

**DRAFT**  
**CHISAGO COUNTY PARK BOARD**  
**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
Thursday, January 26th, 2017

At 3:00 pm, Thursday, January 26, 2017, Chairman Kaiser called the meeting of the Chisago County Park Board of Directors with the following members present Environmental Service Director Kurt Schneider, Park Board Directors, Carlson, DuBose, Kaiser, Sutcliffe and Sicheneder. Also, present Mike Robinson, County Commissioner and Park Director Laird Mork. Others present for the meeting included Scott Watters & Kevin Gustafson with the North Branch Sno-Drifters and Sue Sinna with Lent Township.

On motion by Carlson, second by Sutcliffe the agenda and minutes, the park board moves approval.

Director Carlson moves to appoint Sicheneder as Chair and Sutcliffe as Vice-Chair, with no other nominations heard and the board approves unanimously.

Kaiser moves to maintain the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 3 p.m. as our regular meeting scheduled, second by Carlson and approved.

Scott Watters and Kevin Gustafson with the North Branch Sno-drifters Club reviewed a request to permit the club to construct a shelter along the trail for trail users. Park board members approved in concept but would need to review detailed plans before considering final approval.

Scott Watters, a club member with the North Branch Sno Drifters requested consideration to change the County's policy regarding the use of studded snowmobile tracks. Watters lives along the trail and notes that it is an important corridor and gateway to other riding trails. Watters acknowledged that studded tracks damage pavement surfaces but felt the policy was currently not dissuading snowmobilers from using the trail anyway, so there would be no change in the level of damage that is occurring. Watter has indicated that he sat on the trail and counted numerous snowmobiles that went by with studded tracks, noting, the snowmobiles were running on the snowmobile trail not on the pavement.

Park Director Mork reviewed history and action taken in the past. Mork noted problems with damage following the paving of the trail in 1998. There was significant public outrage regarding the damage that was occurring. The phones were ringing daily. When pavement is new, it seems to be softer and despite efforts to keep machines off, a number continued to migrate to the paved side of the trail. At that time, the County passed a policy in response to the damage and public outrage. Staff noted that the county would complete a costly repaving project scheduled for completion this summer 2017. Changing the policy would was not recommended and would likely re-ignite the controversy related to studded machines on the trail. Director Kaiser recalled the previous action on this and asked if the park board should even be reviewing the issue again.

On motion by Kaiser, second by Carlson the Park Board would not take action, but send question to the County Administration to determine if they should spend additional time reviewing this. Motion carried

Sue Sinna with Lent Township inquired regarding place signs at the Lent Township line. The Park board felt they would need to develop a sign policy before responding to the request.

Environmental Services Director Kurt Schneider reported on County Board action to form a working group to formalize and finalize acquisitions for the trail parcels needed. The group is directed to complete the task by the end of the first quarter of 2017. The group has outlined strategy to meet with various landowners, which is currently underway. Results to be delivered to the County Board mid-April.

Mork noted that completion of a logical terminus on the east end of the new trail is still needed for public access as the State has so far does not have a plan to complete the trail as provided for within the 2010 Memorandum of Understanding.

Mork reported that individuals working with the ABC group continued to express interest in securing services of an individual to lobby on behalf of the Lakes Area group to further the pursue completing the trail in and though the Interstate State Park, no action taken.

A meeting with State Parks and Trails staff is scheduled for February 1, at that meeting attendees will continue to work out details for a new Joint Powers Agreement. Details will be shared at the February Park Board meeting.

A bench policy was considered, the park board reviewed issues of continuity, esthetics, durability, cost and maintenance. The park board examined a policy that Wright County parks uses, which differentiated time duration for maintaining the donation. No action taken.

Chisago County Park Board members reviewed amendments to the County Park Ordinances. On motion by Kaiser, second by Carlson and passed in agreement with updates considered to date. All park board members recognizing that additional editing will occur by county environmental services staff, administrator office staff and attorney's office before complete.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is for February 16, at 3 p.m.

Director Kaiser offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:30pm, seconded by Director Carlson and carried. Meeting adjourned.

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Jill Sicheneder, Chair

Attest:

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Laird Mork  
Parks Director