

# CHISAGO COUNTY PARK BOARD OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, January 21, 2021

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At 3:00 pm, Thursday, January 21, 2021 Chairman Kaiser called the meeting of the Chisago County Park Board of Directors in a synchronous e-meeting due to Declaration of Local Emergency. The following members present: Dan Kaiser, Frank Storm, Jill Sicheneder, Gregg Carlson and Jolene Wille. Also present: County Commissioner Mike Robinson, Joe Tart; Park Director and Diane Sander; Support Specialist.

## Meeting Summary:

- Unanimously the Board approved Jolene Wille as Park Board Chair
- Unanimously the Board approved Gregg Carlson as Park Board Vice Chair
- Unanimously the Board approved the agenda
- Unanimously the Board approved December 17, 2020 meeting minutes
- Unanimously the Board approved the 2021 Park Board meeting schedule
- Unanimously the Board approved a required minimum reservation deadline, based on staff discretion

## Organization of Officers

A call for nominations for the Chair position was announced. Gregg Carlson nominated Jolene Wille for Chair. Upon multiple calls, there were no other nominations. Second by Frank Storm and carried unanimously.

A call for nominations for the Vice Chair position was announced. Gregg Carlson nominated Gregg Carlson for Vice Chair. Upon multiple calls, there were no other nominations. Second by Dan Kaiser and carried unanimously.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Wille.

Motion by Dan Kaiser to approve the agenda. Second by Gregg Carlson and carried unanimously.

Motion by Gregg Carlson to approve the December 17, 2020 minutes. Second by Dan Kaiser and carried unanimously.

## Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails (GMRPT) Press Release – Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail (SPRT)

Director Tart reported that a total of fourteen applications were received and eleven applications were selected for funding. Total amount granted \$7,755,429 compared to last year's \$9,984,067. Applicants met the 25 – Year Legacy Plan Strategic Direction Pillars in the application process. Chisago County Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail was recommended by GRMPTC, \$1,182,282 for installation of the new trail from North Branch to City of Harris. The LCCMR will review all recommendations in the spring of 2021.

## Pollinator Garden Grant Update - Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail (SIRT)

Director Tart reported that Judy Chartrand, Chisago Lake Rotary Club/City of Lindstrom Park Board Member is taking the lead on the pollinator garden grant. Three possible funding sources for the grant application include the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota, The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund and The Home Depot.

## SIRT – Interstate State Park Segment C Update

Director Tart provided a brief overview of meetings held with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with regard to the feasibility of Segment C (Taylors Falls Trailhead to Taylors Falls Community Center). Alternative routes were discussed to bypass the preliminary trail alignment within Interstate State Park. Possible route may include use of Military Road with installation of retaining walls and transition areas with use of city streets. City of Taylors Falls suggested using an urban look for the potential trail segment of curb and gutter instead of painted concert/stone look. City of Taylors Falls will review alternative routes with the Heritage Preservation Committee on the Angel Hill District. It

was discussed that Engineering Firm, WSB could assemble a neighborhood meeting and interactive website to gather feedback and community input. The group is making progress in reviewing options for the future segment. Gregg Carlson included the City of Taylors Falls will have the final approval.

### **Organizational Discussion**

Director Tart provided a proposed 2021 meeting schedule. Board members expressed their enjoyment of meeting in the parks during the summer months. Board members discussed using electronic meeting format and the Government Center's lower level conference room as solutions for inclement weather and COVID-19. **Motion by** Dan Kaiser to approve the 2021 Park Board Meeting Schedule. Second by Frank Storm and carried unanimously.

### **Online Reservation**

Director Tart reviewed challenges encountered when shelter reservations are made at the last minute. It does not allow enough time to receive verification of payment, provide informational packet and posting of the reserved shelter. Staff recommended requiring a minimum reservation deadline/timeframe to reduce the frequency of people renting a shelter without paying. Director Tart indicated it would be a work in progress and could work with citizens if a last minute reservation is needed. Frank Storm inquired if there was a way to close reservations on Friday through Sunday. Director Tart indicated he was unsure if that could be done, but could check into it. Board members indicated it was reasonable to have shelter reservations made in advance and supported the idea of a minimum reservation timeframe from rental date. **Motion by** Frank Storm to approve a required minimum reservation deadline, based on staff discretion. Second by Gregg Carlson and carried unanimously.

### **Adopt-a-Trail Conditions Report**

Director Tart briefly highlighted the attorney review on the Adopt-a-Trail application. Director Tart reviewed an Adopt-a-Trail Conditions Report that will provide uniformity for the required volunteer group's quarterly reporting. The Conditions Report will help identify trail segments in need of repair and/or maintenance.

### **2020 Chisago County Parks Annual Report**

Director Tart reviewed and highlighted the Chisago County Parks Department 2020 Annual Report.

**Adjourn** – Motion by Dan Kaiser to adjourn the meeting. Second by Jill Sicheneder and carried unanimously.