

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – April 25th, 2023 - 5:00 P.M.
ISANTI COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
555 18th Ave SW, CAMBRIDGE, MN 55008

Voting Members Present: Whitey Redfield, Luke Merrill, Lee Kingsbury, John Carlson, Bill Berg, Bob Shogren

Voting Members Absent: Carol Urness, Susan Blom, Jamieson Baldwin-Schaffer, Adam Curtis, Wayne Anderson

Staff Present: Barry Wendorf

Public Present: Hazel Erickson

A. Public Comment – None

B. The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Parks Director Barry Wendorf.

Merrill motioned, Kingsbury seconded to approve the meeting agenda. **Motion carried.**

C. Minutes – Shogren motioned, seconded by Merrill, to approve meeting minutes of March 28th, 2023. **Motion carried.**

D. Budget Report – Shogren motioned, Berg seconded to approve the March Budget Report. **Motion carried.** During discussion regarding tree purchase, Merrill recommended planting Maples in the future due to cost and lack of disease.

E. Bills and Invoices – Shogren motioned, Carlson seconded to pay 23 bills totaling \$9,925.11 for the month of April. **Motion carried.**

F. Director's Report

1. Programs & Events – All About Isanti County Parks program at the Cambridge Library at 6pm. Spring Bird Hike May 13th at Anderson Park at 7:30am. 5th Grade Conservation day at Becklin Park on May 19th at 9am. Disc Golf Tournament at Springvale Park at 9am on May 20th.
2. Prescribed Burn Season – Staff and Volunteers have been working on completing the list of twelve prairies planned for prescribed burning this spring.
3. Drinking Fountains – All four fountains are planned to be operational this week, with exception of Vegsund Park which will be tested for Coliform Bacteria prior to opening.
4. Park Visitor Numbers through March 2023 were reported.

G. Other Business

1. Draft Promotional Plan – A Draft Plan was presented with discussion including Purpose, Framework, Action, Results and Incentives. Topics such as drone video for promotion on You Tube, a camera overlooking the fishing pier at Vegsund Park, brochures available at AIRBNB's, Hotels, Apartments, and Realtor's. Advertisements on monitors at schools and Community Calendars. Having a presence at events such as Customer Appreciation Day, Isanti Rodeo, Snowflake Parade. Create a Photo Contest with County Parks. Purchase incentives like hats and shirts to be sold or given away. A revised Draft Plan will be discussed at the next meeting.
2. Spring Turkey Hunt at Becklin Park – The park is open to turkey hunters through the Capable Partners Program starting April 12 through May 31st. Caution signs are placed at entrances.
4. Comprehensive Land Use Plan – the Isanti County Zoning Office will be completing an updated plan in 2023. This is a great opportunity to provide input on the future direction of Isanti County. In the process of receiving public comments through an online survey at <https://www.imagineisanticounty2045.com/>
5. Per Diems

H. Next Meeting Scheduled for **Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023 – 5:00 p.m. at Vegsund Family County Park**

I. Merrill motioned, Berg seconded to adjourn meeting at 6:15 pm. **Motion carried.**

Submitted by, Barry Wendorf - Isanti County Parks Director