

CHISAGO COUNTY PARK BOARD OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, November 16th, 2023

At 3:00 pm, Thursday, November 16th, 2023, the Chisago County Park Board of Directors met in regular session at the Chisago County Government Center. The following members present: John Pantelis, Jolene Wille, Gregg Carlson, Monica Wick, and Allen Siedow. Also present: Joe Tart; Park Director, Kurt Schneider; Environmental Services Director, and Nicole Hawley; Office Support Specialist.

Meeting Summary:

- Gregg Carlson added "SIRT Updates" under New Business to the agenda.
- Unanimously the Board approved the October 19th, 2023, meeting minutes.
- Director Tart went through the Mountain Bike Trail to update the Park Board Members.

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.

Chair Carlson added "SIRT Updates" under New Business to the agenda. **Motion** by Jolene Wille to approve the amended agenda. Second by John Pantelis and carried unanimously.

Motion by Jolene Wille to approve the October 19th, 2023, minutes. Second by Allen Siedow and carried unanimously.

Citizen's Forum: No one was present.

Old Business

2023 CIP- SIRT Erosion Control Project

Director Tart presented pictures of the erosion control mitigation measures on the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail. The issues currently are near Bridges 2 and 3. Rip Rap rock checks were installed near both bridge deck locations and erosion control blankets, coir logs, wattles and MNL Pollinator Mixes were placed near bridge 3.

ARPA- Single Track Mountain Bike Course

Director Tart and the contractor, Pathfinders, broke ground on the Mountain Bike Trail on November 13th, 2023, at Ki-Chi-Saga Park. The plan is to have a 3-3.5-mile loop. There is talk about constructing the trail wide enough to allow for adaptive bikes. It will take the construction company 45 days to complete the loop but will end early due to colder weather and will commence in the spring.

Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail Project- Segment G Update

Director Tart presented new photos of the Harris Trailhead to the Park Board members as well as the new road crossing. Director Tart let Park Board members know about the flooding on sections of the new segment. The trail was to be raised to help with the flooding issue.

Fish Lake County Park Gate Building

Director Tart is meeting with the builder on Tuesday 11/21. Director Tart asked the Park Board for thoughts of color and tin. **Motion** by John Pantelis to stay with the green and tan color. Second by Jolene Wille and carried unanimously.

New Business

SIRT Updates

City of Lindstrom Mayor, Judy Chartrand, and City of Lindstrom Administrator, Dan Undem, discussed updates to their Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail project. Administrator Undem stated that they are looking at rerouting the Lindstrom segment to the north side of Highway 8. They have a hope of trying to keep the trail downtown rather than pushing the trail into residential neighborhoods. Park Board members stated they liked the idea of the trail moving to the north side but hopes that the city consider not abandoning the current south trail in hopes to keep the public still visiting that area.

City of Center City Mayor, Jill Behnke, discussed the recent trailhead event they held with Park Board members. City of Center City presented the possible layout of the proposed trailhead to the public. The city hopes to host another event regarding the proposed trailhead sometime in January. The city is also looking into a few grant options for safer ways to access the trailhead.

2024 Parks Division Staffing

Director Tart informed Park Board members that a full time Parks Maintenance Technician position was approved by the Personal Committee. The position is a grade 6 after the Baker Tilley wage study in 2022. The hope is to post the position before 2024.

2024 CIP- Parks Truck

The Parks Department CIP (\$60,000) was approved for a new parks truck. The new truck would replace a 2008 ¾ ton Silverado truck. The new truck will be a 1 ton with a dump box. The current truck that Parks Department is looking into is around \$43,000 and the dump box is approximately \$17,000.

2024 SHIP Application

Director Tart updated Park Board members of the current SHIP projects which include park trail maps and parks and trails brochures. Director Tart presented the proposed 2024 SHIP projects which include a trail crossing for our SIRT in downtown Shafer, a bike repair station and bike rack at our new Mountain Bike Trail at Ki-Chi-Saga, and a Mountain Bike Trail informational sign. Park Board members discussed the proposed projects and decided to add a repair station at the new trailhead in Harris rather than at our Mountain Bike Trail. **Motion** by Allen Siedow to add bike repair station at new trailhead in Harris. Second by Chair Carlson and carried unanimously.

Parks and Trails Vandalism

Director Tart presented pictures of recent vandalism at our Ki-Chi-Saga Park, Checkerboard Park, Kost Dam Park, and the Stacy segment of our SPRT. Director Tart updated Park Board members that all vandalism is currently taken care of, other than the abandoned boat at Checkerboard Park.

Adjourn – Motion by Jolene Wille to not hold a December Park Board meeting unless Director Tart feels he has important for the Park Board. Second by Chair Carlson and carried unanimously. **Motion** by Jolene Wille to adjourn the meeting. Second by Allen Siedow and carried unanimously at 4:06 pm.