

# CHISAGO COUNTY PARK BOARD OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, April 21, 2022

---

At 3:00 pm, Thursday, April 21, 2022 Director Tart called the meeting of the Chisago County Park Board of Directors at the Chisago County Government Center. The following members present: Gregg Carlson, Jolene Wille, Frank Storm, Jill Sicheneder and Commissioner Greene. Absent: Dan Kaiser. Also present: Joe Tart; Park Director Kurt Schneider; Environmental Services Director, and Diane Sander; Support Specialist.

## Meeting Summary:

- Unanimously the Board approved the agenda
- Unanimously the Board approved March 17, 2022 meeting minutes

Meeting was called to order by Chair Carlson.

Chair Carlson specified he would like to add the Pledge of Allegiance to the meeting agenda.

**Motion** by Frank Storm to approve the agenda. Second by Jolene Wille and carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Jolene Wille to approve the March 17, 2022 minutes. Second by Frank Storm and carried unanimously.

**Citizen's Forum** – No one present.

## Old Business

### **County Board – Request for Board Action (RBA) 4/6/22 Seasonal Staffing Wage Increases/Incentives**

Director Tart provided an overview of the County Board Request for Board Action (RBA). The item for consideration included seasonal staff wage increases. The RBA is to remain competitive to recruit new seasonal park employees and a benefit to returning seasonal park employees. The wage increase/incentive is based on years of service with a maximum wage amount.

### **Checkerboard Land Acquisition – Real Estate Closing**

The land acquisition closed last week and Director Tart has received the deed. The Lutz property is officially park property. Future use may include additional hiking trails, boardwalks, and lookout areas. The area will focus on passive recreation, bird watching, walking, picnicking while keeping the area in a natural habitat.

## New Business

### **Annual Report**

Director Tart highlighted the annual report. Shelter reservations have increased over the last three years. Fish Lake had more season passes sold in 2021 than prior years. Director Tart included highlights on special events, tournaments, and improvements at Ki Chi Saga Park. Buildings and picnic tables have been painted and spruced up. It was noted that people are getting outside and enjoying the parks and trails and it is essential to maintain our assets. Board commented a lot of projects were accomplished and great job done by staff.

### **Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) - Projects Progress/Update**

Updated timeline for acquisition and installation of 2022 Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) was provided. Currently there are eleven projects in progress. First quarter – mower trailer acquisition. Second quarter has many projects due to supply and shipping delays. Second quarter - Kost Dam playground, Ki Chi Saga covered dugouts and fencing enclosures, Americans with Disabilities (ADA) pathway compliance improvements, brush chipper acquisition, installation of Checkerboard restroom and installation of security lighting and electrical services. Board discussed opportunities of power installation at all shelters. Consideration and future funding for installation of charging stations for electric cars at parks and trailheads. Third quarter - Kost Dam Park ADA ramp repairs and Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail (SPRT) subgrade and repaving project, and Fish Lake Park Plan/Design Services. Fourth quarter- Swedish Immigrant Trail Erosion Control project.

### **Seasonal Park Staffing Update**

Director Tart indicated job postings are open for four different seasonal park positions. Three Collection Attendants are returning employees. Application deadline is open until May 31, 2022.

### **SIRT – Tern Ave Pollinator Garden**

The project will begin in May and a planting event will be held May 21, 2022. Director Tart discussed the pollinator garden location and plantings. Chisago Lakes Rotary Club will assist and bike rack will be installed.

### **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Parks Funding Request**

Director Tart reviewed a wish list for potential ARPA funds: Build a new Parks Maintenance Facility, new Chisago County Nature/Community Center Building, installation of a mountain bike course, Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail (SIRT) connections (dependent on HWY 8 project). Director Schneider added additional projects could include new Ki Chi Saga and Fish Lake Parks multiple use buildings. General discussion was held on Checkerboard Park and installation of additional hiking trails/boardwalks.

### **GMPRT #C22-05-SPRT-Segment G**

Director Tart reviewed the letter sent to landowners along the North Branch to Harris trail section project. The letter asked for permission to have project staff access each property for survey work. It was estimated about three quarters of the distribution list approved access. If a landowner does not allow access, staff should be able to work around it with most properties.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Parks and Trails Maintenance**

Staff has been ramping up for spring/summer with trash pickup and placing trash barrels at park and trail locations. Site preparation will begin for the playground at Kost Dam Park.

**Adjourn** – Motion by Frank Storm to adjourn the meeting. Second by Jolene Wille and carried unanimously at 4:22 pm.