

Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

July 15, 2021

The Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission convened on July 15, 2021 at Swenson County Park on Current Lake. The following voting members were present: Leroy Reese (Chair), Justin Hoffmann, Tom Kappes, Jon Hoyme, Rae Storm, David Thiner and Les Speckmier. Others present: Jean Christoffels, ex-officio member.

Call Meeting to Order:

Chair Reese called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Open Forum:

No one was present.

Agenda:

Justin requested to add "Kuehl Point on Shetek" under New Business.

MSP: Hoffmann, Thiner to approve the agenda with the addition.

Secretary's Report:

MSP: Thiner, Storm to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2021 meeting as written.

New Business:

a. Swenson Park

1. Campground Expansion

- Money has been budgeted for 2022 for a campground expansion; estimated around \$45k for 16 sites (\$2800/site).
- Possibility of expanding by 16 camp sites with electrical hookups. The three sites and picnic shelter closest to the lake would need to be moved east of the road; will look into possibility of converting the three sites by the lake into tent sites. The outhouse may also need to be removed; will need to verify setback to the lake to confirm.
- Need to make sure the camp sites are spaced out and not crammed in.
- Rural water may be coming to the church to the north so it may be an option in future; the water at the park is bad. No money budgeted for rural water connection at this time. Not planning to bring water to each site as there are four to five hydrants in park currently. Justin will investigate costs associated with rural water and connections.
- The sites would have 12'x60' pads with 20-30-50 amp hookups.
- May need to rearrange frisbee golf course for the new sites.
- If 16 sites added, may be able to offer five or six more sites as seasonal, which would leave an additional ten sites for weekend campers.

2. Future Projects for Youth

- Request made by campers for County to offer more activities for older youth to do, such as a half-court basketball court; possible location could be the old picnic shelter by the lake.
- Will check into grant availability as well as assistance from local 4H club.

b. 2022 Camping rate for Seasonal Campers and Daily Camping

- Question raised during 2022 budget meeting with Commissioners as to if the County camping rate is too low at \$17/night or \$1200/season.
- Suggestion was made to increase to \$20/night or \$1300/season.
- Justin will check into rates at other area county parks and bring to next meeting.

c. Kuehl Point on Shetek

- On November 30, 2004, Kuehl Point on Shetek was a gift accepted by the Murray County Board of Commissioners to be used as a County Park.
- The site is not accessible by land, only water, and there is a steep bank that prevents access to the land even from the water as there are no improvements on the property.

MSP: Kappes, Hoyme to recommend that the Murray County Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution to let Kuehl Point on Shetek revert back to the Kuehls due to the fact that the land is not currently being used for public purposes and nor is it suitable for use for public purposes in the future.

Park Director's Report


- We have had issues with the ILids at Lake Sarah. Jean and Justin have worked on them multiple times and hopefully have them up and running now.
- The Park's Department has repaired East Sarah and Swenson Park boat accesses with new slats.
- The swimming beach at Sundquist Park has been expanded and open to the public.
- All our parks were busy over the 4th of July weekend. No problems were reported.

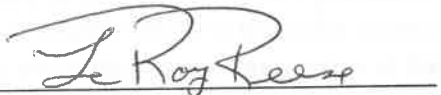
Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be September 23, 2021, at 5:30 p.m; location TBD.

MSP: Hoyme, Speckmier to adjourn.

Attest:


Secretary – Murray County Parks & Recreation
Advisory Commission


President – Murray County Parks & Recreation
Advisory Commission