



## CARVER COUNTY PARKS

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Division of Public Works

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### ***Park Commission Meeting***

**Wednesday, November 14th, 2012**

**7:00 p.m.**

### ***Regular Meeting***

Carver County Public Works Headquarters Building  
11360 Hwy 212 West  
Conference Room #3

#### Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting to Order Roll Call (7:00 p.m.)
- 2) Approval of the October 10, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes (7:01 p.m.)
- 3) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (7:05 p.m.)
- 4) Approval of Agenda (7:07 p.m.)
- 5) Open to the Public (7:10 p.m.)
- 6) Old Business (7:15 p.m.)
  - a. Trails Policy- Discussion
- 7) New Business (7:45 p.m.)
  - a. 2014-2018 Preliminary Capital Improvement Plan
- 8) Staff Reports (8:15 p.m.)
  - a. Metro Council Acquisition Opportunity Funding
  - b. Recommendations from the Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Committee
  - c. TH 41 Trail and Underpass Project
  - d. Dakota Rail Regional Trail Phase II
  - e. Minnesota Astronomical Society Building Construction
  - f. Events and Activities
  - g. Southwest Regional Trail
- 9) Commission Member Reports (8:45 p.m.)
- 10) Set Next Meeting Date (8:50 p.m.)
- 11) 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** October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Members Present:** Jerald Moja, Thomas Hermann, Myron Karki, Jim Manders, Josh Ives and Commissioner Tim Lynch

**Staff Present:** Marty Walsh, Sam Pertz

**CALL TO ORDER:** Moja called the meeting to order at 7:08p.m.

**MINUTES:** 7:09p.m. Karki motioned to approve the minutes of the September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 regular meeting minutes. Manders seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

**Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** 7:09 p.m. None

**AGENDA:** 7:09p.m. Hermann motioned to approve meeting agenda, Karki seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

**Public Present:** 7:10p.m. N/A

**Review and Discussion:** 7:10p.m.

## Park System Overview/Orientation:

Staff described the purpose of: Park Commission; Regional Park System; Implementing Agencies; Metropolitan Council, current staffing of the department; trail systems; current construction projects; comprehensive plan; park land acquisitions in the County; undeveloped park property in the County. Commissioner Lynch drew comparison to visitor use numbers in the Regional Parks and the overall State population. Manders inquired about visitors entering Lake Minnewashta Regional Park via the new section of trail, in regards to “free entry to the Park.” Staff informed the commission that visitors who enter by trail will be accounted for through the trail counts that are conducted. Moja raised question about the Lake Waconia Event Center at Lake Waconia Regional Park. Walsh responded with explanation of the relationship between Lancer Catering and the County. Ives and Staff discuss land acquisition and development at Lake Waconia Regional Park, particularly the “paul’s parcel.” No further questions or comments.

### Preparation for Possible 2013 Bonding Bill:

Staff reported on the potential for a bonding 2013 bonding session at the legislature. Walsh presented possible projects that might be considered if a bonding bill is proposed. Staff explain what projects might be considered, including essential criteria such that “must be a Regional Parks or Trails or in the master plan.” Staff reported the County is indicating a 75% return for land acquisition from such bonding possibilities and 25% to be used for beginning stages of visitor center/community room update project at Baylor Regional Park and development of by-pass lane and continued paving at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park. Karki inquired about ideas regarding Lake Minnewashta gate house and by-pass lane. Staff informed the Commission that visitor safety and convenience is becoming an issue, with traffic congestion entering the Park, as well as other’s traveling on TH 41 outside the park entrance.

