

**Recreational Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Tuesday September 2nd, 2014**

Committee Members Present: Karen Mulari (C), Larry Knutson, Lonnie Neuner, Hank Ludtke, Ben Grimsley, Del Bergseth, Dennis Hopman

Staff Present: Guy Fischer

Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda: Neil Powers

1. Chair Welcome/Introductions:
 - July Meeting Minutes approved (Bergseth motion, Hopman 2nd, motion passed)
 - September Agenda approved (Neuner motion, Hopman 2nd, motion passed)
2. Open Forum: No Speakers
3. Review of Mt. View improvements that would be submitted to Legacy for funding consideration. Discussion of what might constitute an appropriate County match relative to the facility and trail improvements being requested. RAC recommended that staff have a discussion with the County Board regarding an appropriate match relative to the grant request.
4. Discussion of Mt. View Regional Park Designation request. Discussion focused partnerships in particular with Detroit Mt. Detroit Mt. may be charging for access to its Mt. bike trails how should this be approached at Mt. View – is there a concern that providing free access to Mt. biking at Mt. View might adversely impact Detroit Mt. (Powers)? Should not charge a fee for access at Mt. View (Mulari). Staff noted Detroit Mt.'s (DMRA non-profit/various stakeholders) interest in seeing trail growth at Mt. View, the importance of the trail connector between the two recreation areas, the interest in connecting to the Heartland Trail and that there would be ongoing discussions.
5. Heartland Trail – Greater MN Legacy application requesting regional trail designation (Step 1) be submitted to the Greater MN Parks and Trails Commission for them to rank. Discussion about Heartland Trail and how the DNR has prioritized parks and trails. As an example in our region the 17 mile trail connecting the Heartland to Itasca trail is considered a Destination Trail (Highest Priority) while the Heartland Trail Extension (Park Rapids to Moorhead) is considered Division Led Trail – staff noted this is not a surprise and that local lobbying efforts will have to be maintained to continue to request State bonding funds for ongoing trail development. Motion to Recommend Legacy Application for Heartland Trail move forward to Board for approval (Neuner motion; Hopman 2nd, motion carried).
6. Discussion of Park Rapids to Navillus Rd. route study; review of recent meeting in Osage with consultants and stakeholders to discuss route options relative to the Heartland Trail from Park Rapids to Navillus Rd. . Comments: Suggested rest area or trail head on south side of Hwy 34 by Navillus Rd. (Powers). Ask DOT if they would consider installing an underpass under Hwy 34 while they are making modifications to the road in that area (Mulari). Staff mentioned routing from Navillus Rd. through the Smoky hills and that NRM staff had walked the trail that had been developed using the trail software and then flagged a more suitable route per observations on the ground. DNR was going to conduct an assessment of the flagged trail – any interest in participating in this walk? Bergseth and Knutson expressed an interest.
7. Shell Lake Block: Tax forfeited land (700+ acres) in which an adjacent parcel was purchased to provide access. Interest in meeting at the site for next RAC meeting in October to explore recreational options.
8. Meeting Adjourned.