

CARVER COUNTY PARKS

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite #2
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Division of Public Works

11360 Hwy. 212 West, Suite #1
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Carver County Park Commission Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 8th, 2012

*Public Works Building
11360 Hwy 212, Cologne, MN 55322*

Agenda

- 1) Call Regular Meeting to Order (7:00 p.m.)
- 2) Roll Call (7:01 p.m.)
- 3) Approval of the December 13th, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes (7:02 p.m.)
- 4) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (7:03 p.m.)
- 5) Approval of Agenda (7:04 p.m.)
- 6) Commissioner Liaison Report (7:05 p.m.)
- 7) Open to the Public (7:10 p.m.)
- 8) Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Aquatic Invasive Species Update (7:15)
- 9) New Business (7:20 p.m.)
 - a. Friends of Lake Bavaria Request for Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection
 - b. Year In Review Presentation
 - i. Activities of 2011
 - ii. Challenges for 2012
 1. Baylor Park
 - a. Beach Water Curtain
 - b. Pond Feature at Visitor Center
 - iii. Review Goals and Strategies for 2011-12
- 10) Staff Reports (8:30 p.m.)
 - a. Dakota Rail Regional Trail (Walsh)
 - i. Phase II Planning
 - b. TH 41 Trail and Underpass (Walsh)
 - c. Southwest Regional Trail Connections (Walsh)
 - i. Victoria
 - ii. Chaska/Chanhassen
 - d. Events and Activities (Klevan Schmitz)
- 11) Commission Member Reports (8:40 p.m.)
- 12) Set Next Meeting Date (8:45 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.



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DIRECTORS REPORT

February 8th, 2012
PARK COMMISSION MEETING

To: Members of the Park Commission
From: Martin Walsh, Parks Director
CC: Lyndon Robjent, County Engineer
Tim Lynch, County Commissioner
Date: 2/3/2012
Re: February 8th, 2012 Park Commission Meeting

Updates:

Lake Minnewashta Aquatic Invasive Species

At the January 10, 2012 County Board Workshop Season, Staff presented details for a proposed Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program at Lake Minnewashta Park. The outlined program would begin May 15, 2012 and run for approximately 130 days ending September 19, 2012. Boaters entering Lake Minnewashta through the regional park would be inspected for AIS at Boat Access #1. Hours of inspection would be from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Labor and material cost were estimated to be \$31,000 for the program. Minnehaha Creek Watershed District offered to participate at 50% of the cost of the program. Training for AIS inspectors and Law enforcement would be provided by the DNR at no cost.

At the January 24, 2012 County Board meeting, the County Board authorized the AIS inspection program at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park, allocated \$15,500 from the County funds for the program and directed staff to develop a contract with Minnehaha Creek Watershed District for financial participation in the program.

Additional, staff has been in contact with representatives of the DNR about inspections to be conducted at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park. DNR staff has advised us that they will be developing a contract which delegates the authority to inspect boats to AIS inspectors under the employment of a local unit of government.

Work to requisition personnel for AIS inspections is underway with a goal to have inspectors hired and trained by the end of April 2012.

New Business

A) New Request for Aquatic Invasive Species Funding\Services

Carver County owns and maintains a small public boat access at Lake Bavaria. The Parks Department installs and removes a dock and provides other maintains services at this public boat access.

Homeowners around Lake Bavaria known as the Friends of Lake Bavaria have submitted a request for AIS funding and services. They are seeking similar consideration as was provided at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park given that the County owns land on this lake. Further it is stated that a second area would help to determine the validity of providing inspection services on area lakes. Attached is a letter from the Friends of Lake Bavaria outlining their request.

If a similar program is considered for Lake Bavaria, an AIS inspection program would run from mid May to mid September approximately 130 days. Inspection service would begin at 5:00 a.m. and end at 8:00 p.m. all days of the week weather conditions permitting.

The cost to run a similar program on Lake Bavaria would be approximately \$31,000.

At Lake Minnewashta the County is contributing \$15,500 to be matched with \$15,500 of Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Funds for the inspection program.

A similar program for Lake Bavaria may also require matching funds to help with the cost of the program.

Below are several options for the Park Commission to consider in making a recommendation to the County Board.

1. Recommend similar coverage as Lake Minnewashta at a cost of \$31,000 to County.
2. Recommend \$15,500 of County Funds provided that \$15,500 would come from other sources or a dollar for dollar match up to \$15,500
3. Recommend \$15,000 of County Funds and if additional funding can be found adjust the program to meet the level of funding provided by the County and other sources.
4. Recommend that Minnewashta was chosen as a pilot program and other lakes are not being considered at this time.

