

Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

March 17, 2022

The Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission convened on March 17, 2022 in Meeting Room B of the Murray County Government Center in Slayton, MN. The following voting members were present: Les Speckmeier (Chair), Justin Hoffmann, Rae Storm, Leroy Reese, and David Thiner. Others present: Jean Christoffels, ex-officio member.

1. Call Meeting to Order:

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

2. Open Forum:

No one was present.

3. Approval/Additions to Agenda

MSP: Hoffmann, Reese to approve the agenda as presented.

4. Secretary's Report:

MSP: Reese, Storm to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2022 meeting as written.

5. Park's Director Report:

- All Seasonal Employees from last are returning this year
- Lakers 4H Club have volunteered to help with clean up at Swenson Park; they are willing to donate up to \$2,000 towards new trees; and they will either donate money or help build picnic tables for the new camp sites
- 8 of 14 aeration systems were run this winter and they have started to shut them off for the season; DNR Fisheries said the lakes are good in the area with no fish kill this year
- 7-Mile Lake Park in Fulda has some drainage issues from the volleyball courts to behind the campers. Justin and Les met with Mike Riley to develop a plan that would include a little dirt work and grading of the land to drain the water towards the channel on the north side of the park. Highway Department will shoot elevations with the plans to do the work this fall.
- Justin attended Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) training and was told that EAB has been found in surrounding counties, just not confirmed yet in Murray County. The recommendation is to plant multiple varieties of trees. Justin would like to add signage in parks to remind campers to use only heat-treated certified wood in campfires and not to transport wood across state lines. Dave noted that Casey's in Slayton has a large pile of wood available and Leroy commented that he typically has some wood available for campers for sale at Sundquist Park.
- There were break-ins at both Sundquist and 7-mile bathrooms within minimal damage.
- Received a complaint of debris on the Lake Sarah Dam, which ended up being a branch. Water is running so nothing will be done now; maybe look at later this spring/summer.

6. Old Business

a. Swenson Park Expansion – Seasonal Campsites

- Public Hearing for the expansion project is scheduled for this evening.
- With the addition of 13 new sites, Justin has been asked if they will add more seasonal sites. The consensus was to wait until the project is moving forward to decide – will discuss at the next meeting.

b. Lime Lake Dam Grant Timeline

- Houston Engineering Inc (HEI) submitted a Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grant application for the Lime Lake Dam project; should find out in May if funded. If funded, construction could potentially start December 2022. Bridge was removed from project. Matching funds for this project have been set aside.
- HEI will submit CPL grant application in August for the Lake Sarah Dam project; will need to budget for the matching funds.

7. New Business:

a. Review Bylaws

- Bylaws are to be reviewed every two years; last review was in 2020.
- Section 5.1.b.i. Discussion about whether there should be someone from the Murray County Economic Development Board (EDA) on the Parks Commission. Justin will talk with Justine Wettschreck again.
- If there will be someone from EDA, the suggestion is to move that to a voting position.
- Section 6.4. will need to verify title of the position to whom minutes are to be presented to for County Board.
- Section 10.1 will need to be corrected to County Administrator
- All proposed changes will be brought to the next meeting for review and approval.

b. Review Park Rules

- Bullet point about rules should list the variety of camping options and their specific rates: tenting, overnight camping and seasonal camping; including the year the rate was set.
- All proposed changes will be brought to the next meeting for review and approval.

c. Marsh's Landing – Parking, Lighting, Fish Cleaning Building

- Justin would like to create additional parking spaces by removing the trees and raised mounds, then leveling and reseeding the area to grass. If the proposed CSAH 13 dike project moves forward, there will be a requirement to conduct an archeological study of this area to make sure the mounds are able to be removed.
- Justin met with Jon Bloemendaal, Solid Waste Administrator, on site to see if recycling shed could be relocated. Since it must be on County property with sufficient room for the collector to pick up the recyclables, it was determined that it must remain where it is.
- There were trees removed/thinned out on the west side of Marsh's landing and now Justin would like to add a streetlight by the fishing pier. It would be minimal cost because there is electric between the fish cleaning building and the bathroom.
- The fish cleaning building needs some repairs; would like the Commission to look at it.


8. Schedule Next Meeting


The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 5:30 pm at Marsh's Landing County Park.

9. Adjourn

MSP: Storm, Hoffmann to adjourn at 6:30 pm

Attest:


Secretary – Murray County Parks & Recreation
Advisory Commission


Chairman – Murray County Parks & Recreation
Advisory Commission

