

# ***Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission*** Minutes September 23, 2021

The Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission convened on September 23, 2021 at the Murray County Government Center meeting room B. The following voting members were present: Leroy Reese (Chair), Justin Hoffmann, Tom Kappes, Jon Hoyme, Rae Storm, David Thiner, Molly Malone and Les Speckmier.

## **Call Meeting to Order:**

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

## **Open Forum:**

No one was present.

## **Agenda:**

Dave requested 7 Mile Park Bridge be added to the agenda

**MSP: Speckmier, Storm to approve the agenda with the addition.**

## **Secretary's Report:**

**MSP: Hoffmann, Storm to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2021 meeting as written.**

## **Old Business:**

### **1. 2022 camping rates**

- i. A handout showing camping rates from Lyon, Nobles, Lincoln, and Cottonwood County was disbursed and reviewed.
- ii. Question was raised if these other parks take reservations and if we can compare our rates the same way since we do not take reservations.
- iii. Discussion was had regarding if we should have a tenting rate. Members felt it was too expensive to charge tent sites the same as a camper.

**MSP: Speckmier, Thiner to recommend to the county board a change in the 2022 park fee schedule. Rates in 2022 should be changed to \$20 for daily camping, \$15 for tent sites and \$1,300 for seasonal camping.**

### **2. Swenson Park Expansion**

- i. An updated copy of the Swenson Park campground expansion was disbursed to the parks board members.
- ii. The map shows the addition of 13 campsites and 4 current campsites that will need to be moved to meet zoning requirements.
- iii. Justin and Jean Christoffels met on site and measured the outhouse bathrooms, and they meet the 187' setback that was required so they are able to stay.

However, the picnic shelter does not meet the setbacks so will have to be moved. It was recommended to move near the playground area.

- iv. Dave mentioned the power company will need to be contacted and possibly update the size of service for these new campsites.
- v. A few evergreens will need to be removed to build the road for the new campsites, but all other trees should be able to stay.
- vi. A concern was brought up about a storm shelter for all the campers. The board felt the campers would be safer in the bathroom facility and typically some campers leave the grounds before storms make it to the park.
- vii. Justin mentioned there is already 6 campers that are interested in seasonal sites if they become available.
- viii. After much discussion the board thought it would be best if we could get started on these sites this fall so, they are ready for camper's right away next spring.

**MSP: Speckmier, Kappes to approve the site plan for Swenson Park campsite addition and bring to the county board for approval to start this project yet this fall.**

### New Business

#### **1. East Lake Sarah Park Lighting**

- a. Justin was approached by the Lake Sarah PALS club asking if the county could add a light at East Lake Sarah Park where the road splits just before you get to the park. They stated there have been several close call accidents in that location and they felt additional lighting would help.
- b. There was some discussion regarding this issue no action was taken
- c. The recommendation was to table this topic to our next meeting and discuss with county engineer Randy Groves to see if he has any ideas on this topic.

#### **2. 2021 Camping Fees**

- a. 2021 YTD camping fees for Swenson, Sundquist, Lime and 7-Mile Parks were disbursed and reviewed.
- b. It was noticed that the calculations on the sheet were not correct, and the YTD total should read \$39,961.
- c. Justin mentioned there were some unpaid campers at Swenson Park that had to be tracked down by the sheriff's office. Those fees have now been collected.

#### **3. 7 Mile Park Bridge**

- a. Commissioner Thiner reported that there was a committee in Fulda that was put together and they are working on getting a walking trail built around the lakes. Part of this project could include a bridge across the channel to connect the walking trail to 7 Mile Park.

### Park Director's Report

- We still have 2 seasonal employees working and that has helped us get an early start on spraying the parks for weeds. There is only one park to spray, and we will be done with everything.
- With the heavy rains recently, we have been busy trying to keep up with mowing and spraying
- There was quite a bit of tree damage in the parks from recent storms. The parks dept staff was able to get everything cleaned up in a timely manner. No reports of any structure damage

- Houston Engineering applied for the Lessard Sam Outdoor Heritage Grant to cover the costs for replacing the dams at Lime Lake and Lake Sarah. Jean and Justin went to Plymouth, MN in early September to ask the Lessard Sam Council for \$1.4 million dollars for these projects. We are currently waiting to hear back from the council.
- There have been reports of lake owners removing docks and boat lifts already and showing signs of an increase of zebra mussels. If we notice an increased level of zebra mussels on our docks and swimming beach, we may need to put up some signs to alert visitors of the hazards these zebra mussels could cause.
- Justin did receive a report from the DNR and from their testing have yet to find any zebra mussels in Lake Shetek. They county and DNR will continue to monitor the lake.
- A comment was made that we should update our seasonal camper agreement for 2022 that states those campers should be responsible for trimming around their own campsites. There have been complaints of seasonal camper items getting damaged from mowing/trimming to close to seasonal sites.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be December 2, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., in Meeting Room B.

**MSP: Hoyme, Speckmier to adjourn.**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary –Murray County Parks & Recreation  
Advisory Commission

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President – Murray County Parks & Recreation  
Advisory Commission

