

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

### CHISAGO COUNTY PARK BOARD OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS Thursday, February 18, 2016

At 3:00 pm, Thursday, February 18, 2016, Chairman Kaiser called the meeting of the Chisago County Park Board of Directors with the following members present: Carlson, Kaiser, Sichender, and Sutcliffe. DuBose arrived at 3:43pm. Also present: Mike Robinson & George McMahon, County Commissioners, Park Director Laird Mork, Ken Roberts, Chisago County Planner, Meeting Recorder Deb Johnson and Guests: Darin Newman, Marty Torgerson, and Mark Wester, State Park and Trail Planners/Land Acquisition.

Director Carlson offered a motion to approve the Agenda for the Board of Directors meeting with the following addition: discussion on acquiring the easement at the County Business Park. Second by Director Sichender and **carried unanimously**.

Director Carlson offered a motion to approve the minutes of January 21, 2016. Second by Director Sutcliffe and **carried unanimously**.

Darin Newman and Marty Torgerson, MN State Park and Trail Planners, along with Mark Wester, State Park and Trail Land Acquisition Division, were present to review with the Board information and overview of the Oberstar Trail Connection planning as well as the legislatively authorized Willard Munger Trail between the Twin Cities and Taylors Falls. DNR staff reviewed the state statute and the results of the recent online survey on trail uses. Discussion was held on if the state would take control over local trails, which would only happen with legislative approval.

Chisago County received notice that two of the three grants awarded by the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission will be funded for year 2016. The third grant has been approved for funding for year 2017. The Park Director is working to complete the applications required by MNDNR. MN DNR will continue to manage the grants through their grants staff program.

Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail East End Project Update: A construction progress report was presented. A draw requested was submitted to the state, reimbursement rate is 30 days. A meeting was held with Ron Erickson and temporary accesses to or through the state park continues to be explored. Kurt Schneider, Environmental Services Director, presented an update on discussions with land owners regarding the final parcels needed to complete the trail. Commissioner McMahon will be available for continued meetings with land owners. It was the consensus of the Board that the Park Director completes Federal Grant applications for paving the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail East End Project.

Discussion held on the need for bonding dollars to complete the Interstate State Park Segment of the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail. Bonding funds are normally pursued through support of a bill sponsored by our local legislators. To date this has not been secured.

Ken Roberts, Chisago County Planner, led the discussion on the final review of the Comprehensive Park Plan. Minor changes were discussed and if approved, the final plan could be presented to the County Board in April. Director Carlson offered a motion to approve the changes as discussed and submit to the County Board for approval. Second by Director Sutcliffe and **carried unanimously**.

Discussion was held on the portion of land north of the County Business Park which the City of Center City owns. This piece also includes the old railroad bed and should be a part of the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail running into the City of Center City. Discussions will be held with the City regarding designation of this portion of the property for future trail use.

The Park Director will be on vacation during the next regularly scheduled meeting, therefore, meeting will be held on March 24, 2016 at 3:00 pm.

Director Carlson offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 pm. Motion seconded by Director Sichender and **carried unanimously**.

---

Dan Kaiser, Chair

Attest:

---

Laird Mork  
Parks Director