

Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

February 21, 2019

The Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission convened on February 21, 2019 in Conference Room B of the Murray County Government Center in Slayton. The following voting members were present: Leroy Reese (Chair), Rae Storm (Vice Chair), Doug Stewart (Secretary), Justin Hoffmann, David Thiner, and Les Speckmeier. Ex-officio members in attendance was Jean Christoffels.

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

Election of Officers:

Stewart nominated Leroy Reese as Chair, with Hoffmann seconding.

MSP: Thiner, Stewart to have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Leroy Reese as Chair.

Reese nominated Rae Storm as Vice Chair, with Stewart seconding.

MSP: Thiner, Stewart to have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Rae Storm as Vice Chair.

Speckmeier nominated Doug Stewart as Secretary, with Reese seconding.

MSP: Reese, Thiner to have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Doug Stewart as Secretary.

Open Forum:

No one was present.

Agenda:

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

Secretary's Report:

MSP: Hoffmann, Storm to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2018 meeting as written.

Park Director's Report:

- Received fees for campers still using Swenson Park in December.
- Address for Park in Avoca was changed from 1998 Lime Lake Road to 1998 Lime Lake County Park Road to make the park easier to find.
- After Zebra Mussels were found in Lake Sarah, larger boat cleaning signs were installed.
- Corabelle and Sundquist docks have both been re-built; will be returned to parks in spring.
- FEMA application for Lime Lake Dam was withdrawn; pictures from 10 years ago do not show any changes. The dam is still #6 on state's list of dams needing replacement; with flooding, might get moved up on the list.
- Swenson and East Sarah playground equipment request was approved and the playground equipment for Sundquist has already arrived. Installation of all playground equipment will be hired out with anticipated completion before the 4th of July.
- Three inches of wood chips will be added to Seven Mile playground area to return it to zero-entry; chips have settled too much and just fluffing them is not enough

- Seasonal sites: Sundquist had one site open and has since been filled; two sites still open at Seven Mile; and all six sites at Swenson are full.
- Permit renewal approved for treating aquatic weeds Seven Mile; will treat this summer.
- Bids opened for new bathroom at Sundquist; Doom & Cuypers Inc. will construct with a deadline of June 24, 2019. Bids were opened and awarded to Engelkes Electric for Sundquist Park campsite electrical upgrades.
- Parks Advisory Commission letter needed stating what the Friends of Murray County Parks funds would be used for; the proposal is for the \$375 to go for trees at Sundquist
- Copies of the updated Parks Capital Improvement Plan were distributed.
- Weekly inspections are conducted of all 14 aeration units that are operational; oxygen levels dropped fast with all the snow. New aeration units on Shetek and Bloody were not installed due to the timing of the signed easements.
- Lucas Isder raised enough funds for the shoreland restoration and Frisbee golf projects at Seven Mile; both to be completed in 2019. The Parks Advisory Commission would like to review golf project plans prior to installation.

Old Business:

Seasonal sites are first come first serve and current campers are given first option for the following year. The question was raised if the number of years should be limited. It was decided to leave it as is.

There was also a concern for open seasonal sites and how to handle multiple requests for one site. An option would be to have a random draw of all applications for only open sites.

MSP: Hoffmann, Stewart for future available seasonal sites to be handled as a lottery with a lottery drawing held on February 1st of each year.

New Business:

a. Zebra mussels in Lake Sarah

Signage has been installed at all boat accesses on Lake Sarah by the DNR identifying the infestation. The Environmental Office is still looking into the possibility of either portable or permanent wash down stations, possibly sharing with other neighboring counties.

More additional information will be provided to all Campground Hosts to distribute to county park campers regarding AIS and the county will schedule an AIS training for campground hosts and the public for later this spring.

The Environmental Office requested assistance from the Parks Department for constructing and possibly monitoring Zebra Mussel Settlement Samplers. Plans were distributed to Advisory Members and it was agreed that Parks would assist with construction and installation at all county parks with lake accesses.

b. Review bylaws

As required, the bylaws are to be reviewed every two years by Advisory Members with recommendation for approval sent to the County Board.

MSP: Speckmeier, Stewart to recommend approval of the Murray County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission By-Laws to the Murray County Board of Commissioners with the following amendment: Delete “and the County Coordinator” from Section 10. Meeting.

The Murray County Parks Ordinance has not been finalized; Jean will get update from County Attorney.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be April 11, 2019, at 5:30 p.m.

MSP: Hoffmann, Stewart to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

Attest: _____
Secretary –Murray County Parks & Recreation
Advisory Commission

President – Murray County Parks & Recreation
Advisory Commission