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BCOL MINUTES 11-05-21 DRAFT.PDF  
SIGN MAP.PDF



**BERTRAM CHAIN OF LAKES REGIONAL PARK  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2021**

**8:00 A.M.**

**MONTICELLO COMMUNITY CENTER  
(505 Walnut Street, Monticello, MN)**

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1. Call to Order
2. Consideration of adding to and approving agenda (Attached)
3. Consideration of Approving Minutes from November 2021 (Attached)
4. Infrastructure Needs and Staff Recommendations
5. Directional Signage – Update (attached)
6. Pictures With Santa Event Wrap Up
7. Campground and Day Use Facilities Reservations and Operational Dates For 2022
8. Monticello School District – Nature-Based Education Operational Update
9. Friends of Bertram Update
10. Discussion of Added Items
11. Schedule Next Meeting –?
12. Adjourn

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

# DRAFT

## MINUTES

### BERTRAM CHAIN OF LAKES REGIONAL PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Friday, November 5, 2021, 8:00 a.m.

Monticello Community Center

**Members Present:** Lynn Anderson, Jim Davidson, Martyn Dibben, Tom Jahnke, Dawn Larson, Jeremiah Mack, Sam Murdoff, Scott Peterson, Darek Vetsch

**Members Absent:** Mark Daleiden, Jim Lindberg, Eric Olson, Wes Olson,

**Staff Present:** Eric Fallon (YMCA), Beth Green, Brad Harrington, Marc Mattice, Angela Schumann

#### 1. Call to Order.

8:05 am

#### 2. Consideration of adding to and approving the agenda.

MARK DALEIDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN. MOTION SECONDED BY DAREK VETSCH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0.

#### 3. Consideration of approving minutes from July 9, 2021.

LYNN ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 9, 2021, REGULAR MEETING. MOTION SECONDED BY DAWN LARSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0.

#### 4. YMCA Camp Manitou Season Wrap Up.

Eric Fallon presented the season wrap-up for Camp Manitou ~

- Averaged 140 kids/week and would like to see that increase to 200 kids/week next year.
- A total of 813 kids for the season, including 419 boys and 394 girls.
- The majority of kids came from Hennepin County with about 200 campers from Wright County plus a few other counties, and as far away as Amsterdam, Switzerland, Connecticut and Las Vegas!
- The most popular camps were Water Adventure, followed by Fish, Frogs and Forts, and Archery Slingshot
- There was a great diverse mix of staff and ages
- The first day of camp for 2022 is June 13<sup>th</sup>. Planning to open the pool to the public on weekends in 2022 and the climbing course is planned to be open as well.

#### 5. Wright County Status Reports on Regional Park Operations.

- a. Campground operations and usage: The campground was open 14 weeks total through MEA, and the cabins opened up 2 weeks later so ran for 12 weeks. Weekend occupancy rate is 81% which exceeded expectations considering the campground wasn't open until

mid-July. The camper cabins are all booked this weekend and they will be open year-round, with the exception of Christmas and New Year's.

- b. Facility rentals and usage: The effects of COVID were still felt early in the season. With a total of 23 weeks of operations, the chalet rented 22 times, the lakeside shelter rented 22 times and the amphitheater rented 8 times.
- c. Programs and events: Summer went well, and the county partnered with the YMCA on some programs, using their canoes for paddling events. Harrington said that he has ordered 24 kayaks for next season with the grant dollars. Other events included:
  - Monticello Cross Country Invite: 314 Runners
  - LaVallee Run: 116 Participants
  - Visit with Santa: 12/4/21 from 10am-3pm. Online Registration through Monticello Community Center. There's a small fee and that includes horse drawn carriage rides and photos with Santa. Each family registers for a 15-minute visit with Santa.

## **6. Wright County 2022 Projects.**

- a. Paving: Paving in 2022 the entrance road down to the turnaround, including two handicap parking spots, plus the trail leading down to playground and picnic shelter for ADA accessibility. Mattice said that if the YMCA or City is interested in paving their areas, he can include it in the bid next year, so just let him know.
- b. Playground Art: Commissioner Anderson is taking the lead on helping out with proposals to find an artist to turn the culvert at the playground into looking like a tree for kids to crawl through. There will be some additional natural features added to the playground next year as well.
- c. Directional Signage: Mattice had some rough drafts drawn up for the sign design. The sign company will lay it out to size, so it is readable and the visual is far enough back, so you catch it when you're driving. Additional signs will also be needed for parking as people are parking on the entrance road for their kids to play on the fields, which is blocking campers from getting through to the campground. Commissioner Vetsch noted that there should have been a drop off zone for parents dropping off kids.

