

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – March 27th, 2018 - 5:00 P.M.
ISANTI COUNTY GOV. BUILDING – UPSTAIRS TRAINING ROOM

Voting Members Present: Luke Merrill, Cliff Edblad, Dave Oslund, Dave Ringstad, Barb Kilpatrick, Robert Shogren, Susan Blom, Wayne Anderson, Carol Urness

Members Absent: Richard Reichle, Bill Carlson

Staff Present: Barry Wendorf

- A. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Wayne Anderson. Oslund motioned, Ringstad seconded to approve the amended meeting agenda and moving the Park Ordinance Update before the Budget Report. **Motion carried.**
- B. Minutes – Ringstad motioned, Oslund seconded, to approve meeting minutes of February 27th, 2018. **Motion carried.**
- A. Park Ordinance Update – On March 14th a Public Hearing was held regarding the proposed update to the Isanti County Park Ordinance. During the Public Hearing a couple concerns arose causing the County Board to table the update with a request that the concerns be revised at the Park Commission. The first item discussed was Section 7. c. (1.) regarding firearms and that the proposed revision could allow hunting opportunities within any Isanti County Park. It was discussed that the intent of the proposed revision is to allow for the existing hunting opportunities at Becklin Homestead County Park / Wildlife Management Area through the Capable Partners Program. Additionally, a separate property is expected to be donated to Isanti County parks in the future with a provision to allow a similar type of hunting opportunity. Edblad stated the proposed revision would allow for future instances of wildlife management, disease control, and youth hunting opportunities as well. Shogren stated that keeping the word “possess” in the ordinance would not be in line with those that have permits to conceal and carry, Merrill agreed. Shogren also commented that he did not agree with allowing hunting for a select group and that any allowed activities be open to all public citizens.

The Chair opened up comments to the public in attendance.

John Murray (8802 275th Ave NE, Stacy, MN) stated his concern was with Irving & John Anderson County Park and did not want to prohibit opportunities in any other Isanti County Park. He was concerned about removing the word “possess” to allow for conceal and carry permitted firearms. Murray also stated concerns with the possibility of hunting and the safety associated with neighboring property owners. Murray further commented that the proposed revision stating that this type of activity may be allowed with written permission could open the door for a discrimination claim. Murray, along with others that he has spoken with that could not be in attendance, are not in favor of allowing firearms or hunting within Irving & John Anderson County Park.

John Barry (27043 Muhlenberg St NE, Stacy, MN) presented a petition signed by 23 citizens to “Keep the discharge of firearms illegal in Anderson County Park” (Petition Attached). Barry requested that any new property acquired as part of Anderson Park have the same restrictions.

Maurie Anderson (8245 267th Ave NE) stated he had concerns with allowing conceal and carry permitted firearms within parks. Anderson commented that Isanti County Parks do not pose a high need for wildlife management and disease control such as metro type park properties where wildlife populations are more congregated.

Cindy Jutz (26999 Muhlenberg St NE, Stacy, MN) requested that the ordinance be changed now to restrict the discharge of firearms and hunting opportunities other than the Becklin Homestead County Park / Wildlife Management Area.

Lee Kingsbury (26415 Pigeon Loft Rd NE, Stacy, MN) stated she is not in favor of taking out “possess” from the ordinance and that most park visitors would not feel comfortable seeing others with firearms.

Ringstad motioned, seconded by Blom to recommend revision of Section 7. c. (1.) to read:

To possess or discharge firearms, air rifles, BB guns, air soft guns, paint ball guns, sling shots, archery equipment, other weapons, explosives or fireworks.

- (a.) With exception of permitted conceal and carry.
- (b.) With exception to allow the taking of wild game at Becklin Homestead County Park / Wildlife Management Area by firearms or archery through a partner program authorized by the Isanti County Park and Recreation Commission.

Motion carried.

The second item mentioned during the Public Hearing was Section 7. c. (15.) regarding pets off leash. It was discussed and determined that it was not the intent of the Isanti County Park and Recreation Commission to allow for dogs being off of a leash but rather was aimed at horses being under control of owners.

Merrill motioned, Urness seconded to recommend the revision of Section 7. c. (15.) to read:

To permit any pet or any other animal on park land and trails owned by Isanti County while not on a leash.

- (a.) With exception of certified service animals under performance of their trained function.
- (b.) To leave the waste from any pet, including horses, outside of a designated receptacle on Isanti County Park property.

Motion carried.

The last item discussed was Section 7. c. (23.) regarding accessing public waters through Isanti County Park properties for hunting and trapping purposes.

Merrill motioned, seconded by Urness to recommend the revision of Section 7. c. (23.) to read:

To access any lake, pond, stream, or other body of water through Isanti County Park property for the purpose of hunting or trapping.

- (a.) With exception of Becklin Homestead County Park / Wildlife Management Area river access.

Motion carried.

The Isanti County Park and Recreation Commission thanked those in attendance for voicing their concerns with the proposed Isanti County Park Ordinance. The next step will be to set a second Public Hearing during a County Board meeting requesting approval.

