

**Recreational Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 20th, 2014**

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

Staff Present: Guy Fischer

Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda: Patrick Hollister, Willis Mattison

1. Chair Welcome/Introductions:
 - September Meeting Minutes approved (Hopman motion, Neuner 2nd, motion passed)
 - November Agenda approved (Ludtke motion, Neuner 2nd, motion passed)
2. Open Forum: Patrick Hollister (PartnerSHIP 4 Health), wanted to congratulate Frazee on being awarded a Bronze designation for bicycle friendly community from the League of American Bicyclists.
3. National Park Service Update provided on application that was submitted. Randy Thoreson, NPS representative planning on visiting the DL area to review project. Mattison expressed interest in including NCT as part of planning effort – staff would explore this with the NPS representative, but emphasized that the focus of the trails connection proposal was connecting Detroit Mt. and Mt. View to the Heartland Trail – but the NCT had been referenced within application in talking about Frazee. Staff will keep folks updated on visit as some indicated that they would be interested in meeting with Randy.
4. Heartland Trail Update provided on the recently completed Park Rapids to Navillus Rd. study. A preferred route had been determined. Assessing the route from Navillus to the Smoky Hills remained to be done – Tony Walzer retirement would mean that another DNR contact would need to be developed to do the review. The Detroit Lakes to Frazee segment was discussed in particular as it related to McHugh Rd. to the underpass and the request from the DOT to explore ROW options per their desire to see the trail 35' from the road. A subgroup is meeting to review ROW options to accommodate DOT concerns.
5. Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails Commission District Planning Committee meetings held in August. Recreational parks and trails priorities identified from the meeting were reviewed.
6. Shell Lake Block site visit by RAC members and other partners was discussed. Those who visited the site shared their observations about access, recreation, resource management and protection. Some ideas that were offered: hunting, trail development, no permanent deer stands – existing deer stands removed (what does the state stipulate?), parking lot with picnic area (where the current road ends), road improvements through the existing corridor to accommodate two way traffic along certain stretches, remote camping, compatible recreational uses.

Process issues discussed – how to approach residents who live around this area (survey) to get their input. Suggestion by Commissioner Knutson to approach Shell Lake Township to garner their input – Larry will talk to the township.
7. New addition to Agenda: Mt. View – Del requested more directional signage be installed at Mt. View per a recent visit to the area. Staff will relay request to PW/NRM.
8. No meeting to be held in December. Meeting Adjourned.