

Goodhue County Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Board

Meeting Date: June 01, 2023

Meeting Location: Cannon Falls City Hall – Cannon Falls, MN

Meeting Time: 1:00 PM

Members

Brad Anderson	Commissioner
Todd Greseth	Commissioner
Mike Melstad	1 st District Rep
Mairi Doerr	2 nd District Rep
Bernie Overby	3 rd District Rep
Barbara Pratt	4 th District Rep
Janie Farrar	5 th District Rep
Scott Roepke	Cannon Valley Trail Rep
Roxanne Bartsh	Goodhue Pioneer Trail Rep
Jess Greenwood	Staff: Director of Public Works
Greg Isakson	Staff: Special Projects Engineer
Jennifer Ziemer	Staff: Admin Assistant- PW

Absent: Mike Melstad, Mairi Doerr, Janie Farrar

Bernie Overby called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM. It was moved by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Barbara Pratt, and carried to approve the April 29, 2022, Park Board Minutes with the revision that Barbara Pratt voted in favor of the Byllesby Park Ordinance changes .

It was moved by Roxanne Bartsh, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, and carried to approve the agenda.

It was moved by Scott Roepke, seconded by Bernie Overby, and carried to approve keeping the officers the same as the year before.

Scott Roepke provided a Cannon Valley Trail update. The CVT is planning to have their most recent grant to replace four old bridges with three new culverts and one new bridge wrapped up in June. They will be hosting an open house on Saturday. The CVT is planning to apply for another Legacy grant in July to replace one bridge and re-pave the trail from Red Wing to Cannon Bottom Road. This pavement will be a change from the current 8' width to meeting current trail standards of 10' wide. There is an added complexity that the bridge to be replaced is in a fen.

Roxanne Bartsh provided a Goodhue Pioneer State Trail update. The DNR is in the final stages of acquiring the approximately 60 acre Hawkinson property in Hay Creek from the Parks and Trails Council. This property will connect the existing trail out of Red Wing to state owned abandoned railroad right of way and provide for an additional 2.75 miles of trail. Many years ago, the DNR had plans to pave the trail if they could get it out to CSAH 6 and the trail is currently being designed out to this point. Roxanne is also planning to resign after over 25 years of service working on the Goodhue Pioneer State Trail.

Public Works staff informed the Park Board of the status of the Kullman project, which has had some grading and retaining wall construction occurring on County Park property. County staff from various departments are working with the landowners to develop a plan to return the County property to its initial state and prevent further erosion issues

Public Works staff briefly discussed the need to have people or companies on call for mechanical issues once the new restrooms at Byllesby Park are up and running. Scott Roepke had suggested reaching out to the City of Cannon Falls Chamber of Commerce and People Services.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Goodhue County Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Board is to provide a quality park, trail and recreation system which strive to preserve, protect, maintain, improve and enhance the County's park land, trails, and recreational activities, on behalf of all current and future citizens of the County of Goodhue

Public Works staff are currently working on a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County for cleaning the new restrooms and handling reservations. They will be working on reservation fees to present to the County Board for approval with the County's Fee Schedule in December.

Public Works staff provided an update on the Byllesby Park Pavilion & Essential Services project. The contractor, Lift Bridge Builders, is working on painting, finish plumbing, and turf establishment. They are hoping to complete their portion of the project in June. Goodhue County is advertising a request for quotes for installing Phase I of the septic system at Byllesby Park, an agreement with Dakota County to utilize internet that runs through the Dakota County Lake Byllesby Regional Park to an HBC connection, landscaping, and site amenities.

Public Works staff provided an update regarding Stanton Township's approval of two park host sites at Byllesby Park. The Park Board discussed different locations for the sites – either close to the pavilion, large shelter, well, and septic; or just across the trail on the newer Goudy property where there is more room for screening and separation from busy areas of the park.

Public Works staff discussed the need to hire a management company to help restore the prairie at Byllesby Park, due to maintenance staffing issues. Scott Roepke suggested reaching out to Gene Groebner, who volunteers at the prairie areas along the CVT and may have a good source of volunteers to help perform this work. Scott also discussed the seed collection that takes place along the trail each year, and some of those seeds may be able to be used at Byllesby.

Public Works staff discussed the completion of the Cascade Canoe & Kayak Access. This year will include completion of the portable toilet enclosure, construction of a kiosk, plantings, and tree removal.

The Park Board discussed different planning priorities, including: park hosts, fish cleaning station, berm plantings, nature playground, Scenic Cliffs trail, Nielsen Memorial Preserve entrance road, parking, and learning lab. This will be discussed in more detail at the next Park Board meeting.

The next meeting date is to be determined.

It was moved by Barbara Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 3:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Ziemer
Goodhue County Administrative Assistant

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