



CARVER COUNTY PARKS

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Division of Public Works

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Carver County Park Commission Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

Conference Room #1

Public Works Headquarters Building
11360 Hwy 212 West
Cologne, MN 55322

Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting to Order (7:00 p.m.)
- 2) Roll Call (7:01 p.m.)
- 3) Election of Officers
- 4) Approval of the November 4, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes and Minutes of the January 13, 2010 (7:02 p.m.)
- 5) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (7:03 p.m.)
- 6) Approval of Agenda (7:04 p.m.)
- 7) Commissioner Liaison Report (7:05 p.m.)
- 8) Open to the Public (7:10 p.m.)
- 9) New Business (7:15 p.m.)
 - a. Request for event flag pole installation at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park (Savannah Riese, Meaghan Walker, Sara Morton Girl Scout Troop 11257)
 - b. Metropolitan Councils Open Space Policy Plan Update
 - i. Possible Considerations for New Regional Trail Designation
 - c. Set Goals and Activities for 2010
- 10) Staff Reports (8:15 p.m.)
 - a. Update on the Dakota Rail Regional Trail
 - b. Update on the Lake Minnewashta Regional Park/TH 41 Trail and Underpass
 - c. Park Addressing Information (Lenny)
 - d. Events, Activities (Lenny)
 - e. Regional Park Foundation Update (Marty)
 - f. Legislative Update (Marty)
- 11) Commission Member Reports (8:30 p.m.)
 - a. Equestrian Sub Committee
- 12) Set Next Meeting Date (8:40 p.m.)
- 13) Adjourn Meeting (8:45 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

January 13, 2010
PARK COMMISSION MEETING

To: Members of the Park Commission
From: Martin Walsh, Parks Director
CC: Lyndon Robjent, County Engineer
Tim Lynch, County Commissioner
Date: 2/8/2010
Re: February 10, 2010 Park Commission Meeting

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ordinance No. 19, which establishes the Parks Commission, states that the Commission shall meet during the second month to elect officers. Positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary (Secretary need not be a member of the Commission) are to be opened for nominations.

Recommendation: Nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair will be taken. County Park Staff can fill the position of Secretary, as we have done in the past. Voting can proceed by show of hands or by written ballot, whichever the Commission is most comfortable with.

New Business

A) Request for Event Flag Pole Installation at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park

At the January 13 meeting of the Park Commission Savannah Riese, Meaghan Walker, and Sara Morton of Girl Scout Troup 11257 made a presentation on a request to install two event flag poles at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park near picnic area #5. The scouts proposed that the two flag poles have a permanent base anchoring system and poles which would be erected on an event basis.

An alternate site location was provided in a staff report identified as site B at picnic area #5. Site B was shown as a possible option as compared to site A. The Site B is not as prominent in terms of visibility as compared to Site A but still quite visible, is in good relation to other built features and out of the way for most traffic considerations.

Commissioners' present supported the proposal for two flag poles that would have permanent anchoring systems and poles which would be installed on an event basis. Commissioners' also indicated support for the site selected by the scouts.

It was discussed that the permanent anchoring system for the poles needs to be designed for minimal maintenance and easy installation of the flag poles. The height of the poles would be approximately 20'. The poles would be of a design which allowed for the poles to be disassembled and could be stored in the storage room of picnic shelter #5. Individual troops would be responsible for the flags. Proper flag etiquette would be used during the flag raising and lowering ceremonies.

The January 14 meeting of the Park Commission lacked a quorum so the commission was unable to act on the request.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of a flag pole installation which has permanent anchors and would have flag poles that could be installed on an event basis. The event basis installation minimizes concerns with maintenance and erected poles which would only be used during an event. Staff does not have a strong recommendation for either site A or site B and defers this decision to the discretion of the Commission.

The design of the flag pole anchoring system and selection of flag pole product should be approved by park staff prior to purchase of products and materials. Installation of the anchoring system would be coordinated with park staff.

