

CHISAGO COUNTY PARK BOARD OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, April 15, 2021

At 3:00 pm, Thursday, April 15, 2021 Chair Wille 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: Jolene Wille, Dan Kaiser, Frank Storm, Jill Sicheneder and Gregg Carlson. Also present: County Commissioner Mike Robinson, Joe Tart; Park Director, Diane Sander; Support Specialist and Kurt Schneider; Environmental Services Director.

Meeting Summary:

- Unanimously the Board approved the agenda
- Unanimously the Board approved March 18, 2021 meeting minutes
- By consensus, Director Tart will determine new date/e-meeting or cancel July's Board meeting

Meeting was called to order by Chair Wille.

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

Motion by Dan Kaiser to approve the March 18, 2021 minutes. Second by Gregg Carlson and carried unanimously.

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

Director Tart reported that he has been working with WSB Consultants and have almost completed the public engagement process and website for the SIRT trail options within the City of Taylors Falls. The Board was provided a preview of what the public engagement website the is going to be displayed. Board discussed the trail options and locations. Challenges include steep grade and disturbance of natural resources within Interstate State Park. The website should be up for three weeks to gather public input and comments.

Parks Seasonal Staffing

Director Tart provided an overview of the number of applications received for each position for the 2021 season. He provided a comparison to the 2020 applications. Very excited that we received some great applicants. Pending background checks, will be fully staffed for Seasonal Collection Attendants, Seasonal Park Rangers, Seasonal Park Maintenance Workers and Seasonal Parks Maintenance Technician. Director Tart has been conducting interviews and will continue through the end of next week.

DNR – Natural and Scenic Grant Application

Director Tart provided an overview of the grant application's timeline, funding request, and reasons for the request of funds. Application was more challenging than originally anticipated along with mapping requirements. The property had a dated appraisal so a new appraisal was needed for the application. The appraisal amount was higher and the funding request will cover the full purchase price.

Capital Improvement Plan

Director Tart reviewed the items and projects that were approved for 2021 and anticipated timeline for purchase and completion. Ki-Chi-Saga baseball benches and dugouts were displayed. Board discussed timeline for installation, contractor, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Park Shelter Repairs

Director Tart reviewed the quotes for shelter repairs. Fish Lake Shelter will receive new aluminum soffit and fascia. Checkerboard Shelter will have new soffit, fascia and new roof. Ki-Chi-Saga Shelter 1 will have new soffit, fascia, reroof and replace south gable end. Ki-Chi-Saga Shelter 2 will receive new aluminum soffit and fascia. Repairs are coming out of the operating budget. Dan Kaiser suggested removing a tree close to checkerboard shelter prior to the new roof.

Ki-Chi-Saga Park, Athletic Field Usage 2021

Director Tart reviewed the athletic field usage for Lacrosse, Traveling Baseball and Soccer with dates reserved, time and number of fields. Maintenances has been painting lines and starting to drag baseball fields. Lakes Area Recreation Association (LARA) has been great to work with during the transition to the new scheduling and maintenance system.

Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail (SPRT) – 2021 Detour

Director Tart reported the SPRT will be closed with detour during three separate construction projects scheduled from April through September. First project, County will be installing water main services and pavement replacement north of HWY 95 on County Road 30 from North Branch to Harris. Small section of trail will be impacted and rest will not see much disruption. Second project, City of Wyoming is performing utility upgrades and street construction on East Viking Boulevard. City of Wyoming will provide construction/detours updates on their website and likely staff will be adding the same updates to the county website. Construction will start at the end of April and continue through July. The MS 150 will not be coming north this year and will not be impacted by these projects. The Rebook Ragnar Run is scheduled for August 20th and 21st. The relay run begins in St. Paul and ends in Duluth and the course will be rerouted to avoid construction. Third project, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is likely making improvements to pedestrian ramps on HWY 61 between HWY 8 in Forest Lake going north to City of Wyoming. Survey stakes have been placed along trail corridor, but MnDOT has not be in contact with staff regarding the project. Director Tart indicated he would support trail users crossing intersections with crossing lights and trying to keep trail users and traffic on different detoured routes to help increase safety measures.

Staff Report

Park and Trail Maintenance - Direct Tart highlighted spring work list for the upcoming month.

Shelter Reservations – Sixteen reservations have been accepted and the first reservation is scheduled for April 17th.

Water and Restrooms - Water will be turned on this weekend at Ki-Chi-Saga Park for bathroom usage. A total of seven portable restrooms were installed a bit earlier this year to accommodate park and trail users.

Information Kiosk - Meeting was held on kiosk placements and it is anticipated the kiosks will be installed in the next few months. There is a possibility to utilize private property east of the Tern Avenue trailhead for a kiosk location. If so, a land use agreement should be established.

Lease Agreement – County attorney indicated the need to update the lease on the Karl Oskar House. There has been a name change from Lindstrom Historical Society to the Friends of the Karl Oskar House and the lease should reflect the change.

Summer Park Board Meeting Locations

Director Tart reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule with anticipated meeting locations in various parks and trailhead locations. Director Tart indicated he may not be available for July's Board meeting date and suggested the following; a date change, providing a Director's Report, e-meeting if Board action is needed or cancelling meeting. Gregg Carlson indicated the Board has historically skipped a meeting or two during the year. **By consensus**, Director Tart will determine new date or cancel July's meeting. Frank Storm discussed electronic and in-person meetings. Board discussed meeting format options. Staff will conduct a trial run with the tablet to see if an electronic meeting could be conducted from a remote location. Director Tart will notify the Board of the results. Upcoming meeting locations:

May at Checkerboard Park

September at Ki-Chi-Saga Park

June at Trailhead in City of Taylors Falls

October at Dennis Frandsen Park

July – Director Tart will determine alternatives

November at Kost Dam Park

August at Fish Lake Park

All meetings will be weather/temperature dependent and will be reschedule location when needed.

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