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## SCOTT COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES February 5, 2020

The Scott County Parks Advisory Commission held their February meeting on February 5, 2020 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, Nathan Moe, Parks and Natural Resources Parks Planner, Alysa Delgado, Parks and Natural Resources Coordinator, and Beverly Cox-Alexander, Secretary.

Specific details and video of the entire February 5, 2020 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=590dJuKrcGM>

- 1) **Roll Call:** Chair Patrick Stieg called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and proceeded with roll call.  
**Members present:** Kristin French, Kathy Gerlach, Barb Hedstrom, Jerry Hennen, Eric Spieler, Patrick Stieg, and Mark Ewert.

**Members Absent:** Commissioner Jon Ulrich

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

**Patty Freeman requested the following amendments to the Agenda**

- (add) Item 5) Election of Chair and Vice Chair
- Item 6) Recognition of Interested Citizens for Items Not on the Agenda
- Item 7) Administration, Planning and Development
- Item 8) Informational Items
  - b. Projects / Other Updates
- (add) ii) Work team updates
- (add) e. 2020 PAC Summer Calendar
- Item 9) Upcoming Meetings
- Item 10) Adjourn

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

- 4) **Approve meeting minutes for December 4, 2019**

**Motion by Commissioner Spieler; second by Commissioner Hedstrom to approve the 12/04/19 meeting minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

## 5) Election of Chair and Vice Chair

### Election of Chair

**Motion by Commissioner Ewert; second by Commissioner French to elect Commissioner Patrick Stieg as Commission Chair for 2020. The motion carried unanimously.**

### Election of Vice Chair

**Motion by Commissioner Hennen; second by Commissioner Gerlach to elect Commissioner Eric Spieler as Vice Chair for 2020. The motion carried unanimously.**

## 6) Recognition of Interested Citizens for Items Not on the Agenda

No citizen comment.

## 7) Administration, Planning and Development

a. Park Rx America Initiative, presented by Alysa Delgado, Parks and Natural Resources Coordinator

- ParkRx is a nationwide initiative that is encouraging providers (clinical and non-clinical) to give a “Park Prescription” to their patients to better improve their mental and physical health
- Research indicates that spending time in Parks and Nature has intrinsic benefits for mental and physical health, including:
  - Improving weight, blood pressure, and overall health
  - Increasing physical activity
  - Lowering anxiety and depression
  - Helping children become more social and resilient
  - Improving children’s school behavior and grades
- Park Rx Initiative / Park Rx Involvement
  - Putting Parks on ParkRx America
  - Establish a consistent programming effort devoted to ParkRx
  - Hosting information sessions on how to use your park prescription in our parks
- Park Rx Involvement
  - November
    - Carver / Scott Partners Meeting at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
  - December
    - Parks added to ParkRx America Platform
    - Brainstorming with Scott County Public Health
  - January
    - Continuation of Carver / Scott Meeting
    - Brainstorming with Scott County Public Health
  - Next
    - Identify next steps for implementing a pilot program this summer

- The Parks and Trails group views this program as another approach to better serve our community and encourage residents to visit our park.
- By participating in this program, we:
  - Hope to increase our number of first time park users
  - Reduce the frequency of “unaware of parks” being listed as a barrier for visiting

Commissioner Feedback:

*Commissioner French*

*“Great Presentation! What a great program and concept”*

*“Is there an area that talks about Accessibility of the Park?”*

- *This is a searchable feature*

*“Is there information available on park fees? Some parks have fees and some do not.”*

- *There is a section under “Programming” that indicates the type of park.*

*“Who takes the lead on getting medical providers to buy into the program?”*

- *Public Health and Parks are working together, presenting the initiative and being transparent.*
- *Currently working to find providers that already subscribe to this idea.*

*Comments from Commissioner Stieg on collaboration with Carver Scott Partnership updates*

- *Next step is to figure out what the providers need in this program so it is structured in a way it will work*
- *It’s been no trouble to get the enthusiastic involvement of the parks people*
- *A lot of good partners are involved, including some health care representatives*
- *Initial meetings were to determine what else “we need to know”*
- *Looking at possibly doing some kind of round table event or a series of focus groups with providers to dig a little deeper*
- *Thankful to have involvement of some researchers at the University of MN School of Public Health helping to guide the program*
- *Ambitions are to launch the program with the information in a system like ParkRx America so anyone can have access*
- *Thoughts are to have a general public campaign about the value of the public getting out and using parks more*
- *Looking for a couple of clinical and non-clinical care givers to participate in a pilot project that will evaluate the impact of the program*

*Comment from Commissioner Gerlach*

*“How is this funded, does it cost clinics a fee?”*

- *Park Rx America is a non-profit organization that manages the website*

## **8) Informational Items / Other**

### **a. Legislative Update**

#### **a. Scott County Legislative Platform for Parks and Trails**

- **State Bonding – Merriam Junction Trail**
  - Merriam Junction Trail – an accessible pedestrian and bicycle link across the Minnesota River Valley
  - Trail includes 2.12 miles of paved trail
  - Four bridges

