

**Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission**

**Minutes for April 25, 2018**

Sartell Community Center

850 19<sup>th</sup> Street South

Sartell, MN 56377

**APPROVED**

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Vice Chair Tim Kennedy, Marc Mattice, Rick Anderson, Rita Albrecht, Bryan Pike, Peg Furshong, Brad Bonk. Barry Wendorf, Jannik Anderson

**Commissioners Absent:** Tom Ryan, Tom Schmitz

**Consultants Present:** Renee Mattson, Executive Director, Joe Czapiewski, System Plan Coordinator, Margy Hughes, Administrative Assistant

**1. Meeting Called to Order at 10:04 by Vice Chair Kennedy**

**2. Consent Agenda:** Approval of Minutes of March 28, 2018, Treasurer's Report through March 31, 2018, and Agenda for April 25, 2018.

**Motion** by R. Anderson

**Second** by Pike

**Motion Approved**

**3. Acknowledge Members of the Public in Attendance:** None in attendance

**4. Executive Director's Report** – Distributed material by Mattson as follows:

**Mattson** Constituent Meetings: **Spirit Mountain Master Plan** - met with Duluth city staff to provide input and evaluation for the initial entry of the Spirit Mountain Master Plan into the portal. **Hartley Nature Center** - met with staff to discuss a funding application. **Cannon Valley Trail** – met with Scott Roepke, Trail Manager and Peter Zotalis, Welch Village General Manager, to discuss a potential joint arrangement for a Mountain Bike skills park and trails at Welch Village to complement CVT. **Babbitt Birch Lake Recreation Area** – met with a consultant from SEH who is working with the city to develop a 49-site campground at Birch Lake. 10-Year Legacy Celebrations: Asking the Commissioners to take note of the sign up for any of the upcoming 10-Year Legacy celebrations. Upcoming are as follows: April 27, at St. John's University from 4-7. April 29 in Marshall at the Red Baron Center from noon – 2:30 May 11 at Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve in Bloomington 5-8.

Integrated Web Site: Will not launch this month. Possibly for May.

Upcoming Commission Meetings – Calendar: **May**, no meeting/ **June**, in Duluth on the 27<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the 10-Year Legacy Celebration/ **July**, LAC on the 12<sup>th</sup> and **July 25<sup>th</sup>** Commission

Meeting both are in Alexandria at Kensington Rune Stone Park/ **August**, no meeting, we will be part of the 10-Year Legacy Celebration Space in the DNR building during the State Fair/ **September 26<sup>th</sup>** with the ETeam invited/ **October** with date to be determined with Greater Minnesota Parks & Trails.

**4.1 Legislative Update** *Mattson* met with Rep. Urdahl and talked about the Montrose ball fields. She had the opportunity to visit with Senator Ruud to converse about the procedures to follow when requesting funding in the districts for projects. *Kennedy* suggested that the Commissioners take advantage whenever possible to visit with their state representatives concerning the work in their districts.

**5. System Coordinator's Report** Distribution of hand outs by: **Czapiewski**

The FY2020 funding application has launched successfully and has been used. *Czapiewski* has conducted several onsite reviews including: Lake Wobegon Trail, Warner Lake Park, Kraemer Lake Park, and Rockville Park. Toured the Quarry Hill Nature Center and Prairie Classroom in Rochester. The new Quarry Nature Center in Rochester was opened and had a huge attendance. Worked with Olmsted County folks about their funding applications. Meeting with the ETeam on April 10 with two new members and other ETeam members.

**6. Items from Members and Letters to the Commission** No correspondence received *Pike*/ Brainerd is discussing a project for a future designation for a River Corridor. *Pike* distributed information about the Milford Mine Memorial Park north of Crosby. Attended three meetings with his Regional Development Commission. Goal would be to develop a trail plan that covers a lot of this area and also used for motorized. *Furshong*/ Memorial Park is getting into the third phase. *Kennedy*/ Had a visit with the Hartley Park group in Duluth and the funding application for this. Helping with their application as they look through it and hope to have an application from them.

