

CHISAGO COUNTY PARK BOARD OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, August 20, 2020

At 3:00 pm, Thursday, August 20, 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 agenda.
- Unanimously the Board approved June 18, 2020 meeting minutes.
- Unanimously the Board approved the SIRT ribbon cutting ceremony for October 10, 2020.

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 June 18, 2020 minutes. Second by Jolene Wille and carried unanimously.

Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail (SPRT) – Segment G Funding Application

Director Tart handed out copies of the Segment G funding application. Phase I and Phase II have been completed by the City of North Branch. The Segment G application is for Phase III and IV. The grant application included a trailhead rest area south of the Chisago County Sheriff's Department North Facility on County Road 30 in Harris, MN. The application had letters of support, updated engineering estimates, and a petition with over 170 signatures in support for the trail. Executive Director and System Plan Coordinator from Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC) conducted a site visit to review the application. Positive comments were received on supporting documentation that was provided with the application such as: Adopt-A-Trail, Friends Groups, Regional Events, and Trail Maintenance Plan. Chisago County Highway Department shifted road design to allow a 10 ft. wide trail near Oak Grove Cemetery. Some preliminary realignment engineering work conducted by WSB has allowed for additional trail space near wetland area. Gregg Carlson inquired about trail segments within the City of North Branch and widening a couple areas. Some areas were as narrow as 6 ft. and WSB Engineering was able to resign and increase trail width to 10 ft. The proposed trailhead would be constructed similar to the trailhead located on Tern Avenue. Laird Mork indicated the Chisago County Trails Foundation could possibly pay for the installation of a trailhead in North Branch. The City of Harris adopted a resolution offering property for the trailhead. Chisago County Board increased financial match to 15% and Chisago County Trails Foundation provided \$5,000 cash match. Park Board discussed the review process and timeline for the grant.

COVID-19 Update

Director Tart reported on the required Preparedness Plan for Ki-Chi-Saga and tailoring the plan for each sport. The Preparedness Plan follows the COVID-19 Emergency Executive orders. Fish Lake Park Shelter has been reserved for an outdoor service. Outdoor church service fall under slightly different guidelines than sport activities. Drinking foundations have remained closed.

Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail (SIRT) - Interstate State Park Update

Director Tart reported the Environmental Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) annual grant monitoring was approved July 17, 2020. He also described the process to obtain a grant reimbursement. Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) work plan updated was approved June 30, 2020. Discussion followed on the installation of the new bridge. Construction projects completed: parking lot paved with second lift and striped, trailhead amenities installed, landscaping, and entire trail segment has been paved. The trailhead shelter is almost finished. Upcoming work to be completed includes: Reforestation plan for trees at the west access and bridge site, installing a sign and kiosk, and installing metal roof on shelter. Peterson's Construction has developed a punch list and will complete list in

approximately two weeks. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), WSB and Chisago County have been looking at alternate trail routes for future Segment C. Feasibility report will be completed in fall of 2020. Discussion followed on a small landlocked parcel within Interstate Park. Ribbon cutting ceremony was discussed. **Motion** by Jolene Willie to have a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 10, 2020. Second by Gregg Carlson and carried unanimously.

Adopt-A-Trail/Sponsorship Agreement

Director Tart reported some minor changes in the Adopt-a-Trail/Sponsorship program. County Board approved the Adopt-a-Trail/Sponsorship Agreement August 19, 2020. Sponsorship program could be used as a creative marketing platform for local businesses. Three segments on SIRT and seven segments on SPRT would be available for sponsorship; segments average approximately two miles.

Parks Capital Items

Director Tart reviewed the Parks Department Capital Improvement funding. A 2021 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD work truck, used Polaris Utility Task Vehicle (UTV), and two zero-turn mowers will get purchased. Staff is working with Prefer Sealcoating Company for crack filling and fog seal at Dennis Frandsen Park and Chisago County Hwy Department for gravel surfacing at Fish Lake and Ki-Chi-Saga Parks.

Staff Report

County Parks and Trail – Ongoing tree removal along trails, mowing, parks repairs, and sanitizing.

Summer Project List – Director Tart reported on challenges faced during the summer. He indicated a request for additional funding in contracted services to help complete park improvements, engineering work, and fertilizer applications. Director Tart indicated there will be an increase in revenue with newly created user fees, special use permits, and sponsorship program.

Fish Lake Park – Beach monitoring testing results were reviewed. Fish Lake beach was closed for one week. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) tested the well at Fish Lake Park and closed the restrooms for two weeks. Discussion followed on oak wilt treatment.

Kost Dam Park – Director Tart reported on extensive cleanup along trail in June and July. Sherriff's Department has visited the park numerous times due to misconduct by young adults. Hiking trail was closed in July and August.

Dennis Frandsen Park – Seal coating and crack filling of parking lot will be done in August/September. Maintenance staff will be clearing brush and other maintenance activities along park roadway and parking lots in preparation for project.

Ki-Chi-Saga Park – Improved ballfields has received complements from park users. Lakes Area Recreation Association (LARA) cancelled in-house soccer and traveling lacrosse. Lakes United Futbol Club (LUFC) had try-outs but do not anticipate playing this season. LARA's traveling baseball played on fields 1-3 for 9U, 10U, and 11U. St. Croix United Soccer Club (SCUS) had five events at the park. Chisago Lakes Cross Country has been scheduled two meets in September and limiting to three teams due to COVID-19.

Checkerboard Park – Installing new playground planned for October.

SIRT & SPRT – Continue working on clearing large trees that have fallen across the trails following seasonal thunderstorms. Installing kiosks to likely begin in September or October.

Season Staffing – New staff is doing a great job. Due to COVID-19 only one person is eligible to work from Sentencing to Service (STS). Parks maintenance staff has been filling void with additional mowing and trimming work.

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