

CHISAGO COUNTY PARK BOARD OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, June 18, 2020

At 3:00 pm, Thursday, June 18, 2020, Chairman Kaiser called the meeting of the Chisago County Park Board of Directors with the following members present: Dan Kaiser, Gregg Carlson, Jill Sicheneder, and Jolene Wille. Excused Absence: Frank Storm. Also present: Joe Tart; Park Director, Diane Sander; Support Specialist, County Commissioner Mike Robinson, Environmental Services Director Kurt Schneider and Laird Mork.

Meeting Summary:

- Unanimously the Board approved the amended agenda.
- Unanimously the Board approved May 21, 2020 meeting minutes.
- Unanimously the Board approved to submit grant application for Segment G - SPRT.
- Unanimously the Board approved cancelling July Park Board Meeting. August Park Board Meeting will be held at Dennis Frandsen County Park.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Dan Kaiser.

Motion by Jolene Wille to approve the meeting agenda. Second by Gregg Carlson and carried unanimously.

Motion by Gregg Carlson to approve the May 21, 2020 minutes. Second by Jolene Wille and carried unanimously.

Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail (SPRT) Grant Application

Grant application is due at the end of July. Staff is working on an application for Segment G. The application would request funds to continue the SPRT and install a paved trail from 410th Street in North Branch to Harris. Director Tart is considering adding a trail head and/or rest area south of the Sheriff's Department on County Road 30. City of Harris is considering donating property for a trail head area. Motion by Jolene Wille to have staff submit a grant application with additional amenities for the trail head for Segment G on the Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail. Second by Gregg Carlson and carried unanimously.

COVID-19 Update

Director Tart provided an overview of the updated Governor's Executive Order and reviewed the Preparedness Plan for Ki-Chi-Saga Park. As to date, parks and trails are open as long as the following guidelines are adhered to: social distancing, groups less than 25 individuals, portable restrooms, restroom facilities, beaches, and campsites. Playgrounds remain closed. Adult and youth organized sports are open but each sport has specific COVID-19 guidelines.

Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail (SIRT) Interstate State Park Update

Director Tart reported he has been working on grant monitoring requirements and a work plan update. Weekly construction meetings have been taking place. The following project items have been completed: Trail head: concrete work, landscaping, and installed water fountain, and benches. First lift of parking lot and east portion of trail have been paved. Reforestation plan has been reviewed in selected areas. Abutment supports will be finished within a couple of weeks. Shelter should be installed at end of July. August goals: install bridge, finish paving trail, and install sign and kiosk. DNR is proposing alternative trail routes closer to HWY 37. Ongoing discussion to finish field work to expand study area in Taylors Falls for Segment C.

Amador Township Park Funds

Director Tart reported County Board approved the Amador Township Park Fund request.

Staff Report

Park Capital Improvement Funds

Director Tart reported the capital improvement funds were approved for 2020. Funds will be used to replace some equipment, gravel surfacing at Fish Lake and Ki-Chi-Saga Parks, and crack filling/fog sealing at Ki-Chi-Saga and Dennis Frandsen Parks.

Lutz Property

Director Tart reported the Parks and Trails council of MN is working on the purchase agreement for the land.

Chisago County Website Update

Director Tart reported the website will be updated so the Special Use Permit and Large Event Special Use Permit can be download and filled out electronically. County IT staff is creating the Athletic Field Reservations and Athletic Field Calendar for the Park Departments website.

County Parks & Trails

Director Tart reported daily clean up, sanitizing, mowing and trimming activities. Projects list for summer include: improving athletic field work, installing new trail bridge and culvert at Dennis Frandsen Park, installing or improving retaining wall at Fish Lake beach, improving landscaping near county park signs, installing informational kiosks, painting and staining of shelters and restrooms, and adding additional gravel at selected hiking trails.

Fish Lake Monitoring

Testing every two weeks until Labor Day for E. coli bacteria beach monitoring. On July 16, 2020 beach was treated for aquatic vegetation. Signs were posted on the beach.

Kost Dam Park

Trailed was closed to help keep the public safe. Extensive clean-up was done along trail from high traffic usage.

Ki-Chi-Saga Park

Improving ballfields for better playability with new pitching rubbers, base anchors, groomer and nail drag. Plans are to start aerating turf and selective seeding to help manage weeds.

SPRT

Extensive graffiti clean-up along trail.

Hiring Seasonal Staff

Director Tart reported seven new hires for seasonal staff and a delay for the Sentencing to Service (STS) crew.

July Park Board Meeting

Director Tart provided overview of upcoming work and deadlines for July. Motion by Jolene Wille to cancel the July Park Board meeting unless needed by staff. Second by Gregg Carlson and carried unanimously.

Adjourn – Motion by Jolene Wille to adjourn the meeting. Second by Jill Sicheneder and carried unanimously.

August Park Board Meeting will be held at Dennis Frandsen County Park.