

CHISAGO COUNTY PARK BOARD OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, August 18, 2022

At 3:00 pm, Thursday, August 18, 2022 the Chisago County Park Board of Directors met in regular session at the Chisago County Government Center. The following members present: Gregg Carlson, Jolene Wille, Frank Storm, Jill Sicheneder, and Dan Kaiser. Absent: None. Also present: Commissioner Greene, Joe Tart; Park Director, Diane Sander; Support Specialist, and Kurt Schneider; Environmental Services Director.

Meeting Summary:

- Unanimously the Board approved the amended agenda
- Unanimously the Board approved the amended June 16, 2022 meeting minutes
- Unanimously the Board tabled the request for new installation and changes to baseball fields at Ki Chi Saga Park.
- Unanimously the Board does not support a disc course at Ki Chi Saga Park at this time due to the large amount of existing active and passive programs.

Chair Carlson called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call of the Board members was taken. A quorum was established with all members present.

Chair Carlson added Center City Trail Meeting to New Business. **Motion** by Frank Storm to approve the amended agenda. Second by Jolene Wille and carried unanimously.

Chair Carlson noted an addition in the June 16, 2022, minutes under Ki Chi Saga County Park – Proposed Disc Golf Course by John Santi, twenty-seven holes and go along east and west side of park boundary.

Frank Storm made a correction under Ki Chi Saga County Park – Proposed Disc Golf Course by John Santi, baskets which are approximately \$600 per basket. (Clerk’s note: Mr. Santi did indicate \$300-\$400 per basket at the end of his proposal; however, Board research indicated a minimum of \$600 per basket). **Motion** by Frank Storm to approve the amended June 16, 2022 minutes. Second by Dan Kaiser and carried unanimously.

Citizen’s Forum

Ki Chi Saga County Park – Portable Restroom Usage

A written request was submitted by Shari Bachman. The request noted only one porta potty is present at Ki Chi Saga Park. Soccer games have hundreds of people and she has observed many times at different games, people are constantly waiting in line. Younger children have a difficult time waiting in line for the porta potty. Director Tart indicated this issue has been resolved. The contract held with the Lakes Area Recreation Association (LARA) states, LARA needs to provide adequate number of porta potties. Coaches have keys to unlock the restrooms; but choose not to utilize the facilities because the coach might forget to lock it following the game. Discussion followed on a new bathroom and availability of unlocking the restroom.

Old Business

LARA Baseball Coordinator Request

Tony Walker, LARA Baseball Coordinator has requested to install a new field and rotate an existing field at Ki Chi Saga Park. Discussion was held that County Parks need to support all age groups and not limit to

one user group or one specific team. The new field would reduce open space for other sporting activities such as flag football or passive recreation. Requests also need to be supported by other LARA Coordinators and by citizens of Chisago County/general public. Park changes associated with such requests would require additional park maintenance time, project estimates, budgeting with Park Board and County Board approval. Alternatives were discussed such as tree plantings or installation of backstop shade covers instead of shifting Field 4. **Motion** by Dan Kaiser to table the request until further information is provided. Second by Frank Storm and carried unanimously.

Proposed Disc Course

Board reviewed John Santi's request to install a disc golf course at Ki-Chi-Saga Park. Discussion was held on impacts to wetlands, hiking trail, pollinator plantings and campsites. The new activity would impact and perhaps conflict with existing activities robust sporting activities/programs supported by LARA. County Board is considering future expansion of the mountain bike course. Discussion focused on limited space, potential removal of trees, wildlife habitat and limited space for expansion of group campsite and playground shelters. Ki-Chi-Saga is a heavily used park and Dennis Frandsen County Park and local city parks already have existing disc courses. Park changes associated with such requests would require additional park maintenance time, project estimates, budgeting with Park Board and County Board approval. **Motion** by Frank Storm to not support a disc golf course at this time at Ki Chi Saga Park with the large amount of existing active and passive programs with limited/no space. Second by Jolene Wille and carried unanimously.

