

CHISAGO COUNTY PARK BOARD OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, April 17, 2025

At 3:00 pm, Thursday, April 17th, 2025, 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; 5th District County Commissioner, Jackson McDowell; Parks and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, and Kurt Schneider; Environmental Services Director.

Meeting Summary:

- Unanimously the Board approved the agenda.
- Unanimously the Board approved the March 20th, 2025 minutes.
- Director Tart presented possible new park sign designs.

Chair Pantelis 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 Jolene Wille to approve the agenda. Second by Allen Siedow and carried unanimously.

Motion by Gregg Carlson to approve the March 20th, 2025 minutes. Second by Allen Siedow and carried unanimously.

Citizen's Forum: No one present.

Old Business

A. Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail- Segment D Update

Director Tart submitted project requirements for Minnesota Historical Sites Act and Archaeology Review (SHPO), and Natural Heritage Information Systems Request (NHIS). Director Tart went through the entire project requirement check list for items required to start the process. Director Tart also mentioned we may need to purchase a few wetland credits to complete project. A wetland delineation will determine what will be needed.

B. Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail- Segment E Update

Director Tart will submit a new grant application for Segment E this summer. The grant funding request will be approximately \$558,000.

C. 2025 Capital Improvement Plan- Update

Chisago County Parks CIP was originally approved at the County Board meeting on 2/15/25. The Parks Department has purchased most of the items. Director Tart updated the Park Board that we ordered our new truck replacement and new kayak docks for Fish Lake Park and Kost Dam Park. Director Tart is currently working on Swedish Immigrant Trail approved CIP requests.

D. Ki-Chi-Saga Concession Stand

LARA has verbally agreed to Parks Department's contract to operate the concession building for their events. When not used by LARA, the concession building could be available by Chisago County or other organizations for separate special events dates. Director Tart updated the Park Board that we had our final plumbing inspection done and water quality testing. Water is now open at the facility. The bathrooms will be opened officially to the public starting 4/21. The Park Board shared their reservations about automatic locks, making sure the public is not in the facility/bathrooms when the bathrooms are locked at night.

E. 2025 Parks Seasonal Staffing - Update

Director Tart stated that we are now fully staffed for 2025 seasonals. We had 4 returning employees and 8 new employees.

F. Adopt-A-Trail Program Information

Director Tart went through the Adopt-A-Trail program and answered questions from the Park Board. We currently have 6 open segments available for adoption.

G. Parks Entrance Counters

Director Tart presented the Park Counter information again to the Park Board. There were issues with ordering but are now available for purchase. These counters will determine vehicle traffic

entering selected parks and data could determine future park improvement projects. The package comes with 3 counters, but the parks department is in the market for 4 counters. Director Tart will contact the manufacturer about ordering a 4th. These counters will be placed in 4 of our parks, but Park Board recommended these also be added to our trails in future.

New Business

A. Parks Entrance Signs

Director Tart stated that we will need to replace 2 park entrance signs very shortly, one due to degradation and the other for new road work construction on CR 10. Director Tart has previously recommended funding for new park entrance signs. Director Tart will request funding again with additional options. Option 1, purchase necessary building supplies and installing in-house. Option 2, asking for funding to cover the cost of 2 signs. Option 3, ask for funding for all 5 parks signs.

B. Ki-Chi-Saga Mountain Bike Course

The Mountain Bike Trail at Ki-Chi-Saga Park will temporarily be closed due to ground thawing.

C. Fish Lake Swimming Platform

Director Tart stated that there has been and will require ongoing maintenance repairs, along with some safety concerns with the swimming platform in the past. Director Tart asked the Park Board's thoughts with putting the swimming platform back out for the 2025 season. **Motion** by Jolene Wille to not put the swimming platform out for the 2025 season. Second by Jessica Bergan with 4 members being in favor of and 1 opposed.

D. Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Commission- Legislative Update

Director Tart updated the Park Board that Greater MN Parks and Trails (GMPT) updated their legislative policies. Director Tart also shared with the Park Board all the work they have done to communicate to the state to support Minnesota Parks and Trails.

Adjourn -Motion by Jolene Wille to adjourn the meeting. Second by Jessica Bergan and carried unanimously at 4:25pm.