



CARVER COUNTY PARKS

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

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Carver County Park Commission Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 8th, 2010

**Meet at the Public Work Building, 11360 Hwy 212 West
Cologne, MN 55322**

7:00 p.m. in Conference Room #1

Agenda

- 1) Call Regular Meeting to Order (7:00 p.m.)
- 2) Roll Call (7:01 p.m.)
- 3) Approval of the August 11th Meeting notes and July 14, 2010 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 for items not on the agenda (7:10 p.m.)
- 8) New Business (7:15 p.m.)
 - a. Presentation by the Southwest Snow Runners, Request for snowmobile permit on the Dakota Rail Regional Trail
- 9) Staff Reports (8:15 p.m.)
 - a. TH 41 Trail and Underpass
 - b. Grant Application for Pavement of Roadway at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park (Walsh)
 - c. Update on the Dakota Rail Regional Trail (Walsh)
 - i. Construction
 - d. Events, Activities (Klevan Schmitz)
 - e. Update on the Regional Park Foundation (Walsh)
- 10) Commission Member Reports (8:30 p.m.)
 - a. Equestrian Sub Committee
- 11) Set Next Meeting Date (8:35 p.m.)
- 12) Adjourn Meeting (8:40 p.m.)

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

Meeting Minutes

July 14th, 2010 Regular Meeting

- Members Present:** Myron Karki, Neil Wingert, Jerald Moja, Thomas Hermann, Gail Von Bargaen
- Staff Present:** Marty Walsh, Lenny Klevan Schmitz
- Public Present:** N/A
- CALL TO ORDER -** Wingert called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- MINUTES -** Karki motioned to approve the June 2010 minutes. Moja seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
- AGENDA-** Moja motioned to approve the agenda. Von Bargaen seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
- LIAISON REPORT-** N/A
- OPEN TO THE PUBLIC-** N/A
- TOUR** David True, Park Ranger, with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge took the park commission members on a tour of the Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center which was built in 2008. David talked extensively about their educational programs for school groups and teachers at the facility. David also talked about their mission to protect wildlife over providing recreation.

DISCUSSION

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Request for Snowmobile Permit –Dakota Rail Regional Trail

Walsh provided a recap of the comments sheets from the public open house which was held on June 23rd. Walsh also discussed the meetings scheduled with the local communities and the progress which has been made and what is planned to come in the future.

Walsh also presented several questions which likely will need to be answered or discussed before the Park Commission should make a recommendation this fall.

NEW BUSINESS

a. 2010 Budget

Walsh provided a handout of the budget and CIP narrative and the CIP spreadsheet for 2011. Walsh indicated the process for 2011 is a little different from the past with the CIP being submitted first. Walsh also noted he is expecting some operational changes for 2011, but believes it will not affect FT or PT staffing. It was indicated that an increase in staffing has been requested to help with the new Regional Trail.

STAFF REPORTS-

a. TH 41 Underpass and Trail

Walsh indicated that planning continues for this project and that staff and the consultant plan to meet with MNDOT to discuss the project in the near future. Staff continues to field calls from the public about the impacts and plans for the trail.

b. Update on Dakota Rail Trail Kiosk

Klevan Schmitz shared a final drawing of the kiosk/trailhead structure with the park commission and briefly discussed and provided examples of two of the 3 panels planned for the trailhead.

c. Events and Activities

Klevan Schmitz noted some of the recent successful events including the weekend programs at Baylor Regional Park and the July 4th kiddie parade at the campground. It was also noted that the Baylor Regional Park day camp is likely to be cancelled due to lack of registration but the Lake Minnewashta Regional Park day camp is nearly full.

It was also indicated that things went very smoothly on the 4th of July in the parks including the Lake Minnewashta Regional Park fireworks display.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REPORTS

a. Equestrian Sub Committee

Karki reported that the Equestrian Subcommittee did not meet in June but plan to try and wrap things up in July.

NEXT MEETING – August 11th, 2010 at the Public Works building in cologne.

ADJOURN -

Karki motioned to adjourn. Hermann seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



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Carver County Park Commission Regular Meeting

Wednesday, August 11th, 2010

NOTES

- 1) Depart for Mayer to tour of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail at 6:35pm with Commissioners Myron Karki and Jerald Moja. Marty Walsh and Lindsey Litrenta also traveled. The four met Commissioner Lynch at the Mayer Trailhead.
- 2) At 7:10pm the attendees began a tour of the Dakota Rail Trail. At various points the group stopped to view construction work, rest stop points, intersections and possible snowmobile access points.
- 3) The touring group returned to the Public Works Building at 8:55.
- 4) No formal meeting took place as it was late. However Commissioner Gail Von Barga and Thomas Hermann met Karki, Moja, Walsh, and Litrenta there. John Braunswarth from the public also attended.
- 5) Walsh briefly went over the construction of the Dakota Rail Trail to those who did not participate in the tour. He explained a mile of the trail has been paved, abutments were constructed for the two bridges and construction is on schedule.