**7. New Business:**

**7.1 Regional Non-Motorized Trail System**

*Mattson*/ The non-motorized trail system in Greater Minnesota co-exists/connects to: State designated trails, Regional non-designated trails and near the metro, Met Council regional trails/systems. There is a need to differentiate between Regional trails and Local trails. When we work on designations, there are trails that spur much discussion. Question comes up: Is this a Local Trail or a Regional Trail? Districts have particular issues with land and geography. There may be unintended barriers; getting right of way. Is there administrative support to help with the application? *Pike*/ Should there be more collaboration of nearby cities or counties when sponsoring and jointly putting together an application? *Kennedy*/ It gets harder when trails branch into local, regional and state trails. Do the Locals have other revenue funding mechanisms? Some communities do not have Local funding mechanisms especially the smaller cities.

R. *Anderson/* We are to look at cities and counties for everybody to make connections with trails. *Czapiewski/* We have long State trails and we also now have long Regional Trails. We are to do connections to State trails. *Kennedy/* We need to have a well thought out plan and look at our applications, but we do not a system to look at, we're creating it. *Albrecht/* In some regions of the state, motorized trails make more sense than a Regional Pedestrian Trail or Bike Trail. How can you use a variety of funding sources? *Mattson/* If we could come out of today to agree to have a meeting with several entities coming together, knowing there are concerns, questions and a need to Map something, we could put together an outline of what we want. This could be brought to our partners and ask what they think about it. *Mattice/* Does it start with our Strategic Plan? Do we all agree/disagree with our Plan? *Bonk/* With Our Map we would be able to determine funding application reasons by seeing the whole thing. *Albrecht/* The State Trails have not developed some trails to connect. Some have not even been built. Does this meet the Regional need? We have a maintenance component with Regional Trails. State Trails do not have this component. What is the Legacy's role in connecting the grid? *Czapiewski/* The issue comes at our end with the ETeam doing the great work with designations, and we need to do the funding application. *Pike/* ETeam is looking at the whole Plan and we look at their scoring. *Mattson/* We need to look at our criteria for connections and designations. *Czapiewski/* What is the definition of what State is, what Local is? Work with MNDOT and DNR. Look at our Criteria again, starting with Mapping. Be clear in our thoughts about the difference between a designation and a funding application. We take each funding application on their own merit. Being designated does not guarantee funding. Each designated facility should look beyond the Commission for funding to complete their projects. The Commission is ONE source of potential funding, not the sole source.

## **7.2 Mountain Bike Trail RFP for Districts 1&2**

*Czapiewski/* We are looking at Districts 1 and 2 as it seems that is where many of the Mountain Bike Trails either are or are being developed. Request for proposals will be going out to hopefully review in July. The Commission needs to understand the dynamics of demand as the system grows over the next few years. Prior to additional future investment into regional systems, the GMRPTC needs to: evaluate the realistic demand base for the developing system; better understand the current and potential size of the system in priority Greater Minnesota regions regardless of jurisdiction; and provide better guidance to our local partners on design standards for regional level facilities. Have a simplified indication on the map for bike trails. Investigate with Local groups and bike shops for info on their location of trails.

**Motion** by Wendorf to approve the Request For Proposal  
**Second** by Furshong.  
**Motion Approved**

### **7.3 GMRPTC Logo Review**

**Mattson** Presented samples of three logos with discussion following. Keep the river running on the one labeled 3. Work on the colors, font styles and the location of wording. *Mattson* will go back and take suggestions for some changes made to the Logo and bring changes to the next meeting.

## **8. Old Business:**

**8.1 Applications for Designation Ranking** The ETeam Ranking, Scoring and Internal Evaluation analysis by use of a chart was distributed by *Czapiewski*. Discussion of each of the five Designation Applications and Master Planned facilities under consideration for Regional designation took place by the Commission.

### **Spirit Mountain Recreation Area.**

**Motion** by Mattice to accept the Ranking of “**High**” by ETeam  
**Second** by R. Anderson  
**Motion Approved**

### **Sand Hills Recreation Area.**

**Motion** by Furshong to accept the ranking of “**High**” by ETeam  
**Second** by Mattice  
**Motion Approved**

### **Battle Lake to Ashby Regional Trail.**

**Motion** by Furshong to approve the ranking of “**High**” by ETeam with a resolution from the county  
**Second** by R. Anderson  
**Motion Approved**

### **Goodhue County Nielsen Memorial Preserve.**

**Motion** by Furshong to approve the ranking of “**Medium**” by ETeam  
**Second** by Mattice  
**Motion Approved**

## **8.2 Designation Scoring:**

### **Duluth Traverse.**

**Motion** by R. Anderson to approve the ETeam score and **designate**  
**Second** by Wendorf

