

**Recreational Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 2, 2011**

Committee Members Present: Del Bergseth, Arthur Bakker, Karen Mulari, Larry Knutson, Ray Vlasak, Gerry Schram

Staff Present: Tom Mortenson, Guy Fischer, Doug Leitheiser

Open Forum Sign-In: Willis Mattison, Tom Mortenson, Terry Kalil

1. **Approval of Agenda:** There was a motion and second to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried.
2. **Approval of July 5th 2011 Meeting Minutes:** There was a motion and second to approve the July 5th 2011 minutes as submitted. Motion carried.
3. **Introductions** - Bd. Members/staff introductions
4. **Draft Open Forum Guidelines Reviewed:** Motion to approve, seconded.
5. **Open Forum**
 - **Willis Mattison:** Concerns about open forum guidelines; interest in providing presenters with more flexibility to speak to particular items on the agenda. RAC Chair said that he would consider this in the future.
 - **Tom Mortenson:** Administrator update on Board actions 1) Mountain View Resolution 7-11-1C official designation of Mt. View as a County Park Recreational Area, 2) Water Accesses – verifying # of accesses, and ownership.
 - **Terry Kalil:** Better meeting minutes, more information on agenda to better inform the public, full names on Committee members/others present, concern about Open Forum guidelines not being amenable to public input; or as a mechanism for getting issues on the RAC agenda. Concerns about RAC duties and scope per the Bylaws. Provided examples of zebra mussels and expressed concerns about Aquatic Invasive species and interest in working with the public and various constituencies to address the issue. RAC discussion: minutes could be taken by RAC members or other staff could be provided (Mortenson); sign up sheet developed for Open Forum; more detail on agenda; open forum can be used to get issues before the RAC and on the agenda (Vlasak).
6. **Implement Planning & Zoning Recommendations 1-5 (BC Recreational Plan, 1. Recreational Review Process, Strategy 3, p. 8)**
 - Patty Swenson provided an update via written comments addressing each of the zoning recommendations. Per discussion of the recommendations the following actions were taken by the RAC:

- o On Recommendation 1: Motion and second to recommend that the County Board start the process to Amend County Planning and Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 2, Section 2 to include/add 7. Recreational Review Process.
- o On Recommendation 2-4: Per RAC discussion no actions were needed due to these recommendations prior completion; some discussion on Rec. 3 Adopt the Dept. of Natural Resources, Trail Planning, Design and Development Guidelines as to whether this warranted adoption of the guidelines into the Planning and Zoning Code. After deliberation, RAC members concluded that the reference to the DNR guidelines within the CUP was sufficient.
- o On Recommendation 5: the Committee requested that Patty Swenson attend the next meeting of the RAC to further discuss Rec. 5: “Revisiting the County Zoning Ordinances as it relates to recreational uses”.

7. MN Biological Survey: Biological Diversity Parameters, Information Request

- Discussion on this issue centered on wanting more information on biological diversity within the County – what is it?; per the government shutdown Becky Marty was unable to attend a meeting that had been scheduled for July 12 to discuss Biological Diversity in Becker County. RAC members agreed that any future meeting on this topic should be attended by all Board members. Staff noted in talking with Patty Swenson, that there was an opportunity for the RAC to request that Planning and Zoning act in an advisory role to the RAC in which they could help review relevant information associated with the P&Z ordinance provisions, explore criteria for creating protection zones (and the link here with areas of Biological diversity) and recreational activities that could be allowed within these zones. Staff also noted that the P&Z could also explore policy issues/guidelines as they relate to biological diversity and private development on private lands and that they might be a good group to review the eventual Round Lake Wildlife and Recreation Area proposal since the proposal was geared to weighting land and recreational use as opposed to developing a specific recreational project proposal which would be more suited to the recreational review/CUP application process. The Committee had some questions about P&Z’s Technical Review Panel and generally thought that working with P&Z was a good idea worth exploring further. No further action taken – the issue was tabled.

8. Access Signage (AIS) added to agenda for discussion by RAC (motion/seconded)

- Discussion on access/AIS signage and the need to sign County water accesses. Resources for obtaining signs DNR/template, COLA can help coordinate/determine cost of signs (Terry Kalil). RAC motion was made and seconded to recommend that the County Board have County staff “verify the number of accesses and county ownership and get them signed within 30 days of County Board approval”.

9. Parks

- **Lion’s Park** discussion was held prior to 6. above per a request by Gerry Schram since Jonathan Smith from Frazee was in attendance to provide the City’s intent

which is to take over the lease from the County and operate Lion's Park as a City Park. Larry Knutson noted that he had wanted to do this over 2 years ago. Question to Smith about whether the Park was within City limits – "yes". Additional discussion about process for turning over lease which requires resolutions from the County, the City provided to the DNR who will then develop an agreement that assigns/transfers the lease to the City. RAC consensus that this was a good idea and a motion was made and seconded to recommend that the County Board begin process to turn over the lease to Frazee.

- **Dunton Locks FYI** – staff presented To-Do List for Dunton Locks on maintenance/improvement activities being coordinated with County staff and the STS crew. Provided preliminary assessment information on Dunton Locks detailing Park property as well as adjacent property owners ID information, as well as noting opportunities/constraints for further trail growth/adjustment within the Park.
- **Regional Park** – staff presented a brief overview of information that had recently been completed for exploring regional park and trail development. One document noted that Becker County population within the NW Region was identified as one of the top 3 for population growth through 2035. Staff mentioned that Park and camping were two areas that had been identified by the Parks and Recreation Board as having high priority. Question about size of what constituted a regional park – size in acreage played less of a role in defining a regional park if the park area contained natural assets which were unique. No County parks such as Chilton or Dunton Locks were considered regional as part of the Statewide inventory that was conducted. Staff suggested that perhaps some RAC members might want to review information to determine if this was a priority for the RAC. Committee members Schram and Mulari stressed the importance of maintaining existing parks. Vlasak and Bakker were asked by the Chair to review related Parks and Trails documents and provide their views at the next Committee meeting.

10. Other Issues – none

11. Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- Parks – Art/Ray
- Patty Zoning Issues
- Fall Parks Tour for October Meeting
- Follow up on DNR/Biological Diversity presentation
- GIS Discussion