New Business

Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail (SPRT) Project - Update

Director Tart highlighted Segments 3 and 4 that will extend the trail from 410th Street in North Branch to CSAH 10 in Harris. Design of the trail is approximately 60% complete with a possible trailhead and pedestrian crossing at CSAH 30. Director Tart indicated there might be five temporary construction easements. Timeline for the SPRT Trail included: December 2022 - final plan approval. January 2023 – request for bids. April/May 2023 - construction begins.

2002 Capital Project Progress/Updates

Director Tart highlighted projects being installed in the parks and on the trails. Projects highlighted: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) pathway improvements at Checkerboard Park. Electrical installation at Ki Chi Saga and Kost Dam Parks. Every shelter will have lights and power. A section of SPRT has been repaved; north of the City of Stacy. Kost Dam Park had lifting and leveling of the concrete (i.e., mudjacking) shelter ramp. Director Tart considered it a temporary fix to make it better, but indicated the ramp may need to be completely redone and installed with different materials (e.g. aluminum ramp). Dan Kaiser suggested the installation of gutters to keep water from washing over the ramp to prevent it separating from the shelter.

Director Tart provided an update on the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail (SIRT) erosion control project. Three different streambank protection options/solutions were reviewed that were provided by the DNR Clean Water Team. First option, debris removal and install toe-wood bench with root wads and logs. First option would require the most time and resources to complete the project. Second option, remove debris and accumulated sediment but leave the channel untouched. Second option would leave the SIRT bridge and abutments at risk and streambank is still considered vulnerable to erosion. Third option is to monitor the project area and leave the stream channel untouched. Third option would leave the SIRT bridge and abutments at risk and streambank is still considered vulnerable to additional erosion. The

recommendation is with the first option of the debris removal and installation of the toe-wood bench. It is a relatively small project with protection to the trail, bridge and abutments. It is a greater investment in time, equipment and cost but would stabilize the streambank area.

Chisago County Parks and Trails Foundation – Trailhead Signage

Director Tart highlighted road crossings and SIRT kiosks for the additional trail signage. Signage dimensions are 18”– 40”. Director Tart discussed designs for additional signage for SPRT.

Administration Update

Director Tart reviewed the 2023 Operation Budget. Some budget categories had a cost increase: Services and Chargers, Equipment Maintenance, Grounds Maintenance, Rental and Service Agreements, and Maintenance Supplies. Budget categories with no budget increase included: Publicity Subscriptions, Conferences/Training, Contracted Services, Machinery/Equipment Rentals and Furniture/Equipment. Categories were reviewed and it was noted the category of Gas/Oil will be overbudget this year due to increased costs. Director Tart highlighted the Parks Assets for 2022 which listed multiple categories/descriptions and number of assets per category. Director Tart noted if the same project is being completed every three years that it should be considered general maintenance instead of being treated as a capital improvement project.

Center City Trail Meeting

Chair Carlson provided an update on the July 22, 2022 meeting. Chair Carlson highlighted a Chisago County Press article soliciting public input for potential trailhead locations in an online survey. The survey will close in August. Chair Carlson advocated board members to complete the survey.

Miscellaneous

Parks and Trails Maintenance

Director Tart reviewed Parks and Trail Maintenance Projects: Dennis Frandsen Park will have the pier restrained and hazard trees will be removed. Ki Chi Saga Park will have a water line installed at the Karl Oskar House, storage building will be repainted along with turfgrass maintenance. Fish Lake Park had new volleyball posts and netting purchased which will be installed for use in 2023. Checkerboard Park had ground leveling/seeding around the new restroom area. Maintenance staff has been prepping ground area at Kost Dam Park for the new swing set. Staff will provide installation of new trail crossing signage and informational kiosks at Wyoming, Athens and North Branch locations along SPRT. Brush removal will be conducted along SIRT and SPRT corridors.

Adjourn – Motion by Dan Kaiser to adjourn the meeting. Second by Jolene Wille and carried unanimously at 4:05 pm.