### Trails Policy:

Walsh indicates that policy and plan is unlikely to take shape at this meeting, yet looking to Commission as sounding board. Detailed explanations of trail categorization are given of destination trails and linking trails. Walsh provides example of County trail map and City trail maps within the County. Typical funding mechanisms for each trail type are described by Staff. Moja questions State-wide funding and the similarities and differences across the State. Staff explains differences in funding, indicating unlikely changes in current funding State-wide. Commission members raise question regarding linking trails in County right-of-way and see need to develop finance plans. Staff shared the work to compare to other similar agencies, regarding such trail policies. Examples shared, Three Rivers Parks District handles trail policies on a case-by-case basis, other counties do not have written policy. Commission questions how trails would be identified that might serve multiple purposes over time. Commission also voices question in terms of consistent “treatment” for the various agencies across the County. Commission member Manders see’s value in case-by-case approach, but points out efficiency and productivity advantages if a policy was created and used. Karki shares the Public desire to access trail systems from their residence. Moja suggests funding percentage to be determined by trail type, and relates to other projects where City and County are involved. Also indicates a concern of harsh criticism if case-by-case approach was used. County Commissioner Lynch indicates the County would prefer a percentage model, with hard numbers attributed to each party, along with a set of guidelines. Commission discusses the idea of County funding trail construction, City funding maintenance needs. The Commission also discusses who and what trails are defined across the County. Conversation is concluded by Commission, directing Staff to stick with Comprehensive Plan at this time, work to provide more details in the future.

### Recommendation:

Staff recommend Trails Policy be constructed so as to be consistent with other communities in the County.

### **New Business: (8:29p.m.)**

#### **Public Works Strategic Plan-Goals and Strategies for the Parks Department:**

Staff reviewed the County Strategic plan, mission and goals in a PowerPoint presentation. Staff shared the Public Works strategic plan, mission and goals as they were reported in recent Division meeting. Walsh reviews Park mission statement; *The Parks Department provides a variety of quality recreational experiences, services, and lands that meet the needs of the residents of Carver County and its regional park users.*

Staff review community goals; Improve Regional Parks and Protect Natural Resources, Construct and Operate Regional Trails and Enhance Parks and Recreation Programs. Staff suggested Park Commission initiatives: develop CIP with funding and priority; develop CIP with priority for Lake Waconia Regional Park; develop trail project priority listing; develop trail cost share and maintenance policy; survey county residents.

### **Staff Reports: (8:40p.m.)**

#### **TH 41 Trail and Underpass Project:**

Staff reported some recent concern of Contractor's completion of work since last Commission meeting. However, Walsh indicated that substantial progress has been made since a recent construction meeting.

#### **Dakota Rail Regional Trail Phase II:**

Walsh reports some difficulties with Contractor, particularly with paving conditions (depth of pavement). Staff informs Commission that work on both bridge sections on the trail have been re-decked and rails will be added in coming days. Walsh also explains that entire corridor is prepped and ready for paving, with thought of completion by the end of next week. Walsh also discusses conversation of McCloud County continuing trail pavement to Lester Prairie, 900' of additional trail.

#### **Events and Activities:**

Pertz reviews Department programming and events since last meeting including, Family Geocaching programs, Autumn Full Moon Canoes and Archery classes. Pertz also highlighted upcoming programming and events, particularly the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-off at Baylor Regional Park this Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Other events and programming reported:

### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommend Park Commission members to attend Chili Cook-off Event, serving as a Judge.

Southwest Regional Trail:

Staff had nothing new or additional to report, Commission has no questions or comments.

Parks and Trails Legacy Funding:

Staff informs Park Commission on funding “pots” (DNR, Greater Minnesota and Metropolitan area) indicating debate regarding who gets what funding. Walsh explains that Greater Minnesota suggest an equal split three ways of funding, however does not see this happening due to insufficient data gathered by Greater Minnesota to support such funding allocations. Staff indicated further discussion will need take place further down the road, and a presentation to County Board likely to happen at some point. No further questions or comments by Park Commission.

**Commission Member Reports: (8:50p.m.)**

Karki acknowledges “alternate deer” event the first weekend in November in the City of Waconia. Event is geared towards women during opening weekend of deer gun hunting season.

Moja reports on meeting with Camp Tanadoona, where he represented the Parks Department. Moja explained the meeting in large was a brainstorming session, focusing on attracting additional visitors and changing the camp image.

**Next Meeting Date: (8:52p.m.)** November, 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00p.m. at Public Works building in Cologne.

**Adjourn Meeting:**

9:00p.m. Karki motioned to adjourn the meeting, Hermann seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0