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## SCOTT COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES November 6, 2019

The Scott County Parks Advisory Commission held their November meeting on November 6, 2019 at The Scott County Government Center, 200 Fourth Avenue West, Shakopee, MN 55379. Staff members present were Patty Freeman, General Manager of Scott County Parks and Trails, Alysa Delgado, Parks and Natural Resources Coordinator, and Beverly Cox-Alexander, Secretary.

Specific details and video of the entire November 6, 2019 Scott County Parks Advisory Meeting is available on the Scott County Website:

Click on the link below to view the video

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbJ\\_4USL9YI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbJ_4USL9YI)

- 1) **Roll Call:** Chair Patrick Stieg called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and proceeded with roll call.  
**Members present:** Kristin French, Kathy Gerlach, Barb Hedstrom, Jerry Hennen, Patrick Stieg, Mark Ewert and Commissioner Jon Ulrich.

**Members Absent:** Eric Spieler

- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3) **Approval of Agenda**

**Motion by Commissioner Ewert; second by Commissioner Hedstrom to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

- 4) **Approve meeting minutes for October 2, 2019**

**Motion by Commissioner Hennen; second by Commissioner Hedstrom to approve the 10/02/19 meeting minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

- 5) **Recognition of Interested Citizens for Items Not on the Agenda**  
No citizen comment.

- 6) **Administration, Planning and Development**

a. 2018 Resident and Visitor Study Presentation – Guest Presenter Alyssa Olson, Three Rivers Park District Research and Evaluation Coordinator

Alyssa Olson provided an overview of the 2018 Resident and Visitor Findings available in the packet which include:

- 2018 Park and Trail Use Estimates from Metropolitan Council

- 2018 General Population Survey Conducted by the Morris Leatherman Company
- 2018 Park Visitor Survey Conducted By Three Rivers Park District Research Section

Commissioner Discussions:

- Commissioner Hennen commented on the survey that indicated 4 % poor signage
- Commissioner Gerlach commented on conflicting surveys regarding Park User Increase Fees
- Commissioner Hedstrom commented on the Metropolitan Council Survey's estimated number of annual visits in 2018 as it relates to Spring Lake Regional Park and Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park
- Commissioner Ewert commented on the low rankings of Playgrounds, Swim Areas and Dog Parks on the General Population Survey Conducted by the Morris Leatherman Company survey regarding "What do you like Most about Three Rivers"
- Alyssa Olson advised the visitor study surveys are conducted every 5 years

b. Scott County Parks and Trails at a Glance – Park and Conservation Land Acres and Regional Trail Presented by Alysa Delgado, Parks and Natural Resources Coordinator

Scott County at a Glance

- Report created to help contextualize Scott County's Parks and Trails efforts within the Metro Region
- Combines multiple datasets (with limitations)
- Provides an "at a glance" overview of Scott County's rankings in several Parks / Trails categories

Review of and highlights of content available in the packet:

- Scott County has about 8% of county acres protected by current Regional Parkland, future Regional Parkland, and Conservation Lands (Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- Almost 17,000 acres are currently being protected as Conservation Lands or Regional Parks within Scott County
- This report uses Met Council 2016 General Land Use Data Set using Arial imagery focusing on open spaces which includes all different park types.
- Review of where Scott County falls within the Metro Region
  - Average for Conservation Lands + Existing Regional Parks
  - Above average for Conservation Lands + Planned Regional Parks
  - Below average for both Existing Regional Trails and Existing + Planned Regional Trails
  - Above average for Existing Regional Parks + Planned Regional Parks
  - Above average for Conservation Lands
  - Below average for total parks (this includes local parks)

Conclusion:

- Scott County has room for improvement when it comes to Regional Trails
- Scott County is providing comparable parkland amounts to other implementing agencies
- Maintaining our parks is critical to keep parks a notable asset to the county

c. Resident / Non-Residential Fee Structure Concept

Presented by Patty Freeman

Purpose of agenda item:

- Parks Advisory Commissioners awareness of a concept that TRPD is considering
- Ask for feedback and questions to bring to internal working group and to County Board

Concept:

- Develop a fee structure that includes different rates for “residents” and “nonresidents”
- **Residents** = people living within Suburban Hennepin County and Scott County
- **Nonresidents** would pay higher fees than residents

Why?

