

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

### CHISAGO COUNTY PARK BOARD OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS Thursday, February 8, 2018

At 2:57 pm, Thursday, February 8, 2018, Director Carlson called the meeting of the Chisago County Park Board of Directors with the following members present: Sicheneder, DuBose, Carlson, and Storm. Absent: Kaiser. Also present: Mike Robinson, County Commissioner; Kurt Schneider, Env. Services Director; Ken Roberts, Chisago County Planner; Laird Mork, Park Director.

With the addition of four items **Director Storm offered a motion** to approve the Agenda for the Board of Directors meeting. Second by Director Sicheneder and **carried unanimously**. Items added to the agenda were, 1. Request to collect bee swarms on county land. 2. Nessel Twp request to use park fees to build a picnic shelter. 3. Report on meeting with DNR and city of Lindstrom Administrator regarding the extension of the Gateway State Trail into Lindstrom. 4. Report on pollinator conference.

**Director DuBose offered a motion** to approve the minutes of January 18, 2018, Second by Director Storm and **carried unanimously**.

Director Gregg shared thought regarding the benefits of the parks and trails to area residents, including healthful benefits related to staying active. He noted that as few as 22% of Americans get even the minimum amount of daily physical activity and that it has significant impacts on our health and health care costs in America.

Director Mork added that he had read that the park and trail facilities tend to promote healthy life styles and social interaction two indicators that reportedly lead to greater longevity and happiness. The efforts should be viewed as an upfront investment in prevention and control of health care costs.

Updates regarding the Swedish Immigrant Trail included;

- a. The connection project Segment F, has been released for bids by the county board.
  - b. Interstate State Park Segment H was recommended for funding by LCCMR, now we will need to watch as it must be approved by the legislature to receive the funding.
  - c. Additional discussion on how to move the project forward to relies a connection to Center City, the Chisago Lakes communities, schools and commercial area.
  - d. Discussion regarding the new school underway in Chisago City and how the Swedish Immigrant Trail will serve to connect the facility and communities to the east and west.
- No action taken

Discussion regarding the Sunrise parcel and correspondence with property owner. Director Mork reported that he had sent a letter of interest and asked the Sahyun family if the parcel was something they would consider donating. No correspondence has been received by the property owners to date. No action taken.

County Planner Ken Roberts reviewed the need to complete a master plan for Fish Lake Park as part of a request for determination of Regional Park Status by the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. With Regional Park designation this opens up Chisago County's right to compete for Parks and Trails Legacy funding to update or improve the park. A Master Planning strategy to update the park to both 21<sup>st</sup> century and regional park standards would require significant investment. Mork provided park mapping and the park board considered land area and limiting geological factors, current layout and alternatives that may be illustrated for public comment meetings. Planner Ken Roberts questioned the addition of a splash pad that perhaps could be added as part of the future plan to facilitate water related activity at the park in the case that lake waters would become unsuitable for swimming activity related to different situations. Roberts also talked about timing for public input surveys and meetings. No action taken

Director Mork shared information related to unofficial Facebook pages that had been created, apparently by Facebook, related to several of the County Park Facilities. Park users post a variety of photos and comments on the pages with no oversight or monitor. Although content was not overly concerning at the time of discovering the sites, park board directors felt discussion regarding the sites is warranted. The Park Board indicated that monitoring the sites would be prudent and further discussion with county MICS staff recommended.

The Park Board reviewed a request by a disabled veteran regarding free access to the Fish Lake County Park. Park Board recognized that Chisago County does provide free access on Monday through Thursday for all veterans as well as county residents. A fee policy is in place to manage use on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The Park Board Directed staff to review details of the request with the county attorney's office, ask for a statement to bring back to the park board. The Park Board wanted to better understand obligations and proper procedure regarding consideration of the request and how it relates to other concessions the county makes available to veterans.

Staff shared a request by a local bee keeper to harvest bee swarms from the County Park reserve land in North Sunrise Township. Staff reviewed input from pollinator experts related to best practices that provided mixed messages related to possible benefits and liabilities to native bee populations. On motion of DuBose, second by Storm the request was denied.

Director Schneider reviewed State law and county policy regarding the collection and dissemination of Park and Trail fees collected in relation to county building and or plating permits. Schneider provided information related to funding that had been allocated to be utilized in the area of Nessel Township. Schneider reviewed a request by Nessel Township to utilize all available funds for the construction of a Picnic Shelter to be located at the site of the Township

Hall. On motion of Director DuBose, second by Sicheneder a motion to recommend approval to the County Board of Commissioners passes.

The next meeting is scheduled at its regular time on the third Thursday, March 15, at 3 p.m.

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.**

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Gregg Carlson, Chair

Attest:

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Laird Mork  
Parks Director