

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – February 22nd, 2022 - 5:00 P.M.
ISANTI COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
555 18th Ave SW, Cambridge, MN 55008

Voting Members Present: Susan Blom, Dave Oslund, Lee Kingsbury, Dave Ringstad, Richard Reichle,
Luke Merrill, Rebecca Mauriala-Kuehn, Carol Urness, Bill Carlson, Wayne Anderson

Voting Members Absent: Kathy Szczech

Staff Present: Barry Wendorf

- A.** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Bill Carlson.
Merrill motioned, Oslund seconded to approve the meeting agenda. **Motion carried.**
- B.** Minutes – Ringstad motioned, Merrill seconded, to approve meeting minutes of January 25th 2022. **Motion carried.**
- C.** Budget Report – Blom motioned, Kingsbury seconded to approve the January Budget Report. **Motion carried.**
- D.** Bills and Invoices – Merrill motioned, Blom seconded to pay 23 bills totaling \$6,392.01 for the month of February. **Motion carried.**
- E.** Director's Report
1. ADA Update – Ashley Hirdler reported that she has been working on a quick guide with ADA Standards for Park System. Discussion included updating Park Brochures marking ADA facilities.
 2. Springvale Master Plan – Information has been uploaded into the GMRPTC online portal in order to apply for regional designation. A site visit will be scheduled during the spring.
 3. Freezer Burn Fat Bike Race – 25 riders and 10 volunteers participated. Event was kept small due to COVID concerns.
 4. Eagle Scout Project Potential – The possibility of a fitness trail was discussed and utilization of wood or rustic materials was unanimous, as well as placement of the stations along the paved loop at the end of Springvale Park rather than along the linear paved trail.
 5. Park Visitor Numbers through January 2022 – No numbers were able to be recorded.
- F.** Other Business
1. Park Ordinance Enforcement – Parks Director has received numerous contacts regarding dogs off leash within the Isanti County Park System. Discussion included how to better enforce Park Ordinance. Merrill stated he did not feel it is a good use of law enforcement and that the dog owner is ultimately responsible for any actions. Kingsbury stated she has talked with park visitors that have had to use their bike to fend off dogs, dogs have been attacked, and not cleaning up pet waste. Blom mentioned that education rather than enforcement may be a better option, targeting repeat offenders, at the same time promoting the future off leash dog area at Anderson Park. Parks Director will be having a discussion with the County Sheriff and County Attorney on options moving forward.
 2. Ron McGriff – Wayside Park Donation – Raingarden on the SW corner of picnic shelter. Plants have been ordered and will be installed by volunteers in May.
 3. Park Preserve – Urness Property – The Parks Director has been in contact with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) regarding the options for this property. TPL mentioned three possibilities:
 - 1) County Preserve – Apply for Natural & Scenic Grant in March 2023
 - 2) County Preserve – TPL utilizes Metro Big River funding to assist with acquisition
 - 3) DNR Scientific & Natural Area – Utilizing Reinvest in MN (RIM) fundingCarol Urness mentioned that a formal agreement at this time was not necessary but wants to know what direction the board wanted to go. It was unanimous that the Isanti County Park Board wanted to pursue the first two options with County ownership before the option of state MNDNR ownership. The Parks Director will continue conversations with TPL and Ms. Urness.
 4. Connecting People to the Outdoors Grant – The Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails Commission (GMRPTC) is offering a grant for programming, equipment, or facilities to get people out into parks. Stearns, Sherburne, and Isanti Counties are working on a joint application to purchase skis, snowshoes, and a trailer. Each county would have the opportunity to use the trailer as needed. Staff is working on drafting a MOU.
 5. 5 Year Plan – Reichle motioned, Ringstad seconded to approve the 5 Year Capitol Improvement and Equipment Plan as presented. **Motion carried.**
 6. Per Diems.
- G.** Next Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday, March 22nd, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.
- H.** Reichle motioned, Oslund seconded to adjourn meeting. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.
Submitted by, Barry Wendorf – Isanti County Parks Director