B) Metropolitan Councils Open Space Policy Plan Update

At the September 2009 Park Commission meeting it was discussed that the Metropolitan Council will be updating 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan. As a part of the update Regional Park Implementing Agencies would have opportunity to support existing plan elements that are not yet master planned or acquired for parks and trails, add new parks and trail units for consideration, and or reduce possible plan elements that are not yet master planned or acquired for parks and trails. Existing park and regional trail elements such as Baylor, Lake Minnewashta, Lake Waconia, Dakota Rail Regional Trail and the Southwest Regional Trail Connection are a part of the Metropolitan Regional Park and Trail System.

For the purpose of this report, new trail units which could warrant possible inclusion into the regional system are indicated below. The Draft 2030 County Comprehensive Plan did not indicate any new park areas which are not already considered in the regional park policy plan.

The Regional Park Policy Plan describes regional trails as: Trail corridors that are intended to provide for recreational travel along linear pathways throughout the metropolitan area. They are selected to follow natural or linear features that traverse areas of scenic appeal and/or historical, architectural and developmental interest while assuring that the trail treadway will have no adverse effect on the natural resource base. The regional trails are selected to pass through, or provide access to, elements in the regional parks system. The parks and park reserves perform the important function of providing places for parking, comfort facilities, safe water supplies, etc. Trails also are selected for their ability to intersect with local trail networks, with the regional trails functioning much like regional highways that interconnect with more local arterials and collector streets. Experience has indicated that people tend to prefer trails that are relatively close to where they live. In the metropolitan area, a 1998-99 Council survey on users of regional trails found a strong local-use pattern. More than 75 percent of trail visitors surveyed lived within 3 miles of the trails they used. However, trail users are traveling from one city or county to another. It is this inter-jurisdictional trail length that makes these trails regionally significant.

Possible Trail Considerations Include:

- The Waconia to Carver Trail is supported by the 2030 Regional Park Policy Plan and conceptually consistent with the Draft 2030 County Comprehensive plan. Additionally, the trail is consistent with regional policy of connecting regional elements of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail, Lake Waconia Regional Park and connecting to local trail networks of the Cities of Carver and Waconia.
- The Union Pacific Rail line is supported by the 2020 comprehensive Plan and Draft 2030 Comprehensive Plan. This trail is consistent with regional policy plan connecting regional elements of the proposed trail search corridor in Scott County, the Southwest Regional Trail connection Chaska to Victoria, and the Minnesota River valley Bluff Regional Trail. The proposed trail has connections with DNR state recreation lands and United States Fish and Wildlife property. This trail would connect local trail networks of the City of Chaska and City of Carver.
- The Lake Waconia - Carver Park Reserve Trail is supported by the Draft 2030 County Comprehensive Plan. The trail connects the regional park areas of Carver Park Reserve and Lake Waconia Regional Park. The trail is also consistent with an existing planned regional trail along the east side of Lake Waconia which extends from the park to the Dakota Rail Regional Trail. Trail networks of the City of Waconia and City of Victoria would be connected to this trail alignment. Note that this segment of trail replaces the regional trail alignment along TH 5 at this location.
- The Arboretum- Lake Minnewashta Trail is supported by the Draft 2030 County comprehensive Plan. As the name indicates the regional park area and Minnesota Landscape Arboretum would be connected by the trail. Additionally, the trail is consistent or connects the planned regional trail along TH 5 which would connect the trail systems of Chanhassen and Victoria.

- The Extension of Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail is supported by the Draft 2030 County comprehensive Plan. The trail is consistent with regional policy plan connecting regional element of the proposed trail search corridor in Scott County, the Southwest Regional Trail connection Chaska to Victoria. The proposed trail has connections with DNR state recreation lands and United States Fish and Wildlife property. This trail would connect local trail networks of the City of Chaska and City of Carver.
- County Road 10 Trail is supported by the Draft 2030 County comprehensive Plan. The trail is consistent with regional policy plan connecting the elements of the Luce Line Trail, Dakota Rail Regional Trail, the Southwest Regional Trail Connection and trail systems of the City of Waconia with the City of Chaska.

Trails which have regional status would be eligible for regional funding. Additionally, trails identified as having regional status tend to be eligible for other funding sources such as Federal Transportation Enhancement Grants, Parks and Trail Fund Grants or other sources.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the above trails be further reviewed by the County Land and Water Service Division for consistency with county and regional planning documents and recommended for consideration by the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission for inclusion in the regional park systems plan.

