

DRAFT

MINUTES

BERTRAM CHAIN OF LAKES REGIONAL PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Friday, February 4, 2022, 8:00 a.m.

Monticello Community Center

Members Present: Lynn Anderson, Mark Daleiden, Jim Davidson, Martyn Dibben, Tom Jahnke, Dawn Larson, Jeremiah Mack, Sam Murdoff, Eric Olson, Wes Olson, Scott Peterson, Darek Vetsch

Staff Present: Beth Green, Brad Harrington, Marc Mattice, Angela Schumann, Tom Pawelk

Others Present: Christine Simonson

1. Call to Order.

Marc Mattice called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

2. Election of Officers.

SCOTT PETERSON NOMINATED MARTYN TIBBEN FOR BCOLAC CHAIR. MOTION SECONDED BY DAREK VETSCFH. MOTION CARRIED.

SCOTT PETERSON NOMINATED TOM JAHNKE FOR BCOLAC VICE-CHAIR. MOTION SECONDED BY MARK DALEIDEN. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Consideration of approving minutes from December 3, 2021.

MARK DALEIDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 3, 2021. MOTION SECONDED SCOTT PETERSON. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Consideration of adding to and approving the agenda.

MARK DALEIDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION SECONDED BY JEREMIAH MACK. MOTION CARRIED.

5. City of Monticello – Athletic Park Infrastructure Needs; Discussion Continued from 12/2021.

City and County staff meet to review and discuss infrastructure-related items concerning the athletic park, how to reduce user conflict, congestion, and traffic flow. The city is planning to develop and submit an Outdoor Recreation Grant for parking and access improvements in the athletic park area. The grant application deadline is March 2022; if awarded, construction would be possible in 2023. Additional discussion was had between staff and members regarding traffic flow, proposed thoughts, and phases of infrastructure improvements. Tom Pawelk shared the plan with the group of the proposed gravel drive around the pond, additional parking for 300 vehicles, and an access road to the main park entrance. Furthermore, there will be additional parking to the north for 150 vehicles. The maximum grant award is \$300,000 and it is a 50/50

match. The Grant Application Resolution will go to City Council this month for review and approval.

Pawelk noted that a letter of recommended approval from Wright County and the BCOLAC would help to strengthen the grant application.

MARK DALEIDEN MOVED TO RECOMMEND MOVING FORWARD WITH THE GRANT APPLICATION. MOTION AMENDED TO INCLUDE ADDING A LETTER OF APPROVAL FROM THE BCOLAC AND WRIGHT COUNTY. MOTION SECONDED BY JIM DAVIDSON. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Directional Signage Review Continued from 12/2021.

DAREK VETSCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE SIGNS TO BE SENT FOR PRINTING. MOTION SECONDED BY TOM JAHNKE. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Programs, Events, and Spring/Summer Operational Updates

The entire ski trail loop was groomed around the park this winter, a total of 6 miles for cross country skiers. Brad Harrington said the biggest issue has been a conflict between skiers, dog walkers and hikers. They are working on digital communications and education about the trails, and also to define who yields to who. MORC encourages snowshoers to walk on the single track to help pack it down, it is just important for them to walk in the opposite direction of the bikers.

The Santa event at Bertram was a hit and that program will be added again next year. Looking at bringing in dog sledding to Bertram in the next year or two using Silent Run Adventures.

Camper cabin rentals have been slow over the winter. Started some advertising through the County Communications Department and finding that there are a lot of people who just aren't aware that the campground is there and that the cabins are open year-round. Reservations for 2022 at the Bertram Campground RV sites will begin on Monday, March 7, at 8 a.m. Opening day is planned for Friday, April 29, 2022, and will remain open through MEA weekend, October 23, 2022. Camper Cabins will remain open year-round and they can be booked up to 120 days in advance. Shelter reservations are open. Greenview will begin April 22nd with grounds maintenance at the park.

Preparing all the summer recreational equipment, the 9' kayaks have been purchased, paddle boards. Everything will be ready to rent this summer and to do programming with. They are also working on a geo caching program. With the same recreational grant, the county has ordered winter equipment for next year. Skis and snowshoes, which will be available to rent at the Contact Station next winter.

Planning is underway for summer programs and those should be announced in March. Looking at Paddling, fishing, and geocaching. The Bertram Blast is scheduled for July 10th. The original

owner has stepped back in and is operating the event. The Friends are planning the LaVallee Run in the fall.

8. Monticello School District – Nature-Based Education Operational Update.

Jeremiah Mack said that school is going well. There may be a few changes next year due to budget cuts. Approximately \$3 Million is being cut next year so everything is on the table to see what will be offered. Preschool registration opens on March 2nd. There are 30 slots available. Preschool is planning to run some small 3-day camps at the park this summer, dates to be determined. There was a very nice article in the Star Tribune about the programming at Bertram. To date there have been no snow events; responsibilities for snow removal have been assigned between the three jurisdictions. Once a snow event occurs, we will review how that operation went and adjust as necessary.

9. Friends of Bertram Update.

No new update. Brad Harrington said that the goal is to eventually have Josh Thompson help with coordinating the group. Dawn Larson asked if any work is planned to archive the history that Jim Lindberg has completed on the Friends website. Josh Thompson will review the information, archive, and develop a display for the contact station to highlight the history and park features.

10. Discussion of Added Items.

11. Schedule the Next Meeting.

DAREK VETSCH MOVED TO CANCEL THE MARCH MEETING WITH THE NEXT MEETING APRIL 1 AT THE MONTICELLO COMMUNITY CENTER. MOTION SECONDED BY MARK DALEIDEN. MOTION CARRIED.

12. Adjourn.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:22 A.M.

Recorder: Beth Green
Beth Green, Administrative Assistant

Approval Date: _____

Attest: _____
Martyn Dibben, BCOLAC Chairman