

## Goodhue County Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Board

Meeting Date: July 8, 2020

Meeting Location: Goodhue County Byllesby Park– Cannon Falls, MN

Meeting Time: 1:00 PM

### Members

Brad Anderson	Commissioner
Barney Nesseth	Commissioner
Mike Melstad	1 <sup>st</sup> District Rep
Mairi Doerr	2 <sup>nd</sup> District Rep
Bernie Overby	3 <sup>rd</sup> District Rep
Barbara Pratt	4 <sup>th</sup> District Rep
Janie Farrar	5 <sup>th</sup> District Rep
Scott Roepke	Cannon Valley Trail Rep
Roxanne Bartsh	Goodhue Pioneer Trail Rep
Greg Isakson	Staff: Director of Public Works
Jennifer Ziemer	Staff: Admin Assistant- PW

Absent: Roxanne Bartsch, Mairi Doerr arriving later for Cascade site visit.

Guests: Ken Burns and David Garner.

Janie Farrar called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM. It was moved by Commissioner Nesseth, seconded by Bernie Overby, and carried to approve the April 30, 2019, Park Board Minutes.

It was moved by Mike Melstad, seconded by Bernie Overby, and carried to elect Janie Farrar as the new Park Board Chairperson. It was moved by C. Nesseth, seconded by Mike Melstad, and carried to elect Bernie Overby as the new Park Board Vice-Chairperson.

No SMART or Goodhue Pioneer State Trail updates were given.

Scott Roepke gave an update on the Cannon Valley Trail. With the COVID-19 pandemic, trail use has been very high. The CVT has already had as many visitors as they had during all of 2019. They recently were approved for another bridge replacement grant by the Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails Commission (GMRPTC).

There has not been any Goodhue County activity on the Hastings to Red Wing Trail or the Mississippi Blufflands State Trail.

Jennifer Ziemer provided an update on Nielsen Memorial Preserve. Goodhue County is waiting to hear from an archaeologist and a soils professor who are going out to take a look at the mounds in the park. The findings will be incorporated into the park's Master Plan, and HKGi will submit a new application for GMRPTC regional designation. One key point the master plan should address is how the park will create a regional destination while still protecting its high quality of natural resources, given the park's small size.

Greg Isakson and Jennifer Ziemer provided an update on the Byllesby Park GMRPTC grant application, other short-term improvement projects, and possible future acquisition projects. The GMRPTC grant for the pavilion, modern restrooms, electrical updates, and water service has been approved. Contracting with the DNR is underway, with final design expected in 2021 and construction in 2022. The fishing pier has been moved and completely refurbished with new floats, new railings, and new decking. The Park Board was still supportive of a future Boy Scout property acquisition to include the cliffs, where a cliff jumping accident recently occurred. The County's insurance company would possibly be willing to insure this property if water depths were investigated and proper safety precautions were taken.

#### *Mission Statement*

*The mission of the Goodhue County Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Board is to provide a quality park, trail and recreation system which strive to preserve, protect, maintain, improve and enhance the County's park land, trails, and recreational activities, on behalf of all current and future citizens of the County of Goodhue*

Stanton Township has approved a Conditional Use Permit for the pavilion & essential services project, an aquatic invasive species lane for the existing parking lot, and day-use boat slips. Public Works has requested quotes for two different types of docks and two different styles. The Park Board liked the “trident” style of dock, as it would allow for easier docking and access to deeper water. They also liked the idea of a low-maintenance floating dock vs. a roll-in style dock. Barney Nesseth would like to see a quote from a supplier in Goodhue County, and Janie Farrar was able to find a supplier in Red Wing. Public Works staff agreed to request an updated quote from MN Dock & Lift, as well as a new quote from EZ Dock of the Midwest, and present them at the next Park Board meeting. Staff also agreed to check on ADA requirements and the possibility of a larger pipe size for the dock posts.

The Park Board then traveled to the new Cascade property to view the site and meet with local residents. They had quite a few concerns about the project including the following:

- Illegal and/or disorderly activity, trespassing, patrol by Sheriff’s Office
- Who will be responsible for maintenance, mowing, trash cleanup, litter cleanup
- Abuse and/or vandalism of property, and surrounding properties
- Posted rules and hours to prevent late night and camping use
- Fishing. There is a concern that the “territorial” fishermen at the TH 56 bridge will move into this site and prevent enjoyment by others. Some would like to see no fishing, others use the site for fishing now and would not like to lose that ability. The County is unsure if they can regulate fishing or not because this is public water access via public land.
- Some like parking option A and some like parking option B. Option A would be visible to the two northern homes. This could be noisier for those residents, but the visibility may help reduce illegal activity. Option B would be visible to only one house. Additional trees/shrubs could be planted for screening
- Planting a row of trees along the west side of the access road could help keep the public on the public land
- Positive comments were received regarding the two access paths down to the river

The next Park Board meeting will be August 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at Goodhue County Public Works in Red Wing.

The site visit ended at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Ziemer  
Goodhue County Administrative Assistant

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