

Le Sueur County Parks Board
March 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Present: Charles Richter, John King, Larry Maruska, Mike Schultz, Brigid Tuck, and Steve Rohlfiing

Parks Director: Tyler Luethje

Absent: Mark Volkenant

Call to order – 5:00pm

1. Agenda addition – COVID and rentals
2. Approve January minutes as corrected (to reflect Mike Schultz was not in attendance), motion by John King, second by Charles Richter, motion carries
3. Introductions – no guests
4. COVID and rentals
 - a. Governor’s new executive order allows for higher capacity, however, the size of facilities limits social distancing
 - b. Continue to use social gathering guidance (as we did at end of last summer)
 - c. Each renter has to submit a COVID prevention plan to Tyler
5. Summer Recreation Programming
 - a. Primarily at Lake Washington
 - i. Saturday Park Explorers; mostly free activities on Saturdays; successful programs last year got people out into park and on the trails
 - ii. New this year - virtual 5K – complete 5K within a park and then post to FB or Instagram
 - iii. Some low cost programs through St Peter Parks and Recreation; published in their catalog; one program with Hyvee and four with Ney Nature Center
6. Portable Toilets
 - a. Last year, only had at Lake Washington and Richter Woods due to COVID-19
 - b. No complaints from not having at additional locations; could drop and save fees
7. Gorman Lake Dam and Park
 - a. Dam is fairly popular for fishing
 - b. Access road has been washing out; as water levels are rising; people like to drive through for fun or drive around and damage nearby ground; each year have to fix
 - c. Could look at creating parking lot and then have people walk back to access dam for fishing; would be about 1/8 mile; plant area with native grasses & reduce mowing; potentially add picnic table at the end of the path
8. Pesticide Exams
 - a. Tyler is an agricultural inspector; \$20/day per tester; goes to parks budget
 - b. Restarting in 2021, canceled in 2020
9. Lake Washington Regional Park and Campgrounds
 - a. April 1, begin taking reservations, holiday weekends fill up fast
 - b. Campground opens April 1, but weather dependent
 - c. MN DNR camping guidelines – 15 people indoors at a campsite; 50 people outside with 6 feet distancing or masks if cannot maintain distancing; shower house open weekends and

cleaning crews each morning (no longer duty of caretakers); will have occupancy limits and distancing requirements

10. Bradshaw Woods Archery

- a. Once ground dries, will hang bags
- b. Grand opening at some point this spring; maybe a Saturday morning; have a demonstration?

11. Other items

- a. St Peter dog park update – Le Sueur County owns the land and rents to St Peter; however, the spot on Rabbit Road floods on a regular basis
- b. Ney Nature Center – summer programming coming up; coverage of maple syrup
- c. Lake Washington grant – Tyler to reach out to the group doing the environmental study

12. Plan for next meeting

- a. Plan on meeting every other month, but Tyler will send a written update
- b. In-person meetings? Can distance at the environmental service building or at a park; nice to visit and tour other parks

13. Future meetings – 3rd Tuesday of each month; 5:00-6:00

- a. May 18, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21

14. Adjourn at 5:52 pm, motion by Charles Richter, second by John King, motion carries