

Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

April 15, 2019

The Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission convened on April 15, 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, James Jens, Tom Kappes, and Les Speckmeier. Ex-officio members in attendance were Jean Christoffels and Amy Rucker.

Chair Reese called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Open Forum:

No one was present for Open Forum.

Agenda:

MSP: Hoffmann, Stewart to approve the agenda with one addition.

Secretary's Report:

MSP: Hoffmann, Jens to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2019 meeting as written.

Park Director's Report:

- Aeration systems are being removed. There was fish kill on south Lake Wilson and a few on Corabelle. The DNR has been notified and will do some net testing to evaluate the situation.
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff were at Lake Sarah today setting up to check and redistribute walleye eggs.
- Letters were sent to the Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota from former Friends of Murray County Parks members requesting disbursement of approximately \$400 held by the Council.
- Doom & Cuyppers construction is getting ready to start on the project at Sundquist Park when it dries out. The contract is almost ready. Portable toilets will be moved in when appropriate.
- Hoffmann received a phone call from someone looking for seasonal camp sites. There is just one available in Fulda. She was looking for sites closer to Pipestone for wind tower construction workers. She thinks there will be around 30 workers looking for seasonal camp sites and another 30 looking for seasonal housing.
- The Environmental Services Office hosted an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) workshop a few weeks ago. It was well attended.

Old Business:

Seven Mile Lake Park Update

Hoffmann distributed a drawing showing the layout of the proposed disc golf course at Seven Mile Lake Park.

MPS Speckmeier, Stewart to allow the project to proceed as presented.

Hoffmann said that the Heron Lake Watershed District has the shoreline restoration paperwork and we are awaiting approval.

Sundquist Property

Steve Sundquist called Hoffmann and told him that he reduced the price of his land from \$500,000 to \$299,999. It's 35 acres with 1400 feet of shoreline and 8 acres of CRP (all figures are approximate).

Sundquist is willing to offer a payment plan. Members discussed the project and agreed that they'd like more information on what it would cost to develop campsites with water and sewer.

New Business:

Yard Light at East Lake Sarah

The yard light at East Lake Sarah County Parks shines too brightly into the yard of the neighbor to the south of the park. Apparently, the previous owner was able to turn it off, but that's no longer the case. Nobles Cooperative Electric is looking into potential options and costs of moving it. A light may need to be added on the outside of the bathroom if the yard light is moved.

Gilbertson Property

The Chandler Dam used to be a popular fishing spot but it is no longer open to the public due to potential liability of the landowners, the Gilbertsons. The Gilbertson family approached the City of Chandler several years ago regarding taking it over as a park. The City deferred to the County. At that time, the Gilbertson's were contemplating leasing the land to the County, which was not a viable option for the County.

More recently, Hoffmann and Christoffels and County Commissioner Dennis Welgraven viewed the site and have been talking with the landowners about the potential for the land to be donated to the County, with stipulations, so that it can be open to the public once again. Board members agreed to meet at the Park in May in order to view the property and discuss options.

2020 Projects

The only 2020 project identified thus far is putting money away for the Lime Lake Dam. Hoffmann asked if other projects should be planned. It was proposed to take the roof off the picnic shelter at Seven Mile Lake Park and leave the concrete, picnic tables, and electricity. Another proposal was to put a ceiling in the picnic shelter at East Lake Sarah to prevent birds from nesting.

Grant Opportunity

Hoffmann said that he and Rucker are applying to AARP for a grant to purchase and install a light for the sidewalk and fishing pier at Marsh's Landing.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be May 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the Chandler Dam.

MSP: Stewart, Hoffmann to adjourn at 7:51 p.m.

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

President – Murray County Parks & Recreation
Advisory Commission