Further discussions will be needed on the signage, to also include the City of Monticello Logo. The consensus was that will be important for the City and County to have an infrastructure meeting as the athletic complex parking is also affecting the south side of the park with the campground, the YMCA and the beach parking. It may be worth considering a circular flow and a designated entrance and exit, one-way. It will be key to have a meeting in order to plan it out properly as a long-term solution is needed. The revamped sign designs will be brought to the December meeting for approval.

## **7. Monticello School District – Nature Based Education Operational Update.**

School District Rep Jeremiah Mack said that the nature-based education is going well. They have added an additional kindergarten classroom, as well as pre-K and there are two classrooms at the YMCA. The class sizes are similar to those inside the school building, and it is growing. There have been a few issues with some of the pre-K students who require more supervision as they are a couple wandering off. Trying to figure out what works best for those students and staff is a process.

Without the school referendum passing, the district will have to figure out what will happen next year. Some cuts will need to be made and it remains to be seen where those will fall. The hope is to keep the nature-based education program going. The teachers are happy with how things are going; however, there is a need for trained substitutes to go out to nature-based sites. Mack asked for recommendations from the group for possible substitute teachers.

Mattice said he met with school district a few weeks ago. They are working on developing outdoor planning and education in Wright County as a whole for the long-term. It was a great meeting. Mattice said the County is looking to Mack for help to form discussions with other districts for outdoor learning. As the district works through the impact of the referendum not passing, Mattice asked Mack to let the County know where they're at facility wise going into next fall with nature-based programming.

**8. Friends of Bertram Update.**

No Update.

**9. Discussion of Added Items.**

None.

**10. Schedule Next Meeting.**

MARK DALEIDEN MOVED TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT MEETING DECEMBER 3, 2021, AT 8 A.M. AT THE MONTICELLO COMMUNITY CENTER. MOTION SECONDED BY DAWN LARSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0.

**11. Adjourn.**

DAWN LARSON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:20 A.M. MOTION SECONDED BY TOM JAHNKE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0.

Recorder:

*Beth Green*

Administrative Assistant

Approval Date:

Attest:

Martyn Dibben, BCOLAC Chairman

# Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park



YMCA Camp Manitou



Wright County  
Parks & Recreation

# Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park



YMCA Camp Manitou



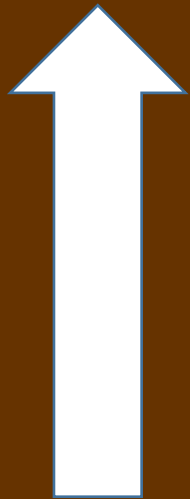
Wright County  
Parks & Recreation

# Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Athletic Park



Campground, Swimming Beach, Trailhead

YMCA Camp Manitou



Wright County  
Parks & Recreation



# Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Athletic Park



Wright County  
Parks & Recreation

# Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park

## MAIN ENTRANCE

Campground, Swimming Beach, Day Use Facilities, Rentals  
YMCA Camp Manitou



## SOUTH ENTRANCE

Trailhead – Hiking, Mountain Bike,  
Cross Country Ski Trails



Wright County  
Parks & Recreation

# Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park

MAIN ENTRANCE

Campground, Swimming Beach, Day Use Facilities, Rentals

YMCA Camp Manitou



ATHLETIC PARK ENTRANCE



Wright County  
Parks & Recreation

# Bertram Chain of Lakes

## Regional Park

SOUTH ENTRANCE

Trailhead – Hiking, Mountain Bike,  
Cross Country Ski Trails



Wright County  
Parks & Recreation

# Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park

SOUTH ENTRANCE

Trailhead – Hiking, Mountain Bike,  
Cross Country Ski Trails



Wright County  
Parks & Recreation

# Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park

SOUTH ENTRANCE

Trailhead – Hiking, Mountain Bike,  
Cross Country Ski Trails



Wright County  
Parks & Recreation

# Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park



YMCA Camp Manitou



Wright County  
Parks & Recreation

