

DRAFT

MINUTES

BERTRAM CHAIN OF LAKES REGIONAL PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Friday, June 3, 2022, 8:00 a.m.

Monticello Community Center

Members Present: Mark Daleiden, Tom Jahnke, Dawn Larson, Jeremiah Mack, Sam Murdoff, Scott Peterson, Darek Vetsch

Members Absent: Martyn Dibben, Jim Davidson, Wes Olson

Staff Present: Ross Demant, Brad Harrington, Angela Schumann, Tom Pawelk

1. Call to Order.

Tom Jahnke called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Consideration of approving minutes from April 1, 2022.

SCOTT PETERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 1, 2022. MOTION SECONDED BY MARK DALEIDEN. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Consideration of adding to and approving the agenda.

- A. MN Nature Network.
- B. Monticello School District Update.

MARK DALEIDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. MOTION SECONDED BY SCOTT PETERSON. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Introduction of new Wright County Addition.

Ross Demant was introduced as the new Parks & Recreation Director for Wright County. He has been with Wright County for a month.

5. City of Monticello – Athletic Park Grant Application Update.

Tom Pawelk said the Outdoor Recreation Grant application was submitted in March 2022. The grant award will be announced in July. Currently working on land alteration permit with township and county board to have that review. This is a very important and necessary project. Regardless of the grant award City staff will propose that City Council authorize moving forward and making the safety improvements to the park.

If the city is awarded the grant, construction will begin in 2023. 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.

City was awarded State Soccer Tournament at Bertram July 15-17. That is the same weekend as Monticello's Riverfest so it will be busy in town.

Pawelk noted that the City is requesting proposals for a Communitywide Needs Assessment, which will include addressing the athletic needs at Bertram beyond 2023.

6. County Project Updates for Bertram.

Knife River was awarded the paving project on the main drive. It will include paving from the YMCA Camp, around the turnaround and down to the beach shelter to meet ADA accessibility requirements and to add additional handicap parking. The contract award was locked in less than 1% over the engineer's estimate as proposals were requested before the inflation really started raising. Today, the Highway Department is seeing 16-30% over estimates. However, Paving 90th in 2024 still on track at this point. Pawelk talked about the City doing an add-on with that project to include paving the access road to the new parking lot, which will save money.

The culvert replacement on the north side by the snowmobile trail is on track. Grants are in place and things are ready to go. Meeting with contractor next week.

7. Review Advisory Council Citizen Applications (2).

Two applications were received for the citizen at large opening to fill the vacant seat since the resignation of Jim Lindberg. One of the two applicants was in attendance at the meeting, and a third applicant attended the meeting and expressed interest in the position. The three applicants include:

- Jim Hayes
- Graham Sones
- Tom Vetsch

The Council determined that it would be a good idea to interview the candidates in order to make the final decision. Therefore, the consensus was to create a subcommittee to do the interviews. Scott Peterson and Dawn Larson volunteered to serve on the subcommittee along with staff members Ross Demant and Tom Pawelk.

8. Program Updates

The summer paddling programs will begin June 4th. Women, Wine & Water, is a new paddling event being planned in August. 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.

There was a flooding issue at the River Terrace Campground in Monticello along the Mississippi River, so they contact Wright County to find space to move their campers at Bertram. River terrace was for sale, and they reached out to county and asked if the county was interested in the campground portion of the park. However, the area is in the flood plain and that was a deterrent. There has since been an offer on the entire property.

The campground is meeting expectations with about 80-90% capacity for the season on weekends. There are still some random spots available. Camper cabins are starting to pick up now that the weather is getting nicer. Camping is open April 29th thru October 22nd.

Greenview staff began April 22nd with grounds maintenance at the park. They work from 2 p.m. to Close. Working 2 shifts on Fridays, morning/afternoon shifts. Two out of three employees are back from last year.

Preparing all the summer recreational equipment, the 9' kayaks have been purchased, paddle boards. Everything will be ready for programming and available to rent this summer. 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.

The water sport equipment rental will be available out of the Contact Station this summer from 8-4:30 M-Th and 8-8 F-S, 8-2:30 Su.

The City is working on a partnership with the YMCA to operate the pool and splash pad on Sundays with the Monticello Community Center lifeguard staff. The MCC is closed on Sundays in the summer, so this gives those members another opportunity for recreation. On Sundays, when MCC staff is operating at the YMCA, MCC members will get in for free. The public swim gate fee is \$10/person and is open Sat/Sun from 12-6 p.m.

Derek Vetsch noted that traffic flow is becoming an issue on CSAH 39 and Chelsea Road in Monticello. With the planned repaving on CSAH 39 in 2025, it may be a good idea to meet at the table to discuss a roundabout to aid with traffic flow in this area.

9. Friends of Bertram Update.

Graham Sones provided the Friends update. Scavenger hunt started 6/1 and runs through September. The Friends will help out with the Color Me Fall event on 10/29. They're purchasing banners for tables when they attend community events. They will need to update their brochures. The Friends will also help with the Bertram Blast 7/10 and will host the LaVallee Run on 9/17 at Bertram.

The culvert at the natural playground still needs to be either painted or made to look like a log in some way. Sones will bring up at the next Friends meeting to see about assisting financially to fund that project.

10. Discussion of Added Items.

- MN Nature Network: Dawn Larson passed along information about the Children & Nature Network which has a program focused on schools and outdoor learning. They are a great resource and tool to help with implementing a green schoolyards program and for finding sustainable funding for these programs. More information can be found on their website: [Schools Archives - Children and Nature Network](#).

- Monticello School District Update: Yesterday was the last day of school. All staff is in place for next year. All students have been placed. There will be an outdoor learning training program for teachers this summer. Staff will be back at Bertram the week before Labor Day. The 4th grade class will be at the YMCA, K & PreK at the Chalet, and 2nd grade in the red maintenance building. Nature based learning starts the Wednesday after Labor Day. The School District is working on getting the leases in order for the 2022 school year.
- Future facilities and storage space for athletics: Bring back to next meeting.

11. Schedule the Next Meeting.

DAWN LARSON MOVED TO CHANGE THE NEXT MEETING TO JULY 8TH AT 8 A.M. IN THE CHALET AT BERTRAM. MOTION SECONDED BY SCOTT PETERSON. MOTION CARRIED.

12. Adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:48 A.M.

Recorder:

Beth Green

Beth Green, Administrative Assistant

Approval Date:

Attest:

Martyn Dibben, BCOLAC Chairman