Tim Lee (27726 Vassar St NE, Stacy, MN) requested that neighboring property owners be notified of Public Hearing dates.

It was stated that all Public Hearing announcements are published in the Isanti County News which is free of charge.

- B.** Budget Report – Shogren motioned, Blom seconded to approve the February Budget Report. **Motion carried.**
- C.** Bills and Invoices – Shogren motioned, Oslund seconded to pay 11 bills totaling \$1,745.98 for the month of January. **Motion carried.**

F. Director's Report

1. 2018 Program / Event List – A handout was distributed listing the programs and events for the

year. Volunteers are needed for the 6th Grade Conservation Day on May 18th.

2. Coborn's Advertisement – This advertisement is expected to receive 10,000 views per month, which translates to 60,000 over the six month period that it will be run.
3. Parks & Trails Legislative Action Day – Parks Director met with local legislators to gain support for H.F. 1270 and S.F. 689 appropriating \$2.5 million of bonding into the Outdoor Recreation Grant Program and \$2.5 million of bonding into the Local Trails Connection Grant Program. Both of these grant programs are for local park and trail related acquisition and development projects.
4. Mix Property – Waiting for land owner to get appraisal which is required for a tax deductible donation.
5. Keen Farm Restoration – Pheasants Forever notified the Parks Department that our application was awarded funding with a local match of in-kind site preparation. A diverse seed mix of 33 forbes and six grasses will be purchased and seed through a contract administered by Pheasants Forever.
6. Park Visitor Numbers were reported – Over 46,000 vehicles entered Isanti County Parks in 2017.

G. Other Business

1. Hanon Property – The current property owners requested the following: the ability to archery hunt during the 2018 and 2019 seasons, ability to harvest dead and downed wood through 2018, ability to remove any structures and contents through 2018, retaining the crop lease through 2018 and extending it into 2019 with the county based on the same terms. The Park Commission recommended that these items be removed prior to acquisition with exception of the crop lease.
2. Isanti County Properties – Properties owned by the county were reviewed at the March 26th Committee of the Whole Meeting with no changes to the Park Commission's recommendations. The next step is for deed restrictions to be verified and then seek transfer or sale of properties.
3. Per Diems.

H. Next Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday, April 24th, 2018 - 5:00pm

I. Ringstad motioned, Kilpatrick seconded to adjourn meeting. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Submitted by,
Barry Wendorf
Parks Director

Petition to Keep the Discharge of Firearms Illegal in Anderson county Park.

Petition summary
 We the undersigned citizens request the Isanti County Park Board and the Isanti County Board to take No Action or Vote that results in allowing the legal discharge of Firearms in any way now or in the future in what is currently known as Anderson County Park, Including future additions if any. No Special Permission given, No special hunts allowed, No discharging of Firearms.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
TIM MORIARTY	[Signature]	27050 Vassar St NE Stacy MN 55079		3/26/18
John Doney	[Signature]	27040 MULLENBAC ST. " "		3-26-18
Barb Barry	[Signature]	" "		3-26-18
Lindy Tutz	[Signature]	24099 Mulenberg St NE		3-26-18
DANIEL BIRX	[Signature]	27449 Furman St NE		3-26-18
Laura Birx	[Signature]	27499 Furman St. NE		3-26-18
John Murray	[Signature]	8802 275th Ave NE Stacy MN 55079		3-26-18
Teresa Murray	[Signature]	8802 275th Ave NE Stacy, MN 55079		3-26-18
Grace Denera	[Signature]	8617 County Road S NE		3-27-18
Madal Ebert	[Signature]	40203 Sunrise Road		3-27-18
Veronica Zambano	[Signature]	" "		3-27-18

(Attachment)

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Tim Lee	<i>Tim Lee</i>	27226 VASSAR ST.	VIETNAM VET	3-24-18
Pat Lee	<i>Pat Lee</i>	27226 VASSAR ST NE		3-24-18
A. McLaughlin	T.P. HERRIGAN	2744D WASSAR ST NE	OPT VASSAR VET	3/24-18
Diana Sherman	DANA S. HERRIGAN	2744D WASSAR ST NE		3-24-18
Don Ledzmer	<i>Don Ledzmer</i>	27101 FURNMAN ST NE		3-24-18
Mikolajewicz	<i>Mikolajewicz</i>	27107 Furman St NE		3/24/18
Sid Schuster	<i>Sid Schuster</i>	271519 Furman		3/25/18
ALL FANIKSA	<i>[Signature]</i>	8001 27TH AVE		3/25/18
Ryan Brisset	<i>[Signature]</i>	u		a -
William Child	<i>William Child</i>	26930 Weckhambury		3-25-18
Tina Nisben	<i>Tina Nisben</i>	26935 Mulkenburg St		3-25-18
Terey Engdahl	<i>Terey Engdahl</i>	7911 275th Ave. NE.		3-26-18