

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

### CHISAGO COUNTY PARK BOARD OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS Thursday, January 21, 2016

At 3:01 pm, Thursday, January 21, 2016, Chairman DuBose called the meeting of the Chisago County Park Board of Directors with the following members present: Carlson, DuBose, Kaiser, Sichender, and Sutcliffe. Absent: none. Also present: Mike Robinson, County Commissioner, Park Director Laird Mork, Ken Roberts, Chisago County Planner, and Meeting Recorder Deb Johnson.

Director Sichender offered a motion to approve the Agenda for the Board of Directors meeting with the following revisions: additions of letter received from Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Committee and Ki-Chi-Saga field requests. Second by Director Sutcliffe and **carried unanimously**.

Director Kaiser offered a motion to approve the minutes of December 17, 2015, with one revision, page 1, 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph: ...and ~~also~~ the City of North Branch also received funding for their Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail extension north project. Second by Director Carlson and **carried unanimously**.

Chairman Dubose called for nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2016. Following the typical rotation of officers, Chairman Carlson nominated Director Kaiser for Chairman and Director Sicheneder for Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations. Chairman DuBose called for a vote. Those in favor of Director Kaiser for Chairman and Director Sicheneder for Vice Chairman please say "aye": Carlson, DuBose, Kaiser, Sicheneder and Sutcliffe, whereupon the Chair declared Director Kaiser Chairman and Director Sicheneder as Vice Chairman of the Board for 2016.

Director Sutcliffe was appointed by the County Board for District 5 open position. Introductions and a brief history of the parks and trails was given. Director Sutcliffe is a 25 year resident of the county and currently serves on the Chisago County Planning Commission, Nessel Township Board and has served on the Chisago County Board of Adjustment.

Ki-Chi-Saga field requests were reviewed with the Board. Two requests have been received for soccer field #1. Nicole Devries, LARA, has requested soccer fields 1,2, 3 & 4 from July 11th to August 29th. Cory Reedy with LARA LaCrosse has requested soccer field 1 plus the open play area for Lacross from April 1 – July 30. Director DuBose offered a motion to approve the field request from April 1<sup>st</sup> through July 30<sup>th</sup> for fields 1 and the open play area from April 1<sup>st</sup> to July 30<sup>th</sup>, and the field request from LARA for fields 2,3 & 4 from July 11 to August 29<sup>th</sup> and Field #1 from July 30 through August 29<sup>th</sup>. Second by Carlson and **carried unanimously**.

Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail – East End Project Update: The Board reviewed a power-point presentation of the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail project from fall 2015 to current. Pilings and bridge work will begin February and project will be completed by June 24, 2016. Reimbursement request reviewed, first draw amount will be approximately \$500,000. The MOU with the State Park had expired and no funding priority was apparent by DNR Officials to continuing the trail project into and through the State Park. After several meetings, the State Park & Trails Department is now reviewing its options for continuing the trail within the state park. News regarding trail land acquisitions will be tabled until next meeting. DNR approval has been received for two of the three grants submitted for funding in 2016: Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail (SIRT) paving project in the amount of 157,500 and Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail re-pave project in the amount of 1,107,000. The Park Director will discuss with the DNR whether reviews completed last year (environmental review, endangered species review, natural resources review, cultural resources, historic preservation, EAS and SHPO) will need to be completed again. The third grant project, the SIRT land acquisition and connection project will be approved for funding for year starting July 1, 2017. Properties need to be acquired to complete this portion of the trail, some of which the land owners have not been cooperative to date. Discussion was held on pursuing Federal Grant Funding for additional funds to complete the paving of the east end project as well as additional costs to complete the connection project west to the city of Shafer. Grant applications submittals are due by the end of February 2016. These grants are administered through the DNR, however the Legacy Funding which has been received for these two projects can be used as the local match requirement. Director Carlson offered a motion to recommend to the County Board and request approval to submit two Federal Grants for 1) additional funding to complete the paving of the east end project and 2) additional funding to complete the connection project. Second by DuBose and **carried unanimously**. Laird – will get RBA to Chase by noon 2/10 to be on county board for 2/17 with grant applications need to be submitted by 2/29/16.

Discussion was held on the America's Best Communities program. The Chisago Lakes Area was one of 50 who submitted revitalization plans in the second round of completion. The Chisago Lakes Area was included when the field was narrowed to 15 in January. The field of 15 will again be narrowed down to 8 in April 2016. Completion of the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail has been a priority of the group.

Ken Roberts, Chisago County Planner, led the discussion on Chapter 6 of the Comprehensive Park Plan review. Chapters 1-5 have been reviewed and approved by the Park Board. Minor revisions were discussed for Chapter 6. It was the consensus of the Board that Ken Roberts make the suggested changes to Chapter 6 and submit the Plan to the County Board for approval in February. Discussion was also held on the need for regional designation status for Fish Lake Park and Dennis Frandsen Park, as well as the need for a master plan for each. The Board will re-visit this issue in 2017.

A brief update on the Blandin Broadband Grants was reviewed with the Board. Nancy Hoffman, Executive Director, Chisago County HRA-EDA, applied for and received six grants, one of which was for 10 WIFI hotspots throughout the county. The Park Director is pursuing a

WIFI hotspot for Fish Lake Park. The grant would pay for approximately 50% of equipment costs and the cost of one year of service. The Park Director will check with the County Administrator regarding the availability of accepting for credit card payments for park fees.

The Parks Director reviewed with the Board the history of the Frandsen Park lake shore restoration project. The DNR has issued a permit in 2015, good for five years, for a “mud sucking” project, not a dredging project. Due to the delay with permitting, the funding source for the project was withdrawn. The Park Director has solicited additional bids, ranging from \$60,000 to \$130,000, and will pursue private funding for the project again.

The next Park Board meeting will be held February 18, 2016 at 3:00 pm.

Director Carlson offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:25 pm. Motion seconded by Director DuBose and **carried unanimously**.

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Dan Kaiser, Chair

Attest:

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Laird Mork  
Parks Director