

Goodhue County Park and Recreation Advisory Board

A meeting of the Goodhue County Park and Recreation Advisory Board was held on August 10, 2007, at the Lake Byllesby Park.

Attendees

Gary Fridell	Chair
Bonnie Dicke	Vice-Chair
Paul Schluter	Member
Richard Samuelson	County Commissioner
Richard Mallan	County Commissioner
Greg Isakson	Public Works
Jim Klevan	Public Works
Paul Kalass	Member
Scott Roepke	Member

Absent

Willie Root	Public Works
Sean Dowse	Member
Harris Haugen	Member

Guests

Rosie Schluter
Jeri Samuelson
Al Most
Rick Ahern

Agenda

Call Meeting to Order
Review, discuss and approve minutes from the May meeting
Potential Hastings to Red Wing Trail and new Recreational Area
Old Business
 New Playground Equipment
 2008 proposed Park Improvements
 Bridge Construction Cost Estimate
Cost estimates for electrical hookup to easterly picnic shelter
New Business – Waste collection at Park
Next Meeting Date
Adjourn

Call to Order & Approval of Minutes

Chair Fridell called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Minutes from the May 17, 2007 Park Board meeting were reviewed and discussed and approved as presented by a Samuelson motion with a Dicke second.

Potential Hastings to Red Wing Trail and new Recreational Area

Rick Ahern and Al Most appeared before the Park Board members and requested time to talk about a future trail and recreational area in Goodhue County. Rick Ahern represents a non-profit organization called the 'Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota'. Al Most attended the meeting as a landowner in the area of a possible future trail and recreational area between Hastings and Red Wing along the old railroad grade near the Vermillion River area. This trail would be about 30 miles in length and could include a link to the Prairie Island Tribal lands. There is a group beginning the process of writing a master plan for this trail and recreational area and Mike Wozniak is part of that group. There is also a landowner in this area who is interested in turning the family farm into a park/natural recreation area. Mr. Ahern mentioned several funding sources such as the Forest Legacy Funds and the Minnesota Land Trust that may be available to help finance this development.

Evidently, the National Park Service is interested in this recreational development. The National Park Service could bring their expertise in design, grant writing, and access to funds. Mr. Ahern is looking for support from Goodhue County as the local sponsor for this future recreational trail and will contact staff to discuss this issue.

Mr. Ahern also mentioned that the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota may be able to help the County acquire the property needed to connect the Lake Byllesby Park and the Cannon Valley Trail.

Old Business

New playground equipment was installed at the Park in June. There have been many good comments about the new equipment from the general public (and the Park Board members).

2008 proposed Park Improvements

There are two major projects that are partially complete in the park; paving the trails within the main park and finishing the trail to the top of the 7.5 acres western wooded part of the park. There is \$50,000 in the 2008 budget for park improvements which is not sufficient to complete these projects. This is the 'bonding' year at the state legislature. Mr. Kalass presented a motion that was seconded by Mr. Roepke that the budgeted funds be used as match money for applying for bond grants for projects for the 2008 construction program, the motion was approved.

Byllesby Park Open House

Mr. Isakson gave a brief overview of the upcoming open house festivities to be held on Saturday, August 18, 2007 at Goodhue County Lake Byllesby Park. The open house will be held from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Cannon Falls Lions Club will be present with their concession stand. All Park Board members were asked to attend if available.

Bridge Construction cost estimates

Mr. Isakson gave a brief update on the proposed cost estimate for the bridge over the Cannon River below Byllesby Dam. The preliminary cost of construction is \$1.2 million.

Cost estimate to furnish electrical power to 1 picnic shelter

Mr. Klevan provided a cost estimate of \$2,821 to provide power to the most easterly picnic shelter at the Goodhue County Lake Byllesby Park. This issue was tabled for further consideration in early 2008.

New Business

Refuse collection at Goodhue County Lake Byllesby Park

There was discussion of the concept to discontinue waste collection at the Lake Byllesby Parks and have the park proper as a *pack it in and pack it out* concept for refuse and garbage. In 2006, this service cost a bit over \$2,300. No action was taken by the Board and this issue may be revisited at a later date.

The use of motorized vehicles in park area restricted to motorized vehicle use.

There have been issues of the public driving their vehicles in restricted areas, the park rules state that vehicles are to only drive in the driveway and parking lots. There was discussion on this concern and how to restrict access to only certain areas of the park. Mr. Klevan brought the idea up of using limestone blocks to control access around the parking lots. Board members discussed this idea and thought that it would be a good alternative rather than to place guard rail around the parking lots. It would be a more natural type barrier and would blend in better with the surrounding area. Park board members decided it was an issue that could be worked on as time and material were available. Also, staff will create additional trail gates that can be opened by authorized staff for maintenance or emergency purposes.

Next meeting date

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, September 14, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at Goodhue County Public Works in Red Wing.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Klevan

Jim Klevan, Goodhue County Public Works