- Park District identified budget challenges; had discussions and preparing solutions
  - Refers to Park District General Fund Budget; not the Scott-Three Rivers partnership budget; and not Scott County general fund
- Ongoing recognition of State not meeting O & M contribution promise
  - Far below 40% in Statue
  - Average of 9%
- Strong regional use, in particular for TRPD
- From TRPD Board - A budget goal: Provide value and equity to the taxpayers of Three Rivers Park District (Hennepin County)
- The concept was brought to the Three Rivers Board in October.
  - Could it be a part of the 2020 budget
  - Philosophically this makes sense
  - Leadership to create an internal working group
  - Can we make this work without a cost

Commissioner Feedback:

- Commissioner Ewert: Supports the concept
- Commissioner Hedstrom: Possibility of additional park based fees
- Commissioner French: Boarder community concerns
- Commissioner Stieg: Does this start a trend? In doing a quick search, found no evidence of park boards having residence / non-residence fees.
- Commissioner Hennen: Are there projections for revenue?

Next sets:

- Patty Freeman to talk to the county board in a workshop session and a meeting to obtain county board feedback

## 7) Informational Items

### a. Advisory Commission Reports

- Commissioner Hedstrom recently had the opportunity to spend a beautiful morning in Golden Colorado visiting a park which had a river and historical buildings. This is the same concept as discussed at the Landing PAC meeting in October.
- Commissioner Ewert commented on a recent article in the paper
  - A group of people removed 20 tons of buckthorn
  - The City of Shakopee is using goats to control buckthorn
- Commissioner Stieg provided updates on the Parks and Trail Legacy Committee
  - 20K fairgoers went through the exhibit
  - Approximately 12K voted; with the question: “What connects you to the outdoors”?

- Naturalist programs
- Skill building programs
- Ensuring a welcoming environment
- Partnerships with schools and other organizations / local clubs
- Discussion at the meeting about the funding distribution formula through legislative action for how much goes to the DNR vs the Metropolitan Council Parks vs the Greater Minnesota Parks

b. Projects / Other Updates

i) Update on 2020-2024 Capital Budget

Patty Freeman reviewed items approved by the County Board

- Well Cleary Campground – Cleary Lake
  - Install Well
- Cleary Lake Master Plan Update – Cleary Lake
  - Complete master plan update for Cleary Lake
- Sanitary Dump Station – Cleary Lake
  - Install a dump station
- Fence around maintenance compound – Cleary Lake
  - Install a new fence approximately (1,050) feet long, (6) feet high, galvanized or black chain link with (2) sliding gates
- Regional Trails Master Planning – System Wide
  - Master Plan for portion of So. Scott RT New Prague to Cedar to Doyle to Cleary including some preliminary engineering and Louisville RT

c. Upcoming Recreation and Education Programs and Events

- (1) Full Moon Snow Shoes with S'mores at Cleary Lake
- (2) Kicksled Adventure at Cleary Lake
- (3) Geocaching to Build a Snowperson at Cleary Lake
- (4) Family Snowshoeing with Hot Cocoa at Cleary Lake
- (5) Fat Bike Fun Race at Cleary Lake
- (6) Beginner Snowshoeing at Cleary Lake

**8) Upcoming Meetings**

a. December 4th – (5:00 pm start time)

- Regional Trail Kiosk and Wayfinding Project Update
- Year in Review
- Trail Planning / Projects Update
- PAC Celebration / Social

b. January 8th

- Elections
- 2020 Operating Budget Overview and 2021 Budget Priorities
- Tour discussions
- Work plans discussions

**10) Adjourn**

**Motion by Commissioner Gerlach; second by Commissioner French to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

- The meeting concluded at 8:15 pm

*Patrick Stieg*

**Patrick Stieg, Chair**

*December 4, 2019*

**Date**

*Beverly Cox-Alexander*

**Beverly Cox-Alexander, Secretary**