



**Carver
County
Parks**

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, MN 55322

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Wednesday, October 19th, 2022

Public Works Headquarters

11360 Highway 212

Cologne, MN 55322

6:30 pm

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order (6:30 p.m.)
- 2) Roll Call (6:30 p.m.)
- 3) Approval of Agenda (6:31 p.m.)
- 4) Approval of the September 14th, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes (6:31 p.m.)
- 5) Commissioner Liaison Report (6:32 p.m.)
- 6) Open to the Public (6:35 p.m.)
- 7) New Business (6:45 p.m.)
 - a. SWRT Master Plan
- 8) Staff Reports (7:15 p.m.)
 - a. General Operations & Recreation Services
 - b. Maintenance and Natural Resources Operations
 - c. Administrative Update
- 9) Commission Member Reports (7:30 p.m.)
- 10) Next Meeting Date (7:35 p.m.)
 - a. November 9th, 2022
- 11) Adjourn (7:40p.m.)

If a Commission Member cannot attend the meeting, please notify the Park Office.

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6:30 pm

MINUTES

- 1) Call to Order
 - a. G. Bruner called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
- 2) Roll Call
 - a. Present: Jim Boettcher, Gerald Bruner, Scott Knight, Curt Kobilarcsik (6:33pm), and Gary Van Eyll
 - b. Absent: Makeza Johnson and Mark Lagergren
 - c. Staff: Tim Lynch, Marty Walsh, Sam Pertz, Jake Sandvig, and Hope Mack
- 3) Approval of Agenda
 - a. Motion to approve made by J. Boettcher, Seconded by G. Van Eyll Passed 4-0
- 4) Approval of the August 10th, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve made by J. Boettcher, Seconded by S. Knight Passed 4-0
- 5) Commissioner Liaison Report
 - a. Commissioner Tim Lynch expressed his excitement for the Waterfront Service Center (WSC) Groundbreaking Celebration which will take place on 10/4/22. One of the docks for Coney Island has been delivered, and due to issues with the supply chain, the other is expected to be delivered next spring.
- 6) Open to the Public
 - a. None
- 7) New Business
 - a. Special Use Permit Request for Minnetonka Public Schools
 - i. Tim Litfin, Minnetonka Community Education Executive Director, addressed the commission to review the details of the 3rd annual bike ride occurring on 9/25/22 on the MN River Bluffs Regional Trail.
 1. Motion to approve made by S. Knight, Seconded by C. Kobilarcsik Passed 5-0
 - b. Minnesota Astronomical Society Request for Building Addition
 - i. Merle Hiltner attended to review the building addition plans he first presented to the commission at the 8/10/22 meeting. The Metro. Council has previously given their approval, and if the Park Commission approves it will go to the County Board next.
 1. Motion to approve made by J. Boettcher, Seconded by G. Van Eyll Passed 5-0
 - c. Staff Reports
 - i. General Operations & Recreation Services
 1. Sam Pertz reported that the Special Use Permit policy should be finalized by the end of the year, beaches are closed for the season, the Waterfront Service Center

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Groundbreaking Ceremony will be on 10/4/22, the Trail of Fun event is on 10/15/16, and that the campground closes on 10/16/22.

- ii. Maintenance and Natural Resources Operations
 - 1. Jake Sandvig updated the commission on some projects that have been completed this spring/summer.
- iii. Administrative Update
 - 1. Marty Walsh reported that the WSC site has not been mobilized yet, and that the first construction meeting will be on 9/21/22. The asset management plan is starting with an inventory being taken and rating the asset's conditions. The contractor, HKGi, will provide a replacement plan with pricing and an ongoing list of projects to complete. The SWRT Master Plan has been reviewed by the Metro. Council Staff and the cities of Victoria, Chaska, and Chanhassen are doing so too. The plan is expected to be on the October Park Commission agenda and will then go on to the County Board for approval.

8) Commission Member Reports

- a. It was mentioned that mapping, signage, and trail maintenance could be improved on the MN River Valley trails which are operated by the USFW Rapids Unit. Could the County assist with this?
- b. Coney Island looks great and is being well used by patrons.
- c. The email communications are great.
- d. Compliments on the campground to the maintenance team and hosts.

9) Next Meeting Date

- a. The next meeting will be on 10/19/22 at Public Works.

10) Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn at 7:27pm made by J. Boettcher, Seconded by G. Van Eyll Passed 5-0

Upcoming Events and Activities

10/1/22: Fall Astronomy Day / 50th Year of MAS Celebration



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MEMO

TO: Members of the Park Commission
FROM: Martin Walsh, Parks and Recreation Director
SUBJECT: Southwest Regional Trail Master Plan
DATE: October 3rd, 2022

The Master Plan for the Southwest Regional Trail has been prepared. Consistent with MN Statute 473.313, consultation with the communities of Chanhassen, Chaska, and Victoria has occurred, and they have or are in the process of providing resolutions in support of the plan.

The Master Plan addresses the 12 requirements of: Boundaries, Acquisition Costs, Demand Forecast, Development Concept, Conflicts, Public Services, Operations, Partner Engagement, Public Engagement and Participation, Equity Analysis, Public Awareness, and Accessibility.

The initial Master Plan for the trail was developed in 2006 connecting the communities of Chaska and Victoria and linking the Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail with the Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail. In 2016, the plan was amended to include a mile long segment of Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) property extending from County Road 61 to Bluff Creek Drive, and again amended in 2018 to include an additional 2-mile segment of the former HCRRA property from Bluff Creek Drive to the east county line. Both amended sections are commonly known as segments of the Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail.

Rational for developing the Southwest Regional Trail includes: 1) Linking the Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail with the Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail 2) Tie together numerous federal, state, regional, and local parks, natural areas, and trails into a cohesive and interlinked system.

Further, the plan works to better define the trails of the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail and the Southwest Regional Trail.

Key changes to the Master Plan from the previous versions include planned trail realignments. Due to development in areas of the City of Victoria, previous planned trail alignments are no longer available or have areas with challenging slopes and wetland areas. The change moves the trail to the western edge of the developed area of the City of Victoria and along Marsh Lake Road as shown in red on the Trail Segment 1 Map, pages 44 and 45.

The trail alignment shift continues along Marsh Lake Road to the edge of the city limits of Chaska as shown on Trail Segment 2 Map, pages 48 and 49. At the intersection of Victoria Drive, Marsh Lake Road, and Pioneer Trail, there are two options for the trail alignment. One follows the existing trail infrastructure through the Clover Ridge development and out to County Road 10. An alternate trail alignment is also shown that continues the trail along Victoria Drive connecting with County Road 10. At

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a later date, Carver County will work with the City of Chaska to confirm the existing planned alignment or the shown alternative.

The trail alignment shown in Trail Segment 3 Map on page 52 is consistent with previous trail plans. New to this section of the plan is the request by the City of Chaska to consider possible future land acquisition from willing sellers for trailhead, picnic areas, and parking facilities, along with bank stabilization next to Chaska Creek.

The Trail Segment 3 Map on page 53 also shows where the Southwest Regional Trail would terminate and connect with the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail. The planned trail alignment shift of the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail is shown in a blue dashed line on the former Union Pacific Railroad property. The previous trail alignment is shown in a green line along the levee system. The reason for the alignment shift includes avoiding areas of the trail that are subject to flooding and portions of the trail that did not meet typical regional trail width standards. Additionally, the proposed trail along the former railroad grade had advantages of connecting the downtown area of Chaska and providing a pedestrian facility along County Road 61 for public safety. The new alignment meets up with the existing Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail at the East Creek Diversion Channel.

The Trail Segment 4 Map on page 60 shows the MN River Bluffs Trail alignment as consistent with past Master Plans. The trail follows the existing trail alignment at and along Engler Road. The trail continues easterly, meeting up with the trail alignment on the former Union Pacific Railroad grade and extending to the east county line at Hennepin County.

Acquisition of additional properties for sections of the Southwest Regional and Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trails are shown and discussed in Section VI: Implementation and Management Plan. Much of the land needed for the trails will be in road right-of-way. However, where there is insufficient right-of-way, or a desire to protect natural resources, the County will work with area cities to acquire land through dedication with new developments or through negotiations with willing landowners. Properties identified for potential acquisition include areas west of Carl Krey Lake and along Marsh Lake Road in Victoria. In Chaska, parcels include an area along a greenway through Clover Ridge, two potential areas along Creek Road, and the former Union Pacific Railroad property. Additional information about land acquisition can be found on pages 64, 65 and 66.

A full document of the Southwest Regional Trail Master Plan is available on the Carver County Parks web page at <https://www.co.carver.mn.us/home/showpublisheddocument/23721/637985675939430000>.

Recommendation

It is requested that the Park Commission recommend approval of the Southwest Regional Trail Master Plan to the County Board.

Waterfront Service Center

10/17/22 Progress Report





Public Works Division

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10/19/22



Public Works Division

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