Recommendation

At this time Staff is recommending option 4. Option 4 is recommended because there has not been analysis of the site to determine how inspections would be handled on such a small site. It could be anticipated that the site constraints would not allow for efficient inspections without causing concerns with vehicles staging for inspections onto Shady Oak Drive. Additional, the Lake Minnewashta inspection program is a 50/50 match to County funds. At this time it is not known if the Friends of Lake Bavaria would be able to financially participate with matching funds for an AIS inspection program.

B) Year in Review Presentation

Staff will present a Power Point presentation on activities which occurred over the last year within the Parks Department. Additionally, the presentation also highlights some challenges at Baylor Park pertaining to the beach swim area and to a pond located between the park's visitor center and the campground.

Baylor Regional Park Beach Swim Area

Since the early 1990's, a well and containment system for fresh water have struggled to maintain water quality suitable for swimming at the Baylor Park Beach. Eagle Lake which borders the park has poor water quality. Oftentimes by the 4th of July weekend the lake is a pea green color and unsuitable for swimming. The water curtain and well function to improve the water quality by isolating water that is being pumped into swim curtain area from the main body of the lake.

The water curtain is approaching the end of its life expectancy, is in need of significant repair and consideration for inclusion in an upcoming budget. Staff is proposing not to install the water curtain this summer to gage the public demand for swimming at Baylor Park. Sustainability of continuing the beach service is being questioned given that there seems to be only a moderate demand for swimming based on a park survey and beach monitoring over the past few years.

Although the water quality is improved when the well is in operation and curtain installed, it still is not of similar water quality as compared to the beaches at Lake Waconia and Lake Minnewashta. Local swimmers tend to use the Norwood Young America pool or perhaps travel further to lakes of better water quality such as Lake Waconia.

If during the 2012 season public demand would be strong enough to warrant installation of the water curtain. Staff could install the curtain at that time. If on the other hand the service is in low demand. Then staff would propose that the beach area be restored with lakeshore plantings and that the water based activity be focused more towards fishing and watercraft use.

Baylor Regional Park Pond between Visitor Center and Campground

Staff and members of the public have raised concerns about the pond's condition, lack of aesthetic quality and ongoing maintenance concerns. Additionally, the pond has a bridge structure which leads to an island in the middle of the pond. This bridge is in need of repositioning due to movement in the bridge's concrete bases. Maintenance is also needed to remove old paint and prevent further corrosion of the structure.

Staff is considering options which may fill in the pond and reposition the bridge to another location within the park. Before further work is done to consider filling in the pond, staff desires to know what concerns or sentiment the Park Commission has towards maintaining the pond, filling in the pond and or repositioning the bridge to another location in the park campground.

Recommendation

Staff will review the pond and related matters with the Park Commission. It is recommended that the Park Commission provide staff with direction on filling in the pond, maintaining the pond, and or reposition the bridge.

Staff Reports

A) Dakota Rail Regional Trail Phase II

It is anticipated that the County Board will authorize bids on February 7, 2012 and that the State would shortly thereafter also authorize bids for the project to be advertised. The tentative bid opening date is the week of March 12th.

B) Update on the Lake Minnewashta Regional Park/TH 41 Trail and Underpass

It is anticipated that the State will authorize advertisement for bid of the project the week of February 6th with a possible bid opening of February 28th.

C) Southwest Regional Trail Connections

Preliminary design has progressed to a point that land needed for the trail has been identified. Staff has begun to meet with property owners to solicit input in the preliminary design and inform them of the land that would be needed for the trail.

D) Events and activities:

Despite the lack of snow Carver County Parks has offered a variety of winter programs over the past few months including the following:

- One Day Winter Day Camp at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park
- Two Candlelight Walks at Baylor Regional Park
- First ever Candlelight Walk at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park

The lack of snow has also cancelled a couple classes and programs including the Inaugural Cardboard Sled Races, Snow Shoe and XX-Ski lessons.

Staff is working on planning several new programs for the spring including:

February 20th - Winter Extravaganza - 9am-4pm at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park (grades 4-8)

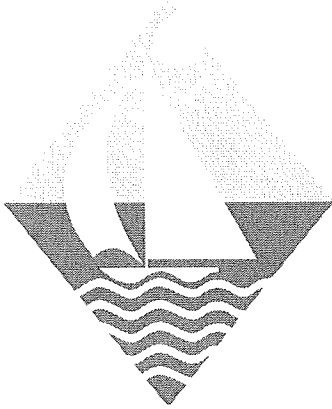
February 25th - Snowshoeing Class 10am-12pm at Baylor Regional Park

March 17th - Dog Sledding Program 1-4 pm at Baylor Regional Park

March 17th - Onan - Public Star Gazing at Baylor Regional Park 7-10 p.m.

