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**SCOTT COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 6, 2020**

The Scott County Parks Advisory Commission held their March meeting on May 6, 2020 via WebEx. Staff members present were Patty Freeman, General Manager of Scott County Parks and Trails, Nathan Moe, Parks and Natural Resources Parks Planner, Alysa Delgado, Parks and Natural Resources Coordinator, and Beverly Cox-Alexander, Secretary.

- 1) **Roll Call:** Chair Patrick Stieg called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM and proceeded with roll call.  
**Members present:** Kristin French, Kathy Gerlach, Barb Hedstrom, Jerry Hennen, Eric Spieler, Patrick Stieg, Mark Ewert and Commissioner Jon Ulrich

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

3) **Approval of Agenda**

**Agenda additions from staff**

- **Information for Public to Connect to WebEx meeting**
- **Approval of March Meeting Minutes**

**Motion by Commissioner Gerlach; second by Commissioner Hennen to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Carried:                      Ayes: 7                      Nays: 0**

**Approve meeting minutes for March 4, 2020**

**Motion by Commissioner Hedstrom; second by Commissioner Spieler to approve the 03/05/20 Meeting Minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Carried:                      Ayes: 7                      Nays: 0**

- 4) **Recognition of Interested Citizens for Items Not on the Agenda**  
No Citizen Comment

5) **Administration, Planning and Development**

- a. Covid-19 Update Operations Update (presented by Patty Freeman)

Update on Park and Trail Access:

Three Rivers Website

- [Threeriversparks.org](http://Threeriversparks.org)

### Scott County Website

- Scottcountymn.gov

### Social Media

- Notifications
- Reminders

### Status of Scott – Three Rivers Parks

- Currently open
  - All parks and regional trails are open for self-guided recreation
  - Cleary Lake Golf Course and Driving range are open
  - Portable restrooms are available
- Currently closed
  - All buildings
  - Play area
  - Campgrounds and group camps
  - Beaches
  - All programs, events and facility reservations are cancelled through May 21<sup>st</sup>
- Digital Public Programs
  - <https://www.threeriversparks.org/digitalprogramming>
- Poetry in the Parks
  - Alysa Delgado bringing poems about nature to help with positive messaging and a new angle to engage interest in our parks

## 6) Outreach, Visitor Services, Recreation and Education

### a. Rec Pass Plus Program Update – (Presented by Alysa Delgado)

- May 2019
  - TRPD introduced Rec Pass Plus program for HC residents
- October 2019
  - Scott County Parks and Trails staff introduced program to PAC
- January 2020
  - Scott County Parks and Trails staff introduced program to County Board in a workshop
- May 2020
  - New Rec Pass Plus cycle starts and is now available for Scott County residents
- Guiding goals of the Rec Pass Plus program address economic barriers including
  - Easy for the public to acquire and use
  - Remove any and all associated stigma
  - Add choice for users
  - Be a better / real benefit for users
  - Easy for staff to use
- Activity Pass Selection
  - Cross-Country Ski
  - Disc Golf
  - Dog off-Lease Area
  - Swim Ponds
- Equipment Rental Sticker

- The sticker will now be changing to a silver and black “+” in order to further reduce stigma and indicate that this plus has additional benefits in comparison to the other Recreation Passes
- Sign-up Transition
  - Any resident that applies after January 1<sup>st</sup> will automatically be enrolled for the next year of the Rec Pass Plus Program
- Next Steps
  - TRPD marketing team for distribution of updated informational flyers
  - Flyers will be given to SC-TRPD staff for personalized drop-off
  - Events will be attended as time and resources allow
- Recommendation for proceeding with the following groups
  - Anchor Center – Adult Mental Health
  - Mental Health Center @ Government Center – Adult and Children’s Mental Health
  - Community Action Partnership (CAP) Agency -Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties
  - Families & Individuals Sharing Hope (FISH)
  - Shakopee Diversity Alliance

Comments from Commissioners:

*Commissioner Barb Hedstrom inquired on the qualifying factors for Recreation Pass Plus*

Assistance programs recommended by Scott County Social services include:

- Supplemental security income
- Emergency Medical assistance
- Minnesota care
- General assistance.
- Minnesota Family Investment Act
- Medical Assistance
- Minnesota Supplemental Aid
- Hennepin County Emergency Assistance Program
- Refugee Cash Assistance
- Work Benefit
- Diversity Work Program
- Supplemental Nutrition Program for women, infants and Children (WIC)
- Supplemental Nutrition Program Employment and Training Program (Snap E&T)
- Free and reduced school lunch

*Commissioner Kathy Gerlach commented on the possibility of handing out Rec Pass Plus brochure at the time someone is applying for / or receiving one of the assistance programs*

*Commissioner Patrick Stieg commented on the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Park Rx Access program being piloted in Carver County. As they find people that are eligible for any type of human service provided in Carver County that person is informed about the Access program. If interested they are advised on how to apply for the membership at this time they can also be informed of other available programs.*

*Commissioner Barb Hedstrom suggested connecting the Recreation Pass Plus program with local food shelves throughout the County.*

*Commissioner Kathy Gerlach suggested connecting Recreation Pass Plus with the Outdoor Rx programs*

Commissioner Barb Hedstrom commented Shakopee Diversity Alliance and FISH both have active websites they maintain and could help distribute information on recreation Pass Plus via their websites.

