

DRAFT

CHISAGO COUNTY PARK BOARD
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, March 21, 2019

At 3:00 pm, Thursday, March 21, 2019, Chairman Storm called the meeting of the Chisago County Park Board of Directors with the following members present: Dan Kaiser, Jolene Wille, Gregg Carlson, Jill Sicheneder and Frank Storm. Also present: Laird Mork, Park Director; County Commissioners Mike Robinson and Kurt Schneider, Environmental Services Director.

Director Carlson offered a motion to approve the meeting minutes for February 21th Board of Directors meeting. Second by Director Kaiser and **carried unanimously**.

Environmental Services Director Kurt Schneider shared the message that after 40 years of service Park Director Laird Mork had notified the County of his plan to retire. The last day for Mork is May 31, 2019 Schneider indicated that the position was critical to the function and would be refilled. No action taken

Approve Tinkergarten request permission to hold classes at Checkerboard Park, acknowledged activity and approved by consensus.

Review draft Adopt a Trail documents, amended by Park Board Directors. The Park Board Directors also talked about adding the program to the website to reduce staff time related to managing the program. Dialog related to the program identified three separate interests. Ideas included the “Adopt a Trail” program, a second was for a “Trail Monitor” program and a third would relate to a “donation program”. Each to be outlined and managed somewhat differently. On motion of Wille, second by Kaiser and passed, the park board endorsed the concept to be further developed.

Review field use requests for Ki-Chi-Saga Park. Director Mork shared a completed calendar for the soccer/lacrosse/football fields for the 2019 playing season. All overlapping requests have been resolved. The park board concurred with the plan and will proceed with agreements by consensus.

The current field use policy and forms were reviewed. Park Board Directors suggested that the documents be reviewed by the Attorney’s office. No action taken.

Report on Monumental Public Lands Act Passed by Congress. The passage of the Natural Resources Management Act in Congress. The significance for local parks and trails includes the act to permanently re-authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) legislation dedicated a portion of the earnings generated from the offshore oil and gas leasing to be used for conservation projects. (These are funds that have historically supported the MN DNR parks and trails grants programs but had all but dried up in recent years.)

Pine County organizes ride to raise awareness of the need for the Oberstar Trail Connection., more information to be sent to Park Board Directors when available.

Continue review related to the building request from LARA Lacrosse group. The Park Board reviewed an outline of considerations related to the building request. Considerations will be further reviewed with the group or groups that may have interest in participating.

Review land acquisition/grant application details for parcel adjacent to Checkerboard Park. Contact and concurrence with the property owner has not been successful to date. Review of grant criteria also indicates that at least one improvement would need to be included with a grant application related to the park. The application would require an updated appraisal and public hearing. The County will not have these details covered by the end of March and will need to postpone application until the next opportunity. No action taken.

Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail Interstate State Park updates, Chisago County met with Taylors Falls March 12th to outline project details related to the trail head at city hall. The next step will be to have the JPA approved and signed. WSB & Associates have been contract to complete the trail project across the Interstate State Park to Taylors Falls. A kick off meeting was held at the Parks Office March 19th. Attendance included MN Parks and Trails staff, a representative from Taylors Falls City Council, WSB staff, a sub-consultant from Blondo Consulting, Chisago County P.W. Director Joe Triplett, Environmental Services Director Kurt Schneider and Park Director Laird Mork. The meeting reviewed many details related to the project. Additional meetings were planned to carry the project momentum.

Reimbursement related to paving project R004-13-3B was received by Chisago County. Segment F Opening Celebration is tentatively planned for May 11th.

Sunrise Prairie Trail

Natural resource infraction has been processed.

Trail operations/plowing information related to 2019 season shared.

Snowmobile Trail Grooming was well done in the 2019 season.

Reminder, other active grant – Pollinator Habitat Program in cooperation with Chisago SWCD.

Next Park Board meeting is March 21st. It was agreed to reschedule the Park Board meeting in May to the last Thursday May 30th as needed by Park Board Directors. Agreed by consensus.

Adjourned