

Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes
May 8, 2019

The Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission convened on May 8, 2019 first at the Chandler Dam/Gilbertson Property in the SW1/4, Section 2, Moulton Township to view the property and then at the Firehall in Chandler. The following voting members were present: Leroy Reese (Chair), Doug Stewart (Secretary), Justin Hoffmann, David Thiner, Tom Kappes, and Les Speckmeier. Ex-officio members in attendance was Jean Christoffels. Others present: Dennis Welgraven, Roger Steinman, Jason Menning, Bill and Merri Post, Heidi and Mark Sorenson, and Doran Christoffels.

After viewing the property (in the rain), Chair Reese called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. at the Chandler Firehall.

Gilbertson Property:

Chair Reese read from Heidi Sorensen's April 11, 2019 email highlighting their proposal for a 2.19-acre donation to the County as a County Park. Based on the size of the donation, the park would include only a boat launch and fishing pier, along with parking; no playground, buildings, or a campground.

Concerns raised centered around the Gilbertsons retaining a driveway access across the property, the public's access rights to the water – whether the water body is considered public or private, the public accessing the adjacent private lands surrounding the water, the culvert/dam stability and ownership.

Bill and Merri Post added their concern regarding their water line that runs through the property to their well at the bottom of the hill near County Road 4; an easement would be needed to protect the line and for access for repairs/replacement.

The Commission Members felt this donation would be a great benefit to the residents of Murray County, especially those on the western side. As a bonus, the addition of the property as a county park would not cause a great deal of added expense to the County because there would be minimal mowing and the location is between two other Parks – Swenson and Corabelle.

More information is needed before the Commission Members can act on the Gilbertson's request/donation. Heidi will provide the County with a copy of the spillway agreement, while the County will research the classification and allowed usage of the water.

Regarding the driveway easement, Mark Sorensen indicated there may be some family interest in a home being built to the east of the 2.19-acre piece and it was felt the logical way to access the location would be from the township road through the area they would donate. The easement would be included in the legal description and could be identified along the south side of the donated land.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be June 6, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in Meeting Room B at the Murray County Government Center in Slayton.

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

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

President – Murray County Parks & Recreation
Advisory Commission