Commissioner Jerry Hennen inquired if Rec Pass Plus is the correct name for the program  
Alysa Delgado responded, the Rec Pass Plus is a Three Rivers program that is adopted by Scott County Parks

## 7) Informational Items

### a. Legislative Update (Updates provided by Patty Freeman)

- Scott County Legislative Platform for Parks and Trails
  - State Bonding – Merriam Junction Trail
  - State Bonding - \$15 million for Metro Parks
  - Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Formula
    - Minimum of 450% for Metro Regional Park System
- SFY2021 Parks and Trails Legacy
  - Notified by Met Council to plan for 50% reduction
  - Approved in 2019 Legislative session
  - Grants to be executed this summer
  - Scott County's grant: Spring Lake Lakefront project

### b. Projects / Other Updates (Updates provided by Patty Freeman)

#### i) Cleary Maintenance Building Update

- Project is going smoothly
- Looking at move in date in May / early June
- Budget is on track

#### ii) Wayfinding Kiosks Update

- Kiosk design is complete
- RFP is completed for the fabrication of the structure
- Entering Contract with Sign Art
- Kiosks will be installed in house by Public Works (August)
- Currently having further discussions with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community regarding trail names

#### iii) System Additions Application to Metropolitan Council

- As part of 2040 comprehensive plan process the County approved the addition of two Regional Trail Corridors.
  - One trail will connect New Prague to Cedar Lake Farm
  - One trail will swoop around the northwest edge of Murphy-Henrehan, the City of Savage and Credit River
- Decision to be made by December 2020.

#### iv) Metro Conservation Network

- This is a collaborative initiative that kicked off in December and Patty is part of the steering committee

- The network is essentially made up of natural resource leaders and planners across the metro area
- The network is looking at building opportunities and sharing lessons learned from conservation work completed
- Modeling after an early version from the late 1990's into 2000's where together people across the metro developed metro conservation corridors and metro greenways programs
- The new network is looking at updating some of the data while building momentum to assist communities along with offering lessons learned
- The network will determine what goals the Metro Conservation Network should have

Commissioner comments:

*Commissioner Hedstrom inquired who is on the steering committee*

Patty Freeman responded: Some members from the Minnesota DNR, members of Dakota County Natural Resources and Planning Staff, Hennepin County Conservation Staff, Three Rivers Park District Staff, Washington County, along with a gentleman from Anoka County representing the Soil and Water Conservation District.

- v) Spring Lake Association Presentation
  - Patty participated in the annual meeting of the Spring Lake Association
    - Provided a presentation about Spring Lake Regional Park along with the future lake development
    - Provided an overview of the master plan and the long-term development of Spring Lake
- vi) 2021 Budget
  - All county departments have been asked to review operations and budgets to address what they are anticipating will be a challenging budget year for 2021.

c. Advisory Commissioner Reports (Verbal)

*Commissioner Spieler commented over the last 7 weeks he has been visiting parks daily. The parks at Cleary, Spring Lake and Murphy-Henrehan have been packed.*

*Commissioner Gerlach also commented on how busy the bike trails are*

*Commissioner Hennen inquired as to when The Landing will be open to the public*

*Patty Freeman anticipates The Landing to open in mid- May, but will confirm and advise*

*Commissioner Spieler asked if the Cleary Lake Park playground will be opening soon?*

*Patty Freeman responded, there has been no entertaining of opening the playgrounds*

*Commissioner Gerlach asked if the beaches will be open this summer*

*Patty Freeman responded, at this point no decisions have been made*

*Commissioner French commented the beach and park at Cedar Lake has been very busy*

*Commissioner Hedstrom recently drove by Blakely Bluffs and noted a wide variety of wildlife and spring blooming.*

**8) Upcoming Meetings – Tentative Topics**

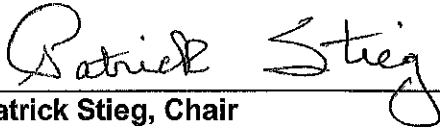
- a. June 3 PAC Meeting
  - i) Budget
  - ii) Natural Resources Management – Projects and Partnerships Update
- b. June 24 PAC Meeting (in place of July meeting)
- c. July 9 Annual joint meeting of the Scott County and Three Rivers Park District Boards
- d. August 12 PAC Meeting

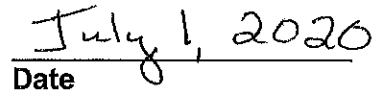
*Commissioner Hedstrom inquired about the possibility of holding the June 3rd meeting outdoors at a Park Pavilion while still maintaining social distancing*

**9) Adjourn**

**Motion by Commissioner Hennen; second by Commissioner Gerlach to adjourn the meeting.  
The motion carried unanimously.**

- The meeting concluded at 7:25 pm

  
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Patrick Stieg, Chair

  
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Date

  
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Beverly Cox-Alexander, Secretary