island Determination of Effect Repot

Staff stated that they will meet with SHPO to go over the 30% plans, this process is not moving along very fast. This meeting is to see if they agree or don't agree with our plan.

Questions or Comments:

Manders asked about the \$3 million and where it comes from; staff stated that \$1.5 million comes from the state and the matching funds come from the county. There are limitations on how these funds can be used.

B. MN River Bluffs Slope Failure – Contracted Services

Staff shared that we have set up an appraisal of property and have consultant working on the master plan so we are eligible for regional funding. A memorandum of understanding is being drafted. We are getting close to having that done. A phase I environmental investigation on this property to see if site conditions warrant additional testing work. Staff stated that they are attempting to use Metro. Council funds to fix slop failure – staff explained this process.

C. TH 5 Arboretum Regional Trail Connection

Staff stated that the alignment is getting closer to being set. Staff met with Arboretum representatives on ways to reduce impacts. Survey work is done. Line work for trail and box culvert has been done. Engineering the box culvert has been challenging due to the future vertical alignment of Hwy 41.

Questions or Comments:

Boettcher asked if the culvert will be closer to Hwy 5; Staff stated that it is closer to Hwy 5. Boettcher asked if the trail alignment is closer to Hwy 5; Staff stated that it is further in to the arboretum property and not in the road right-a-way. Boettcher asked if there is any concern of people accessing the arboretum; staff stated yes, but also of concern is deer accessing the arboretum, so they want to expand the fencing.

D. Park and Trails Legacy Fund Submittal

Staff stated that directing capital improvement funds to the TH 5 trail project due to possibly being short, stated that the next appropriation to go to Lake Waconia Park. Staff also mentioned adding the new position (natural resource manager and supervisor) would be funded with 50% the Legacy Funds.

Bruner asked why we would need this position; staff stated that this position would address some of the items we are not covering like emerald ash borer, supervisor for maintenance operations, project management.

E. Park Operations & Recreation Services updates: (7:32p.m.)

Staff stated things are going well, 4th of July was not as busy at the parks as hoped due to rain, but the rest of week went well. Programming day camps are going well. Outreach program is going well also. The Campfire Culture programs at the campground had a great turnout. The position for the programmer vacancy will be out in the next few weeks.

F. Budget -added item

Staff stated that waiving the entrance fees to the parks will not survive being introduced. Some funding for position for the parks maintenance and resource manager could come from revenue from increased fees collected and the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund.

Question or Comments:

Kobilarcsik asked what the total additional revenue from increasing fees is; Staff stated about twenty eight thousand.

Commission Member Reports: (7:36 p.m.)

Bruner stated he has a Met Council meeting next week, not sure if there is anything on the agenda for the parks.

Boettcher went on a tour of Lake Waconia with Carver County water mgmt. group.

Aasen stated that he noticed that Lake Bavaria has very little milfoil and not sure why, stated that it used to be very thick and not sure what was done. Aasen also shared that they are treating ash trees in Eden Prairie and shared the cost per tree. Discussion was had on this subject.

Manders stated that the trees on the Dakota Rail trail seem to in need of trimming; Staff stated that maintenance staff has been working on trimming the face slappers and working on other trees. We may need to contract additional service due to the amount of work needed.

Next Meeting Date: (7:44 p.m.)

Next meeting will be on August 8, 2018 – Tour of Lake Minnewashta Regional Park

Adjourn Meeting: (7:46 p.m.)

Boettcher motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Aasen seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5 to 0.

Final Minutes prepared by Connie Keller

Approved by Commission Chair


