

# ***Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission*** Minutes February 11, 2016

The Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission convened on February 11, 2016, in the Courts Meeting Room of the Murray County Government Center. The following voting members were present: Rick Clercx (Chair), Troy Wehking (Vice Chair), Leroy Reese, Doug Stewart, Tom Kappes, and Justin Hoffmann. Ex-officio members in attendance were: Amy Rucker and Jean Christoffels. Others Present were: Gaylen Jensen, Pat Kremer, Glenn Kremer, and Christy Riley.

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

## **Open Forum:**

Glenn Kremer and Pat Kremer, accompanied by Gaylen Jensen, asked if the Parks Commission would consider making a recommendation to the Murray County Board of Commissioners to change the name of Corabelle Park to Ervin Kremer Park. According to the Kremers, their father, Ervin Alvin Kremer, was instrumental in local efforts to prevent the DNR from draining the lake and also donated the land to the county to establish Corabelle Park.

Clercx thanked the Kremers and Jensen for their input and said that the Parks Commission would discuss their request at the next meeting.

## **Agenda:**

**MSP: Troy Wehking and Justin Hoffmann to approve the agenda.**

## **Secretary's Report:**

**MSP: Justin Hoffmann and Troy Wehking to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2015 meeting.**

## **Election of Officers:**

Clercx turned the meeting over to Hoffmann to begin the election of officers for 2016.

Hoffmann called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Wehking nominated Clercx. Stewart seconded the motion.

**MSP: Doug Stewart and Troy Wehking to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Rick Clercx to be elected Chair of the Murray County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.**

Hoffmann turned the meeting over to Clercx.

Clercx called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

Hoffmann nominated Wehking. Stewart seconded the motion.

**MSP: Justin Hoffmann and Tom Kappes to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Troy Wehking to be elected Vice-Chair of the Murray County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.**

Clercx called for nominations for the position of Secretary.

Wehking nominated Kappes. Hoffmann seconded the motion.

**MSP: Justin Hoffmann and Doug Stewart to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Tom Kappes to be elected Secretary of the Murray County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.**

**Park Director's Report:**

- Hoffmann reported that he met with the Murray County Board of Commissioners regarding equipment purchases and trade-ins.
  - Will be trading in the Polaris Ranger from Action Sports
  - Will trade in lawnmowers for three new mowers
  - Will purchase a Sweep All machine with a mower and bagger for sweeping up rocks, sticks, etc.
- Projects budgeted for 2016:
  - Replace ceiling in picnic shelter at Sundquist.
  - Do an overlay at East Lake Sarah.
  - Install lighting at the fishing pier at Marsh's Landing.
  - Other requests were cut out of the budget.
- Chris Hansen, Murray County Water Resources Administrator, suggested installing a water meter at Swenson to monitor water usage in case we want to add camp sites in the future.
- The 2015 seasonal Parks workers are all coming back in 2016.
- The Fulda camp host suggested installing more playground equipment for younger children. It would work well back behind the campers where the wood structures were and there is still sand there.
- Hoffmann is working on an application to the DNR to treat aquatic weeds at Seven Mile Lake Park. Last year just the beach was treated, this year he is applying to treat the areas by the fishing pier and boat access as well.
- According to Margie Anderson, Murray County 4H Program Coordinator, the Lakers 4H club is looking for a service project. Hoffmann will come up with some ideas.
- The county website has been updated and information on the parks is now easier to find.
- Aeration systems are running on 3 county lakes: Lake Wilson (south lake), Fox Lake and Lake Louisa. Oxygen levels in the other lakes are good.

**Old Business:**

*Friends of Murray County Parks*

Christy Riley, Murray County Community Relations Coordinator, attended the meeting to report on the status of the Friends of Murray County Parks group. The Friends group was formed in 2010 in order to provide a mechanism for donations to End-O-Line and other Murray County Parks to be tax exempt. The group does not have its own 501(c)(3) status; rather, it derives its tax exempt status through its membership in the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota, which charges annual dues.

Since the group's formation, the only donations made to it were from Paul Horn and the fund balance is currently \$398.78. Riley has been personally paying the \$35 annual dues for the past few years. The Parks and Trails Council is asking for increased annual dues of \$75 annually to continue being the fiscal host for this group.

When this group was initially formed, the Friends group consisted of three members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (one has since passed away and the other two are no longer on the Commission) and two members from the now disbanded Tourism Committee.

If the Parks and Recreation committee would like the Friends group to continue we would need to “regroup”.

End-O-Line is now operating independently from this group and receives donations through the county (not tax-exempt) or they have used the Murray County Historical Society as their fiscal agent.

Riley advised consideration to disband the obligation of having a Friends group and to distribute the remaining funds either to another Friends Group already under the control of the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota or to another Murray County Parks project.

While the Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission does not control the Friends group, it was noted that if the group would disband the parks could still receive donations through the county or receive tax-exempt donations through cooperation with other established groups such as PALS, sportsmen’s associations, etc. for future projects. Commission members agreed and suggested that Mrs. Horn be asked to what parks project she would like the funds dedicated.

#### *Update on Seven Mile Lake Park Grant*

The DNR inspected the park in late November and signed off on the improvements with two caveats: 1) A handicapped sign should be placed in the parking lot near the handicapped-accessible sidewalk and 2) Either more wood chips should be added to the new playground or the existing chips should be raked up to the sidewalk so that there is zero entry from the sidewalk to the playground. The final payment of grant funds was requested and received.

#### *Seasonal Camping Update*

Seasonal camping permits were offered for sale beginning February 1. Last year’s campers had first priority. All Sundquist and Swenson permits were sold in 5 minutes. There are 4 sites still available at Seven Mile.

Hoffmann received a request to add another seasonal site at Sundquist.

#### *Seven Mile Lake Park Sewer Hookup*

The camp host at Seven Mile Lake Park asked Hoffmann if the camp host site could have sewer hook-up. The sewer line is approximately 30’ from the site. Hoffmann will find out before the April meeting what it would cost and what, if any, connection fee will be charged by the city.

#### *Capital Improvement Plan:*

Jean Christoffels presented a draft update of the Murray County Parks’ Capital Improvement Plan. A few changes, corrections and additions were recommended by Justin Hoffmann and other Commission Members.

**MSP: Troy Wehking and Doug Stewart to recommend approval of the updated Murray County Parks’ Capital Improvement Plan, with the additional changes proposed, to the Murray County Board of Commissioners.**

#### **New Business:**

##### *Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update*

Jean Christoffels asked for a representative from the Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission to serve on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan update committee. Troy Wehking said he would serve on the committee.

*2017 projects*

Commission members discussed possible projects for 2017:

- Picnic shelter at Seven Mile Lake Park
- Restroom/shower house at Sundquist
  - Budget for a mound system or to bring sewer to the park in 2017
  - Budget to install the restroom/shower house construction in 2018
- Single vault toilet at Lime Lake Park
- Add three campsite pads with no electricity at Corabelle Park. Justin will get some price estimates.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be April 14, 2016 at Lime Lake Park, weather permitting.

**MSP: Troy Wehking and Justin Hoffmann to adjourn the meeting.**

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

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President – Murray County Parks & Recreation  
Advisory Commission