

**MINUTES**  
**BERTRAM CHAIN OF LAKES REGIONAL PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Friday, February 5, 2021, 8:00 a.m.**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**Members Present:** Lynn Anderson, Mark Daleiden, Jim Davidson, Martyn Dibben, Dawn Larson, Jeremiah Mack, Scott Peterson, Darek Vetsch

**Members Absent:** Tom Jahnke, Jim Lindberg, Sam Murdoff, Wes Olson

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

**1. Call to Order.**

Marc Mattice called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

**2. Election of Officers.**

DAREK VETSCH MOVED TO NOMINATE MARTYN DIBBEN AS BCOLAC CHAIR. MOTION SECONDED BY MARK DALEIDEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0.

MARK DALEIDEN MOVED TO NOMINATE LYNN ANDERSON AS BCOLAC VICE-CHAIR. MOTION SECONDED BY DAWN LARSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0.

**3. Consideration of approving minutes from December 4, 2020.**

MARK DALEIDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 4, 2020 REGULAR MEETING. MOTION SECONDED BY LYNN ANDERSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0.

**4. Consideration of adding to and approving the agenda.**

- a. Letter of Support Request from Monticello Township

JEREMIAH MACK MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. MOTION SECONDED BY DAWN LARSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0.

**5. Wright County Status Reports on Regional Park Operations and 2021 Work Plans.**

- a. Staffing Report: Wright County hired a Park Services Coordinator for Bertram. They are in the process of posting and interviewing for a Park Maintenance Aide position at Bertram.
- b. Campground Opening: The tentative opening date for the campground is the week after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. It is important to have good turf establishment prior to opening. The turf was seeded in November so it may take a little longer to take.

- c. **South Trailhead Parking:** An expansion is planned for the south trailhead parking lot. Clearing began last fall and aggregate materials are being stockpiled this week. The trailhead expansion is needed due to the high use of the mountain bike and hiking trails.
- d. **Trail Improvements/Connections:** The trail builder, Dave Crosby, will be back in May to work on sustainable trail construction. Some trail connections are being planned. MORC donated funds to finish the return loop on the west side of Mud Lake and this summer that should be close to completion. A priority will be to get the trail connection made around the campground by the Long Lake Overlook.
- e. **Programs & Events:** There was an ice fishing clinic with MN Trout that was filled with 14 participants, just under the maximum of what is allowed right now with Covid restrictions.

The Bertram Blast is scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup>. Bret Oden sold the race so there is new leadership. The race proceeds will still go to fund programs or improvements in the park. The race is capped at 250 participants, according to CDC guidelines.

A non-match grant of \$60,000 was approved for the purchase of equipment at Bertram. The funds will be available later this summer, so bikes, skis, snowshoes, paddleboards, kayaks, etc. will be purchased and rented at the campground to the public

## **6. Monticello Athletic Complex.**

For operations going into 2021 there are 112 acres of playable field space out of the 120 acres. The city will continue to work with various sports organizations going into next year. Monticello is also implementing CivicRec which will allow for online reservation and management of park facilities and Bertram Fields. There is work underway of an interactive map of the fields at Bertram so the public can see how the fields are laid out and how they can be used, hopefully that will be completed by the end of the summer. Improvements this year will be irrigation lines on the north side. Also, the existing trail off Chelsea Road is being planned for some improvements including Class 5 to make it a more formal and obvious connection to the trails within the park.

## **7. Education.**

All kids are back in person outside. Pre-K and K were in person the entire time and 1-5<sup>th</sup> got to come back in January. The kids were snowshoeing the other day and will do some sledding in a couple weeks. Next year the goal is to have the students all at one location and expand to two classrooms per day. Working on possibly having a new facility built adjacent to Bertram or trying to figure out how to get all the kids on site by doing some small improvements to the YMCA, which will make it easier for transportation, programming, and safety. The long-term goal is to keep the program going. The YMCA has a sub-lease with the school district that is signed each year.

**YMCA Update:** Registration is now open, and camp will be running this year. There are 140 kids registered thus far and it will continue to grow. There is a promo period coming up for discounts

at the end of the month. The YMCA wants Camp Manitou to run and succeed this summer. On the horizon is a new marketing campaign which will be geared at pulling kids from around the area to attend camp. They are also planning to open the water park to public this summer.

**8. Joint Powers Agreement.**

Marc Mattice said that every five years the agreement should be reviewed to see if there is anything that needs to be adjusted or recommended to the governing body. Discussed adjusting the agreement and the bylaws to be cohesive in that there is no longer an MCC Advisory Board or representative, and that the board now consists of 12 members. The concept plan should be updated to note the plan. Also, the board is no longer meeting at the MCC but rather virtually or on site at the park. Another change in that there is no longer an auditor/treasurer division at the county but rather the county finance department.

DAREK VETSCH MOVED TO APPROVE MODIFICATIONS TO THE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT AS DISCUSSED AND TO BRING TO THE COUNTY BOARD AND CITY COUNCIL FOR RECOMMENDED APPROVAL. MOTION SECONDED BY LYNN ANDERSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0.

**9. Rebranding Athletic Complex.**

Mattice said that as the park has developed with the county maintaining the regional park side and the city maintaining the athletic park side, there has been some confusion with the public and it is unclear on who they should contact regarding the park. Mattice said that years ago the Friends came up with a logo and that is the logo that was adopted by the park as a whole and that logo is on all the park signs. Mattice suggested that potentially things should change to follow city branding standards for the athletic side and county branding standard for passive side of the park, rather than the park having its own logo or branding which could help eliminate the confusion. The consensus from the advisory council is for this to be a staff discussion between the City and the County and to bring back suggestions to consider at the next meeting.

**10. Friends of Bertram Update.**

The Friends met last month and reappointed Graham Sones as the Chair of the group. Harrington said he is hopeful that the new Park Services Coordinator being hired for the campground can work with the group to help motivate and drive the Friends group forward in a positive way.

**11. Discussion of Added Items.**

- a. Letter of Support for Monticello Township Road Improvements: Mattice said the Township Board is meeting this week to discuss a local road improvement request being made for funds to make improvements from 106 to Cahill, west on 90<sup>th</sup> and then up along Briarwood to where the county road improvement was finished last year. The township is looking for a letter of support from the Advisory Board, and City Council. The county is in support of this and will send a letter of support from the County Engineering Department and the County Parks Department. Rachel Leonard said that she will bring it

to the City Council for approval as well. Harrington said that he will reach out to the school district for a letter of support due to the increased bus traffic.

MARK DALEIDEN MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE BCOL ADVISORY COUNCIL SUMBIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE MONTICELLO TOWNSHIP LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT REQUEST. MOTION SECONDED BY DAWN LARSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0.

**12. Schedule Next Meeting.**

MARK DALEIDEN MOVED TO CANCEL THE MARCH MEETING AND HOLD THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING ON APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>. MOTION SECONDED BY SCOTT PETERSON. MOTION CARRED UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0.

**13. Adjourn.**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:15 A.M.

Recorder:

*Beth Green*

Administrative Assistant

Approval Date:

4-2-21

Attest:

  
Martyn Dibben, BCOLAC Chairman