

Garvin Park

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Lyon County Park Board
Commissioners' Rooms 1 & 2
Lyon County Government Center, Marshall, MN 56258
Monday, 12 April, 2004
7:00 p.m.

Present: Marcy Brekken, Wayne Budde, John Davidson, Betsy Desy, Tony Doom, Kevin Henkle, Steve Ritter, Michelle Schultz
Absent: Dennis Alexander
Staff: Rick Anderson, Anita Benson
Guests: Bud Bernardy—Minneota, Sandy Carlson—Garvin, Greg Isaackson—Cottonwood, Mike Leary—Marshall, Jim Smally—Ghent, Jeff Yeo—Minneota, Rick Robinson-Tracy

1. **Call Meeting to Order** Chairman Doom called the April meeting of the Lyon County Park Board to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. **Amend/Approve Agenda** Agenda approved as presented.
3. **Amend/Approve Minutes of 08 March, 2004 meeting** Minutes approved as recorded.
4. **Introduction of Local Park/City Representatives** Seven people representing six cities attended the joint county and local cities park board meeting. Guests, board members, and county employees introduced themselves.
5. **Community—Green Space Involvement** Doom asked, "What does green space involvement mean? What are green space needs, where are collaboration possibilities?" General comments from those assembled included: expanding towns putting more stress on park areas, shrinking populations in small towns leaving more (city) parks unmaintained or abandoned, increased interest in activity areas such as ATV courses, skateboard parks, updated playground equipment, and more camping facilities. Doom stated some of the results of a recent survey conducted in the county showed a desire for bike trails. Doom reviewed the Southwest Minnesota Master Trail Plan.
6. **Common Goals** Henkle stated that everyone (towns) is looking for money. For clarification, Ritter stated that the county doesn't have money at this time for small projects at this time. Benson reviewed the regional trail plan and the RDC updating trail plan. There is money available through historic preservation and transportation through the federal government through the transportation bill. Well-planned town trails can compete with regional projects for federal funding. The application deadline is October 2004 for projects to be completed in 2009. Desy reported on information gathered at the meeting of the Parks and Trails Council. Membership is \$25 annually. It is a grassroots organization with many resources of use to towns and parks. A great deal of parks and trails are funded through estate planning. There is interest in connecting schools, parks, and trails. The Parks and Trails Council can offer resources on taking advantage of this interest and how to "lobby" for estate planning dollars.

Bernardy added that while it is great for schools to get dollars for nature projects and trails, it can be double edged. It is possible for the project to flounder after the dollars are used up—leaving city park boards with an additional burden. A general discussion on camping facilities ensued. Some of the topics included: a discussion of a clearing house for area campgrounds on the county web page and park brochure for visiting campers, a report on vandalism from Tracy and how they have installed

cameras to combat the problem, communities reported on how the Boy Scouts have been useful in maintaining and improving local parks. Balaton is looking for safer playground equipment, Tracy is looking to update playground equipment, and Minneota is struggling with trail plans. Henkle suggested that since most every community is looking to update playground equipment, is it possible for communities to collaborate on grant proposals? (Anderson will investigate the possibility). Cities could consider dedicating a portion of development fees to city parks.

7. **Future Meetings** Doom asked if there is an interest in future joint meetings. General consensus was yes—perhaps 3-4 times per year. The next likely meeting will be after the Open House—September 19. The local communities can have more input on the agenda before the next meeting.
8. **Miscellaneous** The visiting representatives left the meeting and the County Park Board meeting continued.
 - ♦ Electrical update—the low bid for the campground electrical update came from G&R Electric of Tracy with a bid of \$9,119.00. The project is scheduled to be completed by 21 May.
 - ♦ Fire rings and grill replacements will be researched when Anderson attends the park managers meeting in Stillwater. The new picnic table for the host site is stable and is unlikely to be moved anywhere.
 - ♦ Campground hosts—two new host couples have been contacted. Now there are eight host couples, enough to man weekends from Memorial Day through MEA (October 22). The 4th of July is still open.
 - ♦ Church services will be every other weekend through Labor Day, at least.
 - ♦ The educational programming will be finalized at the May meeting.
 - ♦ Open House—pork has been acquired, and the serving equipment is organized. Artists are starting to be contacted (weavers from Garvin, glass etchers, a writer from Tracy, woodcarvers are a possibility again).
 - ♦ The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 11.
9. **Adjournment** Desy moved to adjourn. Schultz second. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcella Brekken