

Le Sueur County Parks Board
March 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Present: Charles Richter, Mike Schultz, Brigid Tuck, Mark Volkenant, Steve Rohlfig, and Danny O'Keefe

Parks Director: Tyler Luethje

Absent: Larry Maruska

Guests: 5 people speaking on the Montgomery Trail

Call to order – 5:00 pm

1. Motion to approve agenda by Mark, seconded by Steve, motion carries.
2. Motion to approve January minutes by Mark, seconded by Charles
3. Introduction of parks board and guests
4. Lake Washington Regional Park and Campground update
 - a. Winter Use
 - b. Programming and vendors for summer
 - i. Attempting to have activities each weekend at campground
 - ii. Going to offer yard games for rental
 - iii. Also looking to add vendors; have a few food trucks lined up
 - c. Reservations
 - i. Online reservation system, Sue and Tyler have been doing training
 - ii. Start taking reservations April 1
 - iii. System is easy to use, both for campers and for us, but will be a few learning curves
 - iv. Caretaker will have an iPad with Verizon data
5. Lake Washington Construction
 - a. Initial bids came in
 - b. Continue to review and consider bids on the alternate items
 - c. Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Award was \$983,511.
 - d. Plan on using Le Sueur County park dedication and gravel tax to match
 - e. Tyler to meet with ISG this week to review bids; hope to award one at the next county board meeting
 - f. Goal to start early summer and wrap up by November
6. Geldner Saw Mill
 - a. Conditions assessment
 - i. Assessment by Minnesota Historical Society is 75% complete; State of Minnesota will have to review before it is finished
 - ii. Big picture summary or report to date: structurally, sawmill is not bad, but exterior is pretty poor, which will lead to accelerated deterioration
7. Montgomery Trail
 - a. One mile trail coming out of Montgomery
 - b. This summer get a quote for cleaning up trees and gravel, some brush and washouts, make it easier to use
 - c. Be ready to apply for DNR grant in February 2023

- d. Concerns were expressed by guests
 - i. At one point the board had discussed a trail connected Montgomery to Richter Woods, but this plan has been dropped.
 - ii. Concerns about dogs running in neighborhood. Tyler will look into potential for additional signs noting the requirement to be on a leash.
- 8. Recreational Programming
 - a. Ray's Lake
 - i. Trying to expand further south with programming
 - ii. Trying to partner with WEM community education to add a few events
- 9. Connecting People to the Outdoors small grant
 - a. Through GMRPT grant; one time grant, \$35,000 per district, encourage partnerships between parks, schools, etc. Le Sueur County plans to apply for an enclosed trailer – bring equipment between parks (Ney Nature Center has equipment, but no way to move equipment). Trailer would likely be around \$10,000. There is no required match, but will offer a logo or wrap on the trailer.
- 10. Portable Restrooms
 - a. Stopped putting portable restrooms at parks with COVID; major parks have them; also put out as needed for events or high traffic times (ex. Ray's Lake during early spring fishing)
- 11. Other
 - a. German/Jefferson Lake Association request – we have small trash bins at each site
 - b. Henderson – bike trail on County Rd 6, as of now, likely will not connect to Ney Center due to US Fish and Wildlife land
- 12. Plan for next meeting
- 13. Future meetings – 3rd Monday of the month; May 17th
- 14. Motion to adjourn at 6:01 by Charles, seconded by Mark, motion carries