

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – July 25th, 2023 - 5:00 P.M.

**SPRINGVALE COUNTY PARK
3361 HWY 95 NW, CAMBRIDGE, MN 55008**

Voting Members Present: Luke Merrill, Bill Berg, Carol Urness, Susan Blom, Jamieson Baldwin-Schaffer, Wayne Anderson, Whitey Redfield, Bob Shogren

Voting Members Absent: Lee Kingsbury, John Carlson, Adam Curtis

Staff Present: Barry Wendorf

Public Present: Bob Betsinger, Hazel Erickson

- A.** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Wayne Anderson.
Berg motioned, Merrill seconded to approve the meeting agenda. **Motion carried.**
- B.** Public Comment – Bob Betsinger asked if the proposed parking area for the Urness Property could be moved to the south bean field along Co. Rd. 14. It was stated that this location requires crossing of wetlands in order to access remainder of property. Concerned about taking down barn since bats live in it. Merrill asked him to mark his requested spot on a map and send it to the Parks Director.
- C.** Minutes – Merrill motioned, seconded by Blom, to approve meeting minutes of May 23rd, 2023. **Motion carried.**
- D.** Budget Report – Merrill motioned, Blom seconded to approve the May Budget Report. **Motion carried.**
- E.** Bills and Invoices – Blom motioned, Urness seconded to pay 24 bills totaling \$28,186.40 for the month of June. **Motion carried.**

F. Director's Report

1. Programs & Events – The Medallion Hunt starts August 14th with \$1,000 in donated prizes. The Fall Festival is scheduled for September 16th from 10am – 1pm at Anderson Park. A second disc golf tournament is scheduled for September 23rd.
2. Springvale Parking Lot Lines – New stripping was completed at a cost of \$700.
3. Oak Wilt @ Anderson Park – Plow lines were dug on the south line bordering Lenzmeier's. Cost will be split \$750 / County and \$250 / Lenzmeier's. Trees will be removed prior to winter.
4. Drinking Fountains – Vegsund Park tested negative for Coliform Bacteria. Anderson Park fountain is not functioning correctly and is in-operable until repaired.
5. Stamm Farm Development – A grant agreement has been signed with development starting this fall.
6. 2024 Budget Proposal – Blom motioned, Berg seconded to approve a \$3,843 increase from the 2023 budget. This increase is due to overhead costs that were not known at the May Meeting. **Motion carried.**
7. Park Visitor Numbers were not reported.

G. Other Business

1. Carol Urness Property Grant Award – Isanti County Parks Department was awarded a Natural & Scenic Area Grant Award to purchase the Urness and Bohn Properties. Carol Urness spoke about the preservation of the land and that this is cause for celebration. Due to donating over 10% of the value, Ms. Urness does have naming rights of the future preserve.
2. Keen & Friedland Acquisitions – Berg motioned, Shogren seconded to approve applying for a Park Legacy Grant to acquire the 3.36 acre Barbara Keen Property. The total cost is \$284,000 with a 10% match from the Park Reserve Fund. **Motion carried.** Voting Nay, Merrill stated that he felt the cost was too high. Merrill motioned, Shogren seconded to approve applying for a Park Legacy Grant to acquire the 18 acre Bill Friedland Property. The total cost is \$90,000 with a 10% match from the Park Reserve Fund. **Motion carried.**
3. Mike Miller Property – Oxford Township – Mr. Miller set up a site visit of his 79 acre horse ranch by the Parks Director and the SWCD. Mr. Miller is interested in donating his property to the county in order for it to become a County Park. The Parks Director stated that there are two residents on the property along with additional outbuildings. Mr. Miller currently allows neighbors to ride horses on existing trails. The Parks Director stated that this could become a future Horse Park. Park Board Members in attendance were in favor of looking into this further.
4. Draft Promotional Plan – The subcommittee has not had a chance to meet to develop a survey. It was requested that Park Board Members review the draft promotional plan and send edits to the Parks Director by August 8th.
5. 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/>
6. Per Diems

H. Next Meeting Scheduled for **Tuesday, August 22nd, 2023 – 5:00 p.m. at Irving & John Anderson County Park**

I. Shogren motioned, Berg seconded to adjourn meeting at 6:25 pm. **Motion carried.**

Submitted by,
Barry Wendorf
Isanti County Parks Director