

CHISAGO COUNTY PARK BOARD OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, October 21, 2021

At 3:00 pm, Thursday, October 21, 2021 Chair Wille called the meeting of the Chisago County Park Board of Directors at the Chisago County Government Center. The following members present: Jolene Wille, Dan Kaiser, Jill Sicheneder and Gregg Carlson. Absent: Frank Storm. Also present: County Commissioner Mike Robinson, Joe Tart; Park Director, and Diane Sander; Support Specialist.

Meeting Summary:

- Unanimously the Board approved the agenda
- Unanimously the Board approved the September 16, 2021 meeting minutes
- Unanimously the Board approved that staff review/compare shelter costs with surrounding counties and review time/cost of staff to determine if shelter reservations rentals should be increased or not.
- Unanimously the Board approved a brown color swing set top with green color slide at Kost Dam County Park.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Wille.

Motion by Gregg Carlson to approve the agenda. Second by Jill Sicheneder and carried unanimously.

Motion by Gregg Carlson to approve the September 16, 2021 minutes. Second by Jill Sicheneder and carried unanimously.

2021 Operational Budget Update

Director Tart reviewed the anticipated year end revenue and year end operating budget. Shelter rentals and athletic fees increased from 2020 to 2021. Camping sites are not advertised and only one or two reservations are made each year. Gregg Carlson asked clarifying questions on the new truck and zero-turn mowers. General discussion followed on maintenance and repairs.

Shelter Reservation and Athletic Field Usage Update

Director Tart provided an overview of the shelter usage from 2019 – 2021. Shelter reservations in 2019 - 53, 2020 - 41, and 2021 - 73. County Parks without electricity have very low reservations, average of 2-3 reservations per year. County Parks with electricity have an average of 17 reservations per year. There was a decrease in shelter reservations in 2020, due to COVID-19. Director Tart outlined staff's process of setting up a shelter reservation from receiving the email to posting reservation sign on shelter. Discussion was held on staff time vs cost of a shelter rental. Thoughts included raising shelter reservation to cover staff time or leave the shelter cost the same since people are still spending money within the community on food and gas.

Motion by Dan Kaiser to have staff review/compare shelter costs with surrounding counties and review time/cost of staff to determine if shelter reservations rentals should be increased or not. Second by Jolene Wille and carried unanimously. Director Tart reviewed the Ki-Chi-Saga Athletic Field usage in 2021. He also reviewed the Lakes Area Recreation Association (LARA) field schedule and number of participants in various athletic programs.

Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail (SIRT) – Pollinator Planting Project

Director Tart displayed the flyer for the Pollinator Seeding Event on Saturday, October 30, 2021 on the SIRT. The event will start at 10 am at the Tern Avenue Trailhead and is expected to run until Noon. Participants can bike or walk to help spread native plant seed in designated areas along the trail. Flyers have been distributed

to local Cub Scouts and Girl Scout clubs, Soil and Water Conservation District, Lions Club, Chisago Lakes Area High School, and Master Gardeners.

Minnesota Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) Annual Conference

Director Tart provided highlights of the MRPA annual conference held at the Earl Brown Center in Brooklyn Park on October 12 – 15, 2021. Main topic was diversity, equity, and inclusion as key values to get people outdoors at parks and on trails. Accessibility continues to be an importance with park facilities.

Staff Report

State Contracts/Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail (SPRT) Grant

Director Tart provided an update on the Lutz property which the State has reviewed and authorized. The SPRT grant has been waiting three months for results on the heritage review. The SPRT will follow old HWY 61 from North Branch to Harris. Director Tart indicated a growing trend to see regional trails being placed along railroad track corridors due to difficulty of obtaining land or access.

Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail Detour

Four separate construction projects have going on that have impacted the SPRT trail: Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) project, City of Wyoming project, City of Stacy project, and North Brand to Harris County Road project. Each project had sections of the trail closed and temporarily redirected trail users around construction.

Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails (GMPT) Annual Meeting

Annual meeting provided business videos along with a summary provided by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) about the Greenwood forest fire near Ely.

GMPT Directors Meetings

Director Tart was elected as a Commission Member Representing District 4. Renee Mattson, Executive Director discussed Regional Park Destinations. GMPT monthly meetings are held electronically.

Kost Dam Park - Swing Set and Slide

Director Tart indicated due to ongoing pandemic there remains unforeseeable slowdowns with playground supplies, shipping and contracted services. Board reviewed recreational equipment colors from Little Tykes. Little Tykes Commercial products does not charge for shipping/freight. Total cost for purchase with installation is \$12,415. Discussion followed on mulch, mobility, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This swing set and slide will be ADA compliant. Parks Department will prep site for installation. **Motion** by Dan Kaiser to approve a brown color swing set top with green color slide at Kost Dam County Park. Second by Jill Sicheneder and carried unanimously.

Cross Country Trails – Skiing Groomer and Track Setter

Director Tart displayed a picture of the track setter used by Isanti County Parks and a picture of a track setter built in Spooner, WI. Chair Wille noted the groomer will help attract more people to the parks. The winter cross country groomer is approximately \$4,900.

Auction Items

Director Tart displayed pictures and provided a brief description of items going on auction that include: Skid mounted high pressure sprayer, Toro Z master commercial zero turn mower, 1999 Dodge Ram 2500 diesel truck, and an eight foot Boss snowplow.

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