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TO: Goodhue County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board
FROM: Jess Greenwood, Public Works Director
RE: 25 Jul 24 Park Board Meeting
Richard Samuelson Pavilion Rental Discounts
Date: 18 Jul 24

Summary

It is requested that the Park Board discuss discounted rental fees for the Richard Samuelson Pavilion at Goodhue County Byllesby Park.

Background

Reservations for the pavilion will be going live on Monday, July 22 at 9:00 AM, for the beginning reservation date of Monday, August 5.

The County Board set the following 2023 rental fees for the pavilion at their 21 Nov 23 meeting:

East Wing or West Wing	Monday – Thursday	\$55.00
East Wing or West Wing	Thursday – Sunday & Holidays	\$110.00
Both Wings	Monday – Thursday	\$100.00
Both Wings	Thursday – Sunday & Holidays	\$175.00

This pricing was set to stay fairly consistent with the pricing of Dakota County’s Lake Byllesby Regional Park Lakeside Shelter, which has 2023 rental rates of:

Monday – Thursday	\$55.00
Thursday – Sunday & Holidays	\$110.00

The intended goal was to make the reservations more affordable for youth or educational groups that may want to use the pavilion during the week during lower use times.

At the end of the school year, the Cannon Falls school district used the pavilion for several days with large groups of students. It was fantastic to see so many people enjoying the park! It did also get staff and STS crews thinking about how fantastic it would be to have prior notice that large groups will be there in order to make sure we have appropriate coverage for daily garbage duties and cleanup that may come with larger groups.

Find your Good here.



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In moving forward with the reservation system, Goodhue County could choose to block off rental days at the pavilion for special use and charge no fee for this usage. Groups may also come on days that are not reserved and use the pavilion on a first come – first served basis. The \$100 per day rental fee may not be feasible for many youth groups and school districts—especially if they are hosting a week-long day camp, programming, etc.

If Goodhue County chooses to allow reservations for no charge, the groups allowed to use this \$0 rental fee must be clearly defined. Some examples may include:

- church groups
- Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts
- schools
- daycares
- 4-H, FFA, NHS, or other school clubs
- outdoor recreation organizations
- art programs
- others
- vacation bible school
- YMCA
- community education & recreation
- sports groups (private or through the school)
- specific non-profit organizations or events
- Lake Byllesby Improvement Assoc
- nursing home groups

Alternatives

- Define the parameters of groups for which Goodhue County may reserve the shelter at no fee, and recommend County Board approval in the 2025 fee schedule
- Continue to require a rental fee for all reservations

Recommendation

It is the recommendation of staff that the Park Board define the parameters of groups for which Goodhue County may reserve the shelter at no fee, and recommend County Board approval in the 2025 fee schedule.

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