March 23rd - Onan - Messier Marathon at Baylor Regional Park - Dusk (cancelled if cloudy)

March 24th - Maple Syrup Open House 10 am - Noon at Baylor Regional Park



Friends of Lake Bavaria

February 3, 2012

Carver County Park Commission Members,

On behalf of the FLB Board, I wish to formally request Lake Bavaria be included in the County's funding of efforts to prevent the introduction of Zebra Mussels into its lakes. Specifically, through inspections for aquatic invasive species at the public access, adding Lake Bavaria as a 2nd data point for the pilot program recently approved for Lake Minnewashta should significantly increase the study's validity as to whether the inspection method is effective in achieving its goals. I believe it's logical to have the only two public access points in the county's lakes equally monitored.

FLB Board Member, Sharon Robinson and I will be in attendance at your February 8, 2012 meeting to listen to your discussion on the proposal and answer any questions you might have of us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Kraft".

Tim Kraft
President, FLB

Draft
Meeting Minutes
December 13th, 2011 Regular Meeting

Members Present: Neil Wingert, Jerald Moja, Thomas Hermann, Cindy Dobratz, Gail Von Bargaen, Myron Karki, and Commissioner Tim Lynch

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Lenny Klevan Schmitz

Public Present: N/A

CALL TO ORDER - Moja called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

MINUTES - Karki motioned to approve the November 14th, 2011 minutes. Wingert seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

AGENDA- Wingert motioned to approve agenda with the addition of an AIS update. Von Bargaen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC- N/A

LIAISON REPORT- Commissioner Lynch mentioned that the Carver County Board met earlier today (12/13) and continued the discussion about funding AIS inspections at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park and other lakes. Lynch stated that no action was taken at this time since ideas and concepts continue to evolve and the DNR and Minnehaha Creek Watershed are continuing to look at viable options for pilot and statewide implementation. Walsh added that staff will be doing more research over the next month and the Board will revisit this topic on January 10th, 2012. Lastly, Walsh noted that the DNR is planning to hold an AIS roundtable workshop on January 6th. No time or location where available at the time of the meeting but they have sent out preliminary information to communities.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Policy and Direction for Future CIP

Walsh gave a PPT presentation which he had also recently presented to the Carver County Board about funding needs for Carver County Parks between 2013-2017. The presentation outlined department goals, prioritized known park and trail development projects and outlined funding sources, shortfalls and some potential solutions which could be used to fill the funding gap.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Dakota Rail Regional Trail Depot Planning

Walsh provided two revised concept plans for the Mayer and New Germany depot areas along the Dakota Rail Regional Trail. Walsh reported that he met with each community on 12/12 and shared the concept plans. Mayer was pleased with the design. New Germany had some concerns about the amount of parking needed by the community and the development of more defined parking areas in the plan.

Staff will continue to work with the consultant to revise the New Germany concept. It is also realize that Carver County is not solely responsible for providing parking to meet the needs for the community and the city would be responsible for those costs which are not a priority today.

b. Recognition of Wingert and Von Bargaen for 7 years of service to the Park Commission

Chair Moja thanked both Wingert and Von Bargaen for their years of service, leadership and friendship. Walsh and Commissioner Lynch also thanked Wingert and Von Bargaen for their commitment and work over the years. Wingert and Von Bargaen where each given a certificate of appreciation for their years of service.

STAFF REPORTS-

a. Dakota Rail Regional Trail

Phase I

Walsh reported that the County board authorized final payment for the project on 12/13. Walsh indicated that despite the change orders and drainage issue the project with only about \$10,000 over the budgeted amount.

Phase II

Walsh reported staff just received the project memorandum and that plans are still on schedule to bid the project this winter for 2012 construction.

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

Walsh reported that the County Board authorized the project for bid. Staff plan to bid the project in January/February 2012 for summer construction.

c. Southwest Regional Trail Connection

Walsh provided some preliminary engineering information for the trail connection in Chaska. The engineering work identifies wetland areas and also land which will be needed to develop the trail. This will allow staff to begin conversations with landowners for this acquisition in the upcoming months.

d. Events and Activities

Klevan Schmitz provided the following event updates:

- Santa in the Park recap – dec 10th – 80-90 people attended
- Winter adventure day camp 12/27-12/30
- Candlelight ski events 1/7@baylor, 1/21@ Minnewashta, 2/4@baylor 6-9pm
- Cardboard sled races 2/4 at Lake Waconia Regional Park

Commissioner Reports

Karki reminded everyone about the 2012 Governors fishing opener which is going to take place on Lake Waconia May 11-13th. There will be a community picnic on Friday May 11th at City Square Park in Waconia which is open to the public and they anticipate 3000-5000 people to attend. Karki also mentioned that if anyone wants to buy a raffle ticket for the 2012 Crestliner Boat he would be more than happy to sell you one.

NEXT MEETING – Park Commission decided not to meet in January 2012, next meeting will be February 8th, 2012. Park Commission members were encouraged to help out at one of the planned winter events over the next two months.

ADJOURN - Karki made a motion to adjourn. Von Barga seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.