

Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes March 16, 2017

The Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission convened on March 16, 2017 in Conference Room B of the Murray County Government Center. The following voting members were present: Justin Hoffmann, James Jens, Tom Kappes, Leroy Reese, Rae Storm, David Thiner, and Troy Wehking. Ex-officio members in attendance were Jean Christoffels and Amy Rucker. Also attending was Lucas Isder.

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

Kristel Nelson of Slayton was present for Open Forum. She expressed interest in obtaining a seasonal camping spot at Sundquist Park. No action was taken.

Agenda

Hoffmann asked to add Capital Improvement Plan update to the agenda.

MSP: Hoffmann and Jens to approve the agenda with the addition.

Lucas Isder

Isder presented a proposal for a new park in Fulda. The proposal includes purchasing 15 acres of land across the lake from Seven Mile Lake Park, building a bridge from Seven Mile Lake Park to the new park, creating a beach, and developing a trail approximately 1 mile long on the new park land. The owner of the 15 acres is willing to sell. The DNR has not said “no” to the bridge. The estimated total price of \$1,000,000 includes \$250,000 for land acquisition, \$250,000 for the bridge, \$250,000 for the trail, and \$50,000 for the beach (excavation, removal of trees sand).

Once established, most of the maintenance would be filling cracks in the trail. The park would be mostly natural vegetation, so the mowing would not be extensive.

Isder estimated that 139 people (about 10% of Fulda’s population) walk in the city of Fulda at least 3x/week. Multiply those 417 walks by 24 weeks (not quite ½ the year) and that’s 10,008 walks that could take place on the trail, which is much safer than where people are walking currently. The trail could also be used for track practice and inline skaters could use it as well. He projects the park would get 15,000 to 20,000 uses/year and could draw new residents to Murray County or Fulda specifically.

Jens suggested including a bathroom in the new park plan.

Reese suggested sharing costs with the City of Fulda.

Wehking explained that the current Parks budget is only enough for maintenance of existing parks.

Isder said that he was not requesting a decision or commitment, but he would like permission to keep working on the concept and seeking possible funding sources.

Isder praised the commission and county board for installing the sand volleyball courts at Seven Mile Lake Park. He said that the Tuesday night volleyball league brings in 60 people every Tuesday plus about 40 kids. They come from as far as Marshall and Adrian.

Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Secretary's Report

MSP: Jens and Reese to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2017 meeting.

Park Director's Report

- Hoffmann reported that another seasonal site in Fulda was taken, so there are just 2 openings and there's another interested party.
- He's had several calls regarding picnic shelter reservations in Fulda: Many for class reunions and even a 2018 reservation for Wood Duck Festival weekend.
- Lynn Wichmann said that the Balaton Sportsman's club will pay for the sign and post at Swenson Park. And he will check out the concrete post the hospital has for their sign.
- Hoffmann met with the Shetek Area Water and Sewer (SAWS) Commission regarding extending sewer to Sundquist next year. They said they won't extend sewer to Sundquist and granted approval to install a septic system. There is money in the 2017 budget for hooking up to sewer. That can be carried over to 2018 for the septic system. The outhouse toilets by the boat access can remain, but they will need to be inspected every three years.
- There is only 1 seasonal employee returning of the 4 from last year. Applications will be accepted until March 29. A valid driver's license is required.
- Hoffmann was informed that Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) will cover the cost of replacing the fish grinder at Marsh's landing. The deductible is \$1,000. He will contact Spartz's and ask them to order a new one and install it before spring.
- Hoffmann requested a formal proposal from the Gilbertson family regarding their land near the Chandler Dam.

Old Business

Seasonal Campsite Process

An email from someone unhappy about the process of awarding of seasonal campsites was read. Seasonal spots are offered first to the campers who had them the year before and then "first come, first serve" for those that remain. This process is similar that that of campgrounds in other counties and private campgrounds as well.

It was decided to keep the process as is for now.

Lime Lake Park Project Update

Justin showed a plan for the bathroom including a room for a water heater and electrical panel. The installed price from Schuur Concrete is \$3,650. Cement sidewalls and roof are included, but the floor is not and footings are separate. He's working on a spec sheet to bid that project out and the roof for the picnic shelter, too. Thiner suggested bidding out as 2 separate projects, and pulling out boring as a separate bid, too.

Justin showed the proposed location – closer to the parking lot. The sewer line will be 1 ½" and the grinder will be outside the building. The other restroom will be removed.

Reese talked with Arl Weinrebe regarding waiving the hook-up fee. Weinrebe thought it would be possible.

Capital Improvement Plan

Hoffmann asked about adding the Seven Mile Lake Park picnic shelter to the 2018 Capital Improvement Plan since it was removed from the 2017 plan. Commission members recommended adding it back in 2021 since there are large projects in the plan already in 2018, 2019, and 2020.

New Business

Lake Shetek/Bloody Lake Aeration

The easement agreement for the aeration shed states that if the system is not in operation, the county has 6 months to remove. It hasn't needed to be turned on for 2 years because oxygen levels were high enough, so now the landowner is requesting that the shed be removed. The landowner is willing to work with the county on this, but wants a different system.

Justin has some money in his budget for aeration and requested an estimate for a new system: \$13,483.07. That doesn't include electrical outlets, etc. The cost to operate will be \$25 - \$35/month. Operation costs with the old system are usually around \$1000/season. And this new system can go further out into the lake than the bubbler systems can.

Thiner suggested that Hoffmann talk with the landowner about the proposed new system.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be May 18. Location TBD.

MSP: Hoffmann and Kappes to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m..

Attest:

Secretary –Murray County Parks &
Recreation Advisory Commission

President – Murray County Parks &
Recreation Advisory Commission