

Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

June 23, 2020

The Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission convened on June 23, 2020 at Lime Lake Park, located west of the City of Avoca. The following voting members were present: Leroy Reese (Chair), Rae Storm (Vice Chair), James Jens, Justin Hoffmann, Jon Hoyme, David Thiner, Tom Kappes, and Les Speckmeier. Jean Christoffels and Samantha McClellan, ex-officio members, were in attendance as well. Others present: Tom Kresko, MN DNR Area Hydrologist.

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

Election of Officers:

Hoffman nominated Leroy Reese as Chair, with Speckmier seconding.

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

James Jens nominated Rae Storm as Secretary, with Kappes seconding.

MSP: Jens, Kappes to have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Rae Storm as Secretary.

Open Forum:

No one was present.

Agenda:

MSP: Thiner, Jens to approve the agenda as presented moving Dam discussion with DNR to the top.

Secretary's Report:

MSP: Hoffmann, Storm to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2019 meeting as written.

Park Director's Report:

- Parks are open for camping as of June 1, 2020. All seasonal campsites are filled. A lottery drawing was done for the two sites at Swenson Park.
- It has been decided that reported disturbances at Murray County campgrounds/parks will result in a discussion and warning the 1st call, asked to leave the property on the 2nd call, banded from Murray County Campgrounds/parks the remainder of the year on the 3rd call.
- Work is in progress to expand the beach inland at Sundquist Park.
- The project at Seven Mile Lake Park is at a standstill.
- Speed limits are being exceeded at the county parks with campgrounds, Justin will install portable speed bumps at Seven Mile Park and will add gravel speed bumps at the other parks.

Old Business:

- The sidewalk project by the beach at Seven Mile Lake Park is a work in progress; waiting to raise funds to complete the project.

MSP: Strom, Reese to recommend to County Board to use \$1,500 of the forfeited land sales monies to finish the beach sidewalk with the requirement that the project be completed prior to Labor Day.

New Business:

Lime Lake Dam

Options were discussed regarding the removal of the current dam, and what the best option would be to replace it. The current dam is deteriorating and is a public safety hazard. Fish passage was discussed with each dam option. It was also felt that the ecosystem could be improved around Lime Lake with the implementation of an updated dam. State and federal funding was also a topic of conversation.

MSP: Speckmier, Kappes to recommend to the county board that a feasibility study be conducted on the dam replacement project.

Park Board Budget

The Parks Board received \$13,693.58 from forfeited property sales. Ideas discussed for the money to be used include; adding woodchips to Seven Mile Park Playground, improving Forman Acres parking lot, repairing damage from frost boils at Sundquist Park, installing turn around area at Corabelle Park, and adding lighting and removing tress at Marsh's Landing.

2019 Parks Surveys

The surveys from last year brought a lot of positive feedback. There were some negative comments about the bathroom construction at Lake Sarah. People are enjoying the parks for the most part. Many people had good things to say about the campground hosts. There was a discussion about continuing to include the survey slips with the campsite payment information. It was agreed to continue the survey.

Review Capital Improvement Plan

Corabelle Park

Short-term goals: turn around by boat access, interest in adding sites.

Long-term goals: Outhouse Replacement

Forman Acres

Short-term goals: Add parking area this summer.

Lake Sarah East

Short-term goals: Add a fish cleaning station.

Remove: updated playground equipment

Sundquist Park at West Lake Sara

Short-term goals: New picnic shelter and beach area.

Long-term goals: Obtain grant to acquire land.

Remove: improve restroom facilities/shelter, updated playground equipment

Lime Lake Park

Short-term goals: Repair the dam, install playground equipment, increase lighting, and update electrical.

Long-term goals: Acquire land on West side of the lake.

Marsh's Landing

Short-term goals: Figure out better parking, update landscaping, install better lighting, tree rehabilitation.

Remove: disc golf course

Seven Mile Park

Short-term goals: Address water drainage issues, including the volleyball court and playground, update electrical to 7 sites.

Remove: updated playground equipment

Swenson Park

Short-term goals: Remove updated playground equipment, update electrical (7 sites).

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be August 20, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.

MSP: Hoffmann, Storm to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

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

President – Murray County Parks & Recreation
Advisory Commission