

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

CHISAGO COUNTY PARK BOARD OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS Thursday, June 16, 2016

At 3:03 pm, Thursday, June 16, 2016, Chairman Kaiser called the meeting of the Chisago County Park Board of Directors with the following members present: Carlson, Kaiser, and Sicheneder. Absent: DuBose, Sutcliffe. Also present: Mike Robinson, County Commissioner, Park Director Laird Mork, and Meeting Recorder Deb Johnson.

Director Carlson offered a motion to approve the Agenda for the Board of Directors meeting. Second by Director Sicheneder and **carried unanimously**.

Director Carlson offered a motion to approve the minutes of May 19, 2016 with one correction on page 2, 2nd line: correct park name to Chisago Lakes Veteran's Memorial Park. Second by Director Sicheneder and **carried unanimously**.

Construction and timeline report update was given on the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail East End Project. There are several soft areas on the trail which need to be reworked, two bridges are in place, third to be completed next week, concrete work can be finished after last bridge installed. Project needs to be completed by June 30, in order to certify that the project is in compliance with grant requirements.

The official award letter has been received for the SIRT connection project, funding for year 2017, between Tern Avenue and Shafer. The grant award totals \$621,000, with a local match of \$69,000, for land acquisition and trail construction, including paving.

The Park Director attended a meeting with the MN DNR officials regarding the connection project with the Interstate Park. Also in attendance was: Kurt Schneider, Gregg Carlson, Mayor Buchite, Joe Sausen, Wade Vitalis, Interstate State Park Manager Ron Erickson, Regional Manager Jan Shaw Wolf and other DNR Staff. County officials spoke of project status, future plans, and city and community concerns regarding access. DNR officials raised issues with grade, clearing of trees, and environmental concerns. County application for LCCMR funding to complete the Interstate Park portion did not receive funding. The Park staff is planning on installing a border fence with opening for foot traffic only, to hike to the overlook in the park. Bikes would not be allowed inside park boundaries. No grand opening will take place with completion of the east end project, rather a celebration of project completed. There will be a meeting held in September with DNR and Park Officials held at the Drive Inn in Taylors Falls. Regarding Natural Resource Trust Fund funding, an application will be submitted again, to increase scoring of the project, local support from our legislators, county, city and concerned citizens will be necessary.

Director's report covered operational and maintenance concerns due to the lack of STS crew numbers and short staffing due to recent hires leaving; Fish Lake picnic shelter repairs have been completed, parking lot repairs have not; 40 shelter agreements have been processed. Lee Olson provided paperwork for processing credit cards, however training needs to be completed by the Park Director and no time has been available to complete. Discussion held on neighbor complaints regarding the increased noise levels and lack of landscaping along the SIRT were discussed and State Park concerns over several trees damaged as well as a gate during construction of the trail. A landscape plan is being prepared by the Chisago County Master Gardener. Park staff will be completing gate repairs along with installing the fencing at the parking lot and other areas as outlined in the plan.

Park Director reviewed with the Board the proposed updates to the current county parks as presented in the updated Comprehensive Plan and the need to address funding the improvements.

Discussion held on the meetings held on the proposed Oberstar Trail, MN DNR officials are working to determine the best route to connect the Twin Cities with Grand Marais, which includes a route through Chisago County.

It was suggested that signage be placed along the Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail that the route will undergo reconstruction next year.

Signage regarding the proposed user age that the playground equipment is designed for has been installed at Frandsen, Ki-Chi-Saga and Fish Lake Parks, along with increased wood fiber material at the playgrounds.

Director Carlson offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:32pm. Motion seconded by Director Sichender and **carried unanimously**.

Next meeting set for July 21, 2016.

Dan Kaiser, Chair

Attest:

Laird Mork
Parks Director