

Recreational Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2017

County Board Room

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Karen Mulari, Hank Ludtke, Larry Knutson, Lonnie Neuner, Dennis Hopman

Staff Present: Guy Fischer, Marsha Watland, Peter Mead, Dan McLaughlin, Jim Olsen

Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda: Bill Jordan, Patrick Hollister

- 1) Meeting Called to order - welcome and introductions (4:00 p.m.)
- 2) Approval of July MM; motion to approve Hopman, 2nd Ludtke – motion carried.
- 3) Approval of November Agenda; motion to approve Hopman, 2nd Ludtke – motion carried. Moved Middle Cormorant Beach discussion to front of agenda.
- 4) Open Forum – No speakers
- 5) **Middle Cormorant Beach Area (Peter Mead)** – fishing pier scrapped after conversation with adjacent property owners (north and south) so some project savings will be gleaned from eliminating the fishing pier as well as the connecting sidewalk. Plans will be updated to reflect changes (some tweaks to parking recommendations also – ex. more barrier between parking and road – Co. 5). Looking at Spring 2018 construction. Conditional Use Permit has been submitted to reflect the need for a change in zoning. Privacy fencing along north side (6') and south side will be installed.
- 6) **Co 54 and Hwy 10 Intersection (Jim Olsen)** – multi- use trail connection from intersection to underpass. Seeking grant funds – too late to go for TAP funds (but checking with State to make sure) and would be in competition with Frazee's TAP request for its Hwy 87 project. Other options include use of SMART funds, interest from City to contribute (?) and perhaps REC funds; also looking at DNR's Regional Trails Connection program. With Heartland Trail coming thru in 2018-2019 a case could be made for connecting into a regional trail. Estimate of approx. \$108,000 needed for the project. Note that MNDOT will be picking up the costs of the Co. 54/Hwy 10 intersection which will include multi-use access (semaphore/ped pathway across Hwy 10 and Co. 54 (connecting into Tower Rd.); mention that this will take care of Segment 2 which was identified in the Becker County Trail Routing Feasibility Study as costing approx. \$85,000. Opportunity to save money by building trail at same time as intersection improvements are being constructed. **RAC consensus is for staff to pursue grant funds to get trail built from Co. 54/Hwy 10 to the underpass (Segment 1).**
- 7) **Dunton Locks – multi-use trail connecting Dunton Locks with County 22 (Bill Porter – Lake View Township):** "Bike paths, walking paths are important to Lake View Township" (Bill); trail route would help connect and filter in Mellissa/Sally residents and Shoreham area into Dunton Locks and Fish Eye Trail (Dunton Locks) which provides a connection into Detroit Lakes (also referenced eventual Heartland Trail connection). Chad Stenerson is the citizen lead for this and would be exploring fund raising. He is also checking in with other partners to determine interest such as DNR, Soo Pass/We Fest (private owner who leases land to WE fest), City of Detroit Lakes and MNDOT which has expressed interest, but is looking for more project details. DNR has some questions

relative to the Shore land ordinance as the trail would be paved. SHPO issues may come into play, but the distance of existing trail that would come under scrutiny for DNR/County is small. Also some concerns about existing traffic and then introducing more traffic such as bikes, ped traffic (for example at pinch points such as the bridge), but overall **RAC consensus was that they liked the trail connection project and supported use of County land at Dunton Locks for that purpose.**

- 8) **Chilton Park Improvements Update (Guy/Dan):** draft map depicting recent staff visit which explored trail connections and primitive camping sites. RAC liked what it saw - **consensus was to have staff to put some options on a map and develop process for engaging public in discussing/looking at making improvements to Chilton Park.** Also opportunity east of Hwy 39 was briefly discussed which is also Chilton Park and abuts State Land (Smoky Hills).
- 9) Mt. View access improvements completed.
- 10) Shell Lake Block access improvements completed. Phase I/II conversation now that the access has been improved what is the next step. Staff suggested that all trails should be gps'd. Dan mentioned that the STS crew could be sent out with a gps unit to begin that process. **RAC consensus was to begin the trail mapping process at Shell Lake Block and bring back to the RAC.**
- 11) Meeting adjourned. (5:30 p.m.).