C) Set Goals and Activities for 2010

Staff will present a listing of possible goal and activities for consideration for 2010-2011.

Staff Reports:

A) Dakota Rail Regional Trail

Chard Excavating and Tiling, Inc. is the apparent low bidder. They are responding to MNDOT's requests for information. MNDOT has not yet authorized work to begin.

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

SRF Consulting Engineers have been contracted to perform design and engineering services for the project. Preliminary design work is to be ready for public meetings beginning in May.

Staff from the City of Chanhassen and County Public Works Division are working on a memorandum of understanding which will outline the responsibilities of the two agencies for cost participation, maintenance and longer term capital investment for rehabilitation and reconstruction. The memorandum of understanding is a preliminary agreement which will provide help with the development of a joint powers agreement which will further define who will be responsible for which portions of the trail.

C) Park Addressing Information

Staff will present a short list of potential names for the main park road at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park.

D) Events and activities:

Staff will update Commissioners' on recent Candlelight Ski Event, Upcoming Maple Syrup Demonstrations, Winter History of Recreation Program and more.

E) Regional Park Foundation

Next meeting of the Regional Park Foundation is scheduled for February 18, 2010.

F) Legislative Update

- a. SF 2302 was introduced requesting an appropriation for Carver County to acquire land needed for a boat access at Lake Waconia Regional Park
- b. HF 2700 was introduced requesting an appropriation for the Metropolitan Regional Park System CIP
- c. The Senate Capital investment Committee made recommendation, to fund the Metropolitan Regional Park CIP

Meeting Notes

January 13th, 2010 Regular Meeting

Members Present: Myron Karki, Thomas Hermann, Richard Tieden, Tim Lynch

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Lenny Klevan Schmitz

Public Present: Savannah Riese, Meaghan Walker, and Sara Morton of Girl Scout Troup 11257

CALL TO ORDER - Karki called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. *(There was not a quorum for the meeting so no official business could take place including the approval of minutes, agenda.)*

MINUTES - N/A

AGENDA- N/A

LIAISON REPORT- Commissioner Lynch reported that he and Marty had recently met with a former state legislator who is now working as an independent lobbyist. The meeting was to discuss potential legislation for the purchase of land for the boat access at Lake Waconia Regional Park. Lynch indicated that it appears that this person would be willing to help draft a bill for the purchase of the land for the boat access which would be the last piece of land for Lake Waconia Regional Park and he would also lobby on behalf of Carver County to gain support for the legislation.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC- N/A

NEW BUSINESS -

a. Request for event flag pole installation at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park

Savannah Riese, Meaghan Walker, and Sara Morton of Girl Scout Troup 11257 have requested to install two event flag poles at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park near picnic area #5. The scouts are proposing that the two flag poles to have a permanent base anchoring system and poles which would be erected on an event or as needed basis.

The three girl scouts made a PowerPoint Presentation to the Park Commission. The three members of the commissions present along with Commissioner Lynch where supportive of the idea and asked a few questions. No action was taken

since there was not a quorum. See attached PowerPoint handout. Item will be carried forward to the February meeting.

b. Dakota Regional Trail Recommendation to Accept Bid and Award Contract

Walsh informed the Park Commission that bids were opened on January 5th for the construction of approximately 6.9 miles of bituminous trail on the Dakota Rail Regional Trail corridor, extending from the east county line to the City of Mayer. The engineers estimate for the project was \$1,967,939. The project received authorization to use \$1,042,000 of Federal Transportation Enhancement Funds, and \$550,000 of Federal American Reinvestment Recovery Act Funds (Stimulus Funds). In addition it was anticipated that approximately \$375,939 in local funds would be needed as a match to the Federal Transportation Enhancement funds and provide the remaining funding needed to balance the cost of construction.

The County received very favorable bids for the project. The apparent low bidder is Chard Tiling and Excavating out of Belle Plaine with a low bid of \$1,244,713.71.

At this time we are waiting to hear back from MNDOT on the how our federal funds can be applied to the project. We are anticipating that the ARRA funds would be utilized first, then Transportation Enhancement Funds. If this is the case, then the following table explains what could be anticipated for a local construction share to the project.