- Trailhead parking at the Louisville Swamp
- Approximately a \$9 Million project
- Master Plan is complete
- State Bonding - \$15 million for Metro Parks
  - Metropolitan Council requested \$15 million in Governors budget; \$10 million was included
    - Regional Park implementing agencies will continue to seek \$15 million
  - The \$15 million level in state bonding leverages \$10 million from Met Council
    - This level of funding would mean \$870,000 for Scott County
    - County Board work session on priorities March/April
- Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Formula – Minimum of 40% for Metro Regional Park System
  - Current \$ Funding Formula 40/40/20
  - Metro Parks – 40%
    - 55% of the state’s population
    - 60 Million visits to Metro Regional Parks System
  - DNR State Parks – 40%
  - Greater MN Parks – 20%
    - 45% of state’s population
    - 10 Million visits to State Parks
    - Unknown visits to Greater MN Regional Park System

b. Advisory Commissioner Reports

i. Cleary Maintenance Building Update

- Construction is progressing smoothly
- On schedule to be completed June, 2020
- Structure is complete, fully insulated and enclosed with temporary coverings for windows and doors
- Interior underground plumbing and electrical work is in process
- Concrete floors start this week
- Roofing and siding to begin in February

ii. Work Team Updates

Park Maintenance Team Updates

- Cleary Ski Trails are open and being groomed as weather permits
- Murphy Ski Trails are open (Knob & Kettle only) The Razor Back trail remains closed due to lack of snow and erosion issues
- Dog Parks have been busy with nicer weather
- Cleary and Spring Lake Bike Trails have been busy
- Murphy Mountain Bike Trail has been groomed by MORC and has been busy
- Aerators are in at both Cleary and Murphy Lakes. Both are keeping large areas of water open and are monitored weekly.
- Golf equipment is being serviced and reel grinding is taking place this week.
- Brush piles were burned at Cleary
- Currently working on Ash Tree removal at Cleary
- Tree trimming is in effect at Cedar Lake
- Part of Maintenance building team, tracking and supporting

Park Visitor Services and Facilities Team Updates

- Prepping for Fat Bike Fun Race – February 15
- Two booths at Minnesota Golf Show – Three Rivers Golf Academy & First Tee

- Prepping for Opening Day of Golf Programs / Lessons Registration – February 26
- Free Play Snow Day – February 29
- Every Sunday, January thru End of Ski Season – Host Minnesota Youth League Ski League 2 pm – 4 pm
- Planning for Summer hiring and recruitment – March 1
- Pretty good January ski and rental

Outdoor Recreation and Education Team

- Winter Programs – Strongest enrollment Tyler has seen
- Free Play Snow Day
  - February 29
  - Cleary Lake – Free <sup>ski</sup> Lessons
    - Family Classic 9:30 am
    - Classic Ski Tour Noon
- Summer programs and Camps – already set!

c. Advisory Commissioner Reports  
*Commissioner Spieler, "Trails have been very good"*

d. Upcoming Events  
 Highlighted Winter Events and Programs / Volunteer Opportunities:  
 (1) Free Play Snow Day  
 (2) Fate Bike Fun Race at Cleary Lake – February 16 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

e. 2020 PAC Summer Calendar  
 a. June 3 – Keep as scheduled  
 b. July 1 – Move to June 24  
 C. August 5 – Move to August 12

**9) Upcoming Meetings**

- a. March 4 – Wayfinding Draft Final; workshop to Support Renaming Scott West Regional Trail
  - Consider adding 30 minutes to meeting, (keep 6:00 pm start time)
  - Wayfinding draft final
  - Workshop to support inspiration for renaming of Scott West Regional Trail
  - Tour ideas
- b. April
  - 2021 budget goals
  - Major investment priorities review / discussion

**10) Adjourn**

**Motion by Commissioner Ewert; second by Commissioner Hedstrom to adjourn the meeting.  
 The motion carried unanimously.**

- The meeting concluded at 7:25 pm followed by a Workshop Session

# Workshop Session

The kiosk project will be highlighting features along the trail. The objective of the workshop is to share possibilities and discuss what highlights are most important to first time visitors.

Commissioner Ewert questioned if we should be highlighting features that are difficult to access given the gap on the trail along Marshall Road.

It was discussed we would be doing the trail rider a disservice if we highlighted things that were further along on the trail.

It was also discussed that the other features along the trail like Spring and Cleary could be highlighted in the flexible space that is still undefined.

Both staff and PAC commissioners shared several suggestions. After a thorough discussion, the following options were selected:

- Northern connections to Eden Prairie, Chanhassen, and the Greater Regional Trail system when the trail connects with Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail
- State Trail east: The Landing and Bloomington
- State Trail west: Communities of Chaska, Jordan, Belle Plaine
- The historic Holmes Street Bridge
- The Minnesota River floodplain / Birding



**Patrick Stieg, Chair**

3-4-2020

**Date**



**Beverly Cox-Alexander, Secretary**