

# ***Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission*** Minutes January 19, 2017

The Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission convened on January 19, 2017 in the Murray County Courts Building Meeting Room. The following voting members were present: Justin Hoffmann, James Jens, Tom Kappes, Leroy Reese, David Thiner, and Troy Wehking. Ex-officio members in attendance were Jean Christoffels and Amy Rucker.

Troy Wehking, 2016 Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

There was no one present for Open Forum.

## **Agenda:**

**MSP: Justin Hoffmann and Tom Kappes to approve the agenda.**

## **Secretary's Report:**

**MSP: James Jens and Justin Hoffmann to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2016 meeting.**

## **Election of Officers:**

Wehking turned the meeting over to Hoffmann to begin the election of officers for the Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission for 2017.

Hoffmann called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Jens nominated Wehking. Kappes seconded the motion.

**MSP: James Jens and David Thiner to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Troy Wehking to be elected Chair of the Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission.**

Hoffmann turned the meeting over to Wehking.

Wehking called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

Jens nominated Reese. Hoffmann seconded the nomination.

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

Wehking called for nominations for the position of Secretary.

Hoffmann nominated Kappes. Reese seconded the nomination.

**MSP: Justin Hoffmann and James Jens to cease nominations and case a unanimous ballot for Tom Kappes to be elected Secretary of the Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission.**

### **Park Director's Report:**

- Hoffmann distributed a list of camping fee totals for each park in 2016. He compared 2016 fees collected to those collected in 2015. Seven Mile Lake Park numbers were down in 2016. The difference was due to there being just 1 seasonal camper in 2016 vs. 3 or 4 in 2015. There may be 3 or 4 again this year.
- The camp site host at Seven Mile Lake Park is hooked up to sewer now and the ground is seeded.
- Parks staff are in the process of re-keying all locks.
- The Lakers 4H club wants to donate a bench to Swenson Park. Justin suggested putting it by the playground. The club has been very active in helping at the park in the past. They've installed Frisbee golf, have helped with spring cleanup and tree planting, etc.
- The family that donated the playground equipment at East Sarah said they were okay with the equipment being removed, so that was done and the ground was seeded and trees trimmed as well. Jens gave the plaque to Christy Riley. She is going to find out how much it will cost to reproduce it so that it can be relocated. If we don't reproduce it and relocate the plaque, the family would like it back.
- The Highway Department put up invasive species signs at all parks last fall.
- A new locked door was installed at the Marsh's Landing bathroom.
- Hoffmann hasn't heard from Heidi regarding whether insurance will pay to fix the fish grinder at Marsh's Landing.
- 2017 projects will be as follows:
  - New picnic shelter, bathroom, and sewer at Lime Lake Park.
  - At Sundquist Park, 2017 funds are budgeted for the ring fee and grinder. If sewer isn't brought to the park, those funds will instead be used for the septic system.
- Meeting per diems will remain the same for 2017 as they were in 2016. Mileage went down to .535/mile from .54/mile.
- Aerators are running at Corabelle and Lime Lake. Oxygen levels were 18.1 at South Fulda and 13.4 at North Fulda early last week. North Shetek was 13.6. South Shetek was 14.6. Lake Sarah was 21.5. Buffalo was 15.2. South Lake Wilson was 8.3 and North was 13. Hoffmann will probably turn on aerators at South Lake Wilson next week. Aerators are put in when levels reach single digits. Fish start experiencing stress at 3. Only around 8 systems in Southwest Minnesota are turned on right now. Hoffmann will continue to monitor the levels.

### **Old Business:**

#### *2017 Seasonal Camping*

3 have paid for seasonal contracts at Sundquist. A 4<sup>th</sup> party says they're coming back. Contracts should be paid by 2/1. The rest of the open sites will be advertised after that. As mentioned before, there may be a few new ones at Seven Mile Lake Park. Last year's renter is undecided. At Swenson, 1 is not coming back, but the rest will, so there will be 5 for certain. 2 other parties are interested in the 6<sup>th</sup> spot, so it should get filled.

When asked if camp hosts should keep a daily log, Hoffmann replied that hosts are typically only there on the weekend, so a daily log wouldn't be possible, but they do give him a report for each weekend.

*Plaque at Swenson Park*

Hoffmann showed the text for a potential aluminum plaque to be placed at Swenson Park. It would be 15' x 10" and would cost \$250 and a few hundred for the post. It would likely be placed by the entrance sign. He will ask the Balaton Sportsmen's Club to pay for it and will bring back for discussion once he's secured funding.

**New Business:**

*Possible Land Acquisition near Chandler Dam*

Hoffmann presented a potential site for a county park. The Gilbertson family would like to donate the land or enter into a long-term lease with the county. It was decided to wait for a formal proposal from the family.

*2016 Camper Surveys*

Survey responses were reviewed. Members will review the lists more thoroughly on their own and make suggestions for what else, if anything, should be asked on the surveys.

*2018 Projects*

A new bathroom at Sundquist Park was elected as the main project for 2018. It will be approximately \$116,000 for the bathroom and a drain field. Additional expenses will be incurred in removing the old bathrooms. If the park is hooked up to sewer, the Lake Shetek Area Sportsmen's Club will donate a fish grinder.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be March 16 in the Murray County Courts Building Meeting Room.

**MSP: Leroy Reese and Tom Kappes to adjourn the meeting.**

Attest:

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Secretary –Murray County Parks &  
Recreation Advisory Commission

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President – Murray County Parks &  
Recreation Advisory Commission