

## CHISAGO COUNTY PARK BOARD OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, November 21, 2024

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At 3:00 pm, Thursday, November 21, 2024, 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, Jessica Bergan, and Allen Siedow. Also present: Joe Tart; Park Director, Nicole Hawley; Office Support Specialist, Dan Dahlberg; 5<sup>th</sup> District County Commissioner, and Kurt Schneider; Environmental Services Director.

### Meeting Summary:

- Unanimously the Board approved the agenda.
- Unanimously the Board approved October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 minutes.
- City of Center City Mayor, Jill Behnke, and representative from Minnesota Design Center (MDC) at University of Minnesota, Torey Erin, were asking questions on the process of the future Center City Trailhead.

Chair Wille 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.

**Motion** by John Pantelis to approve the agenda. Second by Allen Siedow and carried unanimously.

**Motion** by John Pantelis to approve the October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 minutes. Second by Jessica Bergan and carried unanimously.

**Citizen's Forum:** In attendance was City of Center City Mayor, Jill Behnke, and representative from Minnesota Design Center (MDC) at University of Minnesota, Torey Erin. Mayor Behnke and Torey explained that they are working on the public infrastructure design of the future Center City Trailhead along the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail. Mayor Behnke and Torey want to know how to engage with Chisago County Parks Department on planning for this future trailhead. The coordination of data process has started with the City of Lindstrom and the City of Center City. MDC works on community engagement strategies to get community feedback and input along with collaborating with the Soil and Water Conservation District. City of Center City and MDC want to create a stronger connection with the Chisago County Park Board for better funding opportunities for state and federal grants.

### Old Business

#### A. 2025 CIP- Update

All 2025 CIP projects were preliminary approved. Director Tart explained that with these 2025 CIP items, that trails will get cleared quicker and projects will take less time to get completed.

## **B. ARPA Projects- Update**

There has been progress on the Ki-Chi-Saga Concession Building. Some recent installations include, rollup doors, electric, plumbing and Wi-Fi. Tile will be installed the week of 11/25. After all remaining punch list items are completed, all the Park's ARPA funding will be spent.

## **New Business**

### **A. Checkerboard Park- Hiking Trails**

1.5 miles of hiking trails were added to Checkerboard Park, which make a total of 2 miles of hiking trails at the park. The trails have been cleared, but there is some final remaining clearing efforts. The topic was discussed about grooming the trails for cross country skiing in the winter.

### **B. SHIP Projects- 2025**

Director Tart discussed that him, Jackson, and Nicole met with SHIP Coordinator, Elizabeth Stenson, about how SHIP can help Chisago County Parks with funding for future projects. 2025 project ideas are a Hydration Station at Ki-Chi-Saga Park and trail signage along the Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail. One item that was discussed but was decided to hold off on was equipment for healthier food at concession building. This idea needs more looking into.

### **C. Chisago County Single-Track Course- Adjustments**

The construction company, Pathfinders, came back out and improved issues at site 10, 13, and 14. Pathfinders did not charge for these improved adjustments. There is a plan to groom the course for fat tire biking in the winter. Director Tart also stated that MORC has been on site multiple times.

### **D. Emerald Ash Bore (EAB)- Biocontrol**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture was at Ki-Chi-Saga Park identifying Emerald Ash Bore populations that could be present at the park. They discussed a plan to help mitigate the spread of these pests. They indicated that a release of a specific variety of stingless wasps will help to control the EAB population that is currently in the Metro area and present in Chisago County. This biocontrol option has had great success within other areas of the state.

### **E. Public Auction Items**

Chisago County Parks Department has 3 items that will be going up for auction on Public Surplus. The 3 items include two 86-gallon pressure tanks, 2008 Chevy 2500 4 door truck, and 185 millermatic wire feed welder. Money from these items will go to the Chisago County general fund.

**Adjourn –Motion** by Jessica Bergan to adjourn the meeting. Second by Gregg Carlson and carried unanimously at 3:58 pm.