Commissioner Von Barga inquired about the Hennepin County portion of the trail. Walsh stated that portion is on schedule and is to be completed by December 2010 which is the same time the Carver County portion is scheduled to finish. Walsh did state the two overpasses Hennepin County is building are going slowly due to steel not being available.

Snowmobile use on the Dakota Rail Trail was reviewed. Commissioner Von Barga requested information about safety, which cities and townships have passed and defeated the idea and where access points will be.

Walsh explained Camden Township, the City of Mayer and the City of New Germany have voted to allow snowmobiling on the trail. The Waconia Township defeated the resolution 2-1. Walsh also communicated barricades are still in the idea stage on terms of how to get snowmobiles to stop before Hennepin County as they do not allow snowmobile activity on trails.

Community member Braunswarth stated the use of the trail up to Hennepin County by snowmobiles is not what is wanted; what is wanted is access to Lake Waconia via the trail.

- 6) Walsh explained he is in the process of applying for a state grant that will pay for construction of a paved road at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park. The grant if awarded would provide construction funds. Design and Engineering are not covered by the grant.

He stated the county board already has knowledge of his plans to submit the grant proposal.

Commissioners were interested and happy to know the costs could be greatly reduced if the grant is funded.

- 7) At 9:15pm the group decided to postpone the approval of the July Minutes since no formal meeting was held to the next meeting on September 8, 2010. The group departed thereafter.



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DIRECTORS REPORT

September 8, 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: 9/3/2010
Re: September 8, 2010 Park Commission Meeting

New Business

A) Request for Snowmobile Permit – Dakota Rail Regional Trail

Background

In 2006 a master plan for the Dakota Rail Regional Trail was created. The document recognized that in many instances snowmobiling can operate smoothly on unpaved and paved trail surfaces. Additionally, Lake Waconia is a significant snowmobile destination and a snowmobile trail would provide an important east west link to the overall snowmobile trail system.

At the time the master plan was approved, language in the master plan states that Carver County could permit snowmobiling during the winter season of December 1 to March 31 as snow conditions would allow.

During the open houses to discuss the Dakota Rail Regional Trail Master Plan there were clearly those who supported the activity of snowmobiling and those who were opposed to it. The master plan process did not permit snowmobiling but allowed for the activity to be considered if a snowmobile association would be willing to enter into a permit agreement for maintenance and liability of the trail.

At the May 12, 2010 meeting of the Park Commission, representatives Carver County Snowrunner's Club made a request to consider snowmobiling on the Dakota Rail Regional Trail. These representatives addressed the commission about the importance of the trail connection. Additionally, a public process was outlined where the snowmobile club would make presentations to the townships and cities along the corridor to get their response to the request for snowmobiling on the corridor. The Park Commission recommended approval of the public process.

The Snowrunner's Club has completed making presentation to area communities. Camden Township, City of New Germany, and the City of Mayer have recommended approval of the snowmobile permit request. Waconia Township did not recommend approval. The meeting notes, minutes, and resolutions from the agencies are attached to this report for additional background information.

Permit Consideration

In considering whether or not to allow snowmobiling, the below bulleted factors are suggested to be discussed such as:

- What need(s) would be addressed by permitting a snowmobile trail
- Do the conditions of the corridor support snowmobiling
- Understanding where on the corridor is snowmobiling proposed
- What is the impact of snowmobiling to the trail and bridge surfaces and how can this be addressed
- What is the public sentiment to snowmobiling on the corridor
- Is the snowmobile club prepared to maintain, assume liability, and respond to issues concerning the operation of the trail

It is important to understand what makes the snowmobile trail use a good project and how is it that the snowmobile club is qualified to take on the trail operation. Understanding the merit of the request and the applicant's ability to take on the responsibility of the snowmobile trail operation are key factors.

If snowmobiling is proposed to be permitted then the following bulleted considerations should be discussed.

- How are safety concerns going to be addressed
 - Examples; Structures such as finished and unimproved bridges, benches and trash containers at rest areas present possible collision points. Streets, driveway crossings, and fallen trees present other concerns.
- What are the operational issues with a trail
 - Examples: Who will be the contact for the club, How often is maintenance and inspection of the trail conducted
- What can be done to mitigate potential use concerns
 - Examples; signage, policing, education, speed limits, modifications to trail route
- Term of the permit
 - Example: one year with option to renew, five year term
- Termination of the permit
 - Examples; for cause, expired term, upon 30 days by either party,
- Other conditions, the club would be responsible for all costs of the operation of the snowmobile trail including but not limited all signage, barricades, fencing needed for the safe operation on

the designated portion of the trail, and repair of the trail for any damaged cause by the snowmobile activity.

