

## ***Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission*** Minutes

February 15, 2018

The Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission convened on February 15, 2018 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Murray County Government Center in Slayton. The following voting members were present: Justin Hoffmann, James Jens, Tom Kappes, Leroy Reese, Les Speckmeier, Doug Stewart, and Rae Storm. Ex-officio members in attendance were Jean Christoffels and Amy Rucker.

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

### **Election of Officers:**

Jens called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Hoffmann nominated Reese. Speckmeier seconded the motion.

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

Jens turned the meeting over to Reese.

Reese called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

Jens nominated Storm. Stewart seconded the motion.

**MSP: Jens and Hoffmann to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Rae Ann Storm to be elected Vice Chair of the Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission.**

Reese called for nominations for the position of Secretary.

Kappes nominated Stewart. Storm seconded the motion.

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

### **Open Forum:**

Barbara Lewis and Lucas Isder were present for Open Forum.

Lewis spoke in response to the Commission's request for feedback regarding the grant application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for funds to improve Sundquist Park. She asked if the plans included upgrading electric hookups at the campsites as the older sites have 30-amp service and newer RVs need 50 amps. Hoffmann asked if there should be one pedestal per campsite and Lewis replied that she thought that would be best.

She also suggested adding benches at the playground and the swimming beach, adding sand at the swimming beach, putting in a horseshoe court where the playground is now (which would eliminate the need to remove the sand), relocating the dumpster – possibly to the south side of the parking lot, and adding “slow” signs. Commission members discussed whether adding speed bumps might be more effective.

Isder told the Commission about Fulda's Community Growth Committee and the projects the Committee would like to undertake with the help of the County at Seven Mile Lake Park: Improve the beach and add a disc golf course.

Regarding the beach, the county could upgrade a previous permit held to remove cattails to allow the addition of riprap. And there's wiggle room within the permit to remove some trees and make the beach wider, but it needs to be deemed necessary due to increased usage. The beach could actually be pushed back into the grass and sand can be added 1' above the high-water mark. Benches should be added, too, to make the beach easier to use. More use of the beach and water will keep the weeds away.

A disc golf course will cost around \$250 - \$300 per hole, including signs and baskets. There should be room for 6 - 8 holes.

Commission members agreed to discuss Isder's suggestions in conjunction with Capital Improvement Plan updates and 2019 budget planning.

**Agenda:**

**MSP: Hoffmann and Storm to approve the agenda.**

**Secretary's Report:**

**MSP: Jens and Storm to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2017 meeting.**

**Park Director's Report:**

- Six aeration systems are running. Oxygen levels were marginally low but systems were started anyway to be on the safe side. Oxygen levels are rechecked periodically and it's unlikely that the other systems will have to be started this season.
- The Swenson Park dock was brought to the shop and boards and bumpers were replaced.
- All boards were replaced on the Sundquist fishing pier. New reflectors need to be added yet.
- Seasonal campers at Swenson and Sundquist have all elected to return in 2018. Only one of the two is returning to Seven Mile. Advertising has begun for the three open spots. One party has expressed interested and Speckmeier added that he thinks there will be two more.
- Hoffmann was contacted by a neighbor to East Lake Sarah County Park requesting permission to remove a park tree that's dropping branches on his house.

**MSP: Stewart, Kappes to let the neighbor remove the tree at no charge to the county.**

**Old Business:**

*Motion to Recommend Wireless Internet at 3 County Parks*

Hoffmann was informed by MVTV Wireless that they can now provide wireless internet service to Sundquist Park, in addition to Seven Mile Lake and Swenson Parks.

**MSP Hoffmann and Speckmeier to recommend to the County Board that wireless internet service be installed at all three parks.**

*Lime Lake Park Donation Recognition*

Regarding recognizing the Larson family's \$20,000 donation, one option would be a metal sign: \$23 + a pole, etc. totaling \$100 or less. Another option would be a monument stone costing approximately \$1000 from Worthington Monument. Or it might cost a little less to affix a plaque to a rock. Justin will see if it would be less if the County provides the rock. He'll price benches with memorial plaques, too.

*Outdoor Recreation Grant*

Commission members agreed to add playground benches and electrical upgrades to the grant request.

*Park Brochure Update*

The Commission reviewed printing quotes obtained by Christy Riley, Murray County Community Relations Coordinator, and agreed to recommend to the Aquatic Invasive Species Committee that 3,000 brochures be printed on the waterproof paper and that AIS funds be allocated to help pay for it.

**New Business:**

*Parks & Rec Commission Page on County Website*

Members discussed the possibility of having a Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission page on the Murray County website. It could be used to show constituents who their representatives are, share the Capital Improvement Plan, and promote timely topics – such as the availability of seasonal campsites.

**MSP: Speckmeier and Kappes to approve the addition of a Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission page to the Murray County website.**

*Donation*

Rucker said that there's around \$400 in a Friends of Murray County Parks account held by the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota. Most of the money in that account was donated by Paul Horn and no additional donations have been made. The funds should be spent soon as they diminish over time due to administrative expenses.

Hoffmann will look into purchasing a park bench to be placed by the lake at Sundquist Park.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be April 19 in Conference Room B of the Murray County Government Center.

**MSP: Hoffmann and Storm to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

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

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President – Murray County Parks & Recreation  
Advisory Commission