Low Bid Amount =	\$1,244,713.71
Less \$550,000 ARRA funds =	\$694,713.
Less 80% TE Funds or \$555,770.97	\$138,942.74
Local Share (20%) of Construction Estimated =	\$138,942.74

Staff is exploring with our consulting engineer and the MNDOT project manager if uncommitted federal funds could be used in other ways such as funding remaining engineering work, landscaping, and trailhead features such as a kiosk, and possibly to extend the trail further west. Exploring these option may help maximize federal funding.

There was some discussion about the low bid. Walsh indicated that he has looked into the contractor who had the low bid and they have successfully completed similar trail projects in the metro area and based on the reference check with other organizations, staff does not see any reason not to accept the bid.

Staff is recommending that the County accept the low bid form Chard Tiling and Excavating for the amount \$1,244,713.71 and that the contract be prepared. The Park Commission was not able to act on this since there was not a quorum. Item will be carried forward to the February meeting.

c. Review Goals and Objectives for 2009

Walsh provided a handout of the Goals and Objectives which were established at the March 2009 Park Commission meeting and briefly talked about what has been accomplished in the last year and what staff are continuing to work on in 2010. Walsh indicated that in February the park commission can comment on other items which staff will work on developing before that meeting.

STAFF REPORTS-

a. Park Usage and Revenue

Walsh provided a handout of charts showing the usage and revenue generated at our park areas. The charts show significant increases in activity and revenue over the last 5 years.

b. Park Addressing

Klevan Schmitz presented information about staff's work to address the buildings and high use facilities within the parks which will make it easier for emergency responders to get to someone in the event of an emergency.

Klevan Schmitz indicated that most of the work is completed for Lake Waconia Regional Park and Baylor Regional Park, but asked for feedback from the Park Commission about selecting road names for the roads within Lake Minnewashta Regional Park. Some potential road names include:

Minnewashta Beach Way/Drive	Summer Street
Minnewashta Regional Park Road	Picnic Loop
Nature Lane	Scenic Drive/Lane
Outdoor Avenue	Four seasons Drive
Sunfish Street	Recreation Lane
Bass Boulevard/Road	Clear Water Way

c. Events and Activities

Klevan Schmitz noted that despite the cold weather on January 9th, there was still a fairly good turnout at the candlelight ski event at Baylor. Klevan Schmitz also invited members of the park commission to the following upcoming events:

- Jan 23rd Free Ski Day 10-4 at Baylor and Minnewashta
- Feb 6th - Candlelight ski 6-9 at Baylor
- Feb 20th - history of Winter Recreation Program 11-1 at Baylor
- March 20th - Maple Syrup Open House 10-Noon at Baylor

d. Regional Park Foundation

Walsh noted that the last meeting of the Regional Park foundation was December 10, 2009. The Executive Director, Jane Johnson, review with the foundation accomplishments of the first year of the foundation. Accomplishments included the formation of the foundation, hiring of an executive director, and appointment of board members, creation of promotional materials such as brochures and development of the Regional Park Foundation Web Page. A treasure's report was provided. December's report had a balance of \$158,734.97. The foundation continues to look for philanthropic and enthusiastic persons to fill three open seats.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REPORTS

a. Equestrian Sub Committee

Karki informed the park commission that the subcommittee met on November 11th at Murphy Hanrahan Park Reserve and to look at established horse trails in the park. Karki and three member of the subcommittee took a short horse ride. Karki noted that the next meeting is January 26th at the Carver County Public Works Facility at 7 p.m. Karki also showed those in attendance a book about the development of equestrian trails which is put together and published by the US Dept. of Agriculture from the US Forest Service Division. He indicated that anyone can request a FREE copy by emailing them or calling 406-329-3978. Staff will call to inquire about obtaining a couple copies for the equestrian committee. Lastly, Karki noted that at the December 1st meeting the committee decided to have some members contact different agencies with a list of set questions pertaining to equestrian trails and they hope to have these questionnaires back to review for the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING - February 10th, 2010 at the Public Works Headquarters Building in Cologne.

ADJOURN - Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.