It is recommended that the Carver County Snowrunner's Club make presentation to the Park Commission; the commission will have opportunity to follow up with questions to gain a better understanding of the proposed snowmobile trail. If members of the public are present, the meeting can be opened up to the public for comment on the proposed snowmobile trail and permit request.

Staff Reports:

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

Site meetings were held with residents along the trail on Thursday, September 2nd. The southern alignment of the trail at Ches Mar Drive has been selected as the route to enter the park. Responses from reviewing agencies concerning environmental impacts are expected to be received in the near future. Additional engineering work will be done to further minimize impacts to adjacent property by adjusting the trail elevations to reduce the amount of temporary construction easements needed for the project.

B) Grant Application for Pavement of Roadway at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park

The grant application to the DNR for State Park Road Account Program has been prepared. The grant request seek funding to pave the main portion of the park road extending from the park entrance drive to the existing paved road and parking area at the beach.

C) Dakota Rail Regional Trail

Sub grade preparation and installation of aggregate base continues and is nearing completion on approximately 4 miles of trail. Three miles of bituminous trail has been installed. It is expected that paving will take place on the trail between the Donder's Creek Bridge and County Road 155 in the upcoming weeks. The final bridge plans for the a Donder's Creek bridge have been approved. Fabrication of the bridge will take several weeks if not longer to complete.

D) Events and activities:

Staff will update Commissioners on past activities of the Day Camp, Family Fun Day and upcoming activities of the Buckthorn Round Up and Chili Cook-off.

E) Regional Park Foundation

The Regional Park Foundation administrator has resigned from the position.

Meeting Notes
Provided by
Camden Township

The Camden Township Board recommends that the Dakota Rail Trail allow snowmobiles with the following suggestions:

Stop Signs be placed by all driveways.

Fences be placed along the trail where property such as orchards are at risk of being driven on.

Speed limit signs be placed both in the country and in towns with a lower limit in the towns.

Some or all of this could be done by the Southwest Trails Snowmobile Club. The Club also volunteered to repair damages if there are any.

There were some concerns voiced about the traffic on this trail already which is illegal. It might be better to allow traffic with some controls that are listed above. If traffic is not allowed, it would appear there would still be some traffic like there is today without the controls suggested above.



**City of Mayer Resolution 08-09-2010-19
Support of Snowmobiling on the Dakota Rail Regional Trail**

WHEREAS, the City of Mayer recognizes the importance of trails to provide links to communities and,

WHEREAS, the City desires to promote the community by providing access to trails;

WHEREAS, the City desires to allow snowmobiling on the Dakota Rail Regional Trail;

WHEREAS, the City desires to cooperate with the Snowmobile Club to create a recreation resource for snowmobiling;

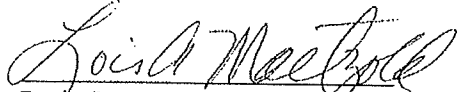
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of Mayer Supports the use of snowmobiles on the Dakota Rail Regional Trail.

Adopted by the Mayer City Council this 9th day of August, 2010



Chris Capaul, Mayor

Attest:



Lois Maetzold, City Clerk

Snowmobile permit decision.txt

From: Jeff Schwendinger [Jeff@Service800.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2010 2:06 PM
To: Martin Walsh
Subject: Snowmobile permit decision

Marty,

I want to inform you of the decision made by the Waconia Township Board at the meeting held on Monday, August 9th 2010 regarding the permit application by the snowmobile club to allow use of the Dakota Trail.

Gordon Wickenhauser: Made a motion to not allow the permit to go through. He stated he did not agree with allowing snowmobiles on a paved surface as it would create too much additional wear-and-tear, requiring more maintenance and therefore additional tax money to maintain.

Gordon also commented that the township needs to strongly take into consideration the residents with homes along the trail who felt the trail would only add to problems with successfully patrolling the trail (24 hours, 7 days a week), the disruptive nature of the noise created and controlling people that snowmobile off the trail and onto private property.

Allen Friske: Seconded the motion. He agreed that the residents had a valid concern with the number of people that snowmobile off the trail and onto private land. He did state he may be in favor of an alternative plan that would allow a designated snowmobile trail to cross over the Dakota Trail in an effort to create a more direct path connecting existing trail systems.

Thomas Williams: Voted 'neutral' on the topic and did not vote in favor or against the permit application.

The motion to not allow the permit application by the snowmobile club to move forward (by Waconia Township) was passed.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you

Jeff Schwendinger
Waconia Township Clerk