

**Dakota County Planning Commission  
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date: January 28, 2021**

**Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Members Present		Staff Present		Others Present
Jerry Rich	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Timmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nicole DePalma, Hastings
Lori Hansen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nate Reitz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Park and Recreation
Jill Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jim Guttman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner
Greg Oxley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tony Nelson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drew Brockman, Assistant
Amy Hunting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donald Post	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Historic Preservation
Barry Graham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Tom Lewanski	Officer, Upper Sioux
Ramraj Singh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Community
				Holly Jenkins, City of Eagan

**Meeting Called to Order**

**Time: 7:00 p.m.**

**By: Planning Manager Kurt Chatfield**

**Approval of agenda**

Motion by: Commissioner Hunting

Second by: Commissioner Singh

Vote: Unanimously approved.

**Approval of minutes (from December 17, 2020 meeting)**

Motion by: Commissioner Smith

Second by: Commissioner Rich

Commissioner Reitz abstaining.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

**Item #1: Election of 2021 Planning Commission Officers**

**Action / Information**

Comments/Notes: The Planning Commission held their election.

**Election of Chair**

Commissioner Oxley nominated by: Commissioner Hunting

Second by: Commissioner Singh

Vote: Unanimously approved.

**Election of Vice-Chair**

Commissioner Hunting nominated by: Commissioner Smith

Commissioner Reitz nominated by Commissioner Rich

In a Verbal Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Hunting received seven votes, and Commissioner Reitz received five votes, resulting in the Commissioner Hunting appointment as Vice-Chair. The votes were tallied and reported to the Planning Commission as follows:

Votes for Commissioner Hunting	Votes for Commissioner Reitz
Commissioner Hansen Commissioner Smith Commissioner Oxley Commissioner Hunting Commissioner Graham Commissioner Singh Commissioner Post	Commissioner Rich Commissioner Timmerman Commissioner Reitz Commissioner Guttman Commissioner Nelson

**Election of Secretary**

Commissioner Guttman nominated by: Commissioner Reitz

Vote: Unanimously approved.

**Item #2: Establishment of 2021 Meeting Dates**

**Action / Information**

Comments/Notes: Planning Manager Kurt Chatfield outlined the proposed 2021 Planning Commission meeting dates. The Planning Commission voted to approve the meeting schedule.

Motion by: Commissioner Reitz  
 Second: Commissioner Rich  
 Vote: Unanimously approved.

**Item #3: Administrative Forms**

**Action / Information**

Comments/Notes: Planning Manager Kurt Chatfield spoke about two forms that need to be filled out and returned to the Planning Commission Clerk. The two forms are: "Consent to Release Private Data" and "Citizen Advisory Committee Member Statement of Representation". Staff stated that the two forms will be sent out again after the meeting was over and that emailing or mailing in the forms are acceptable.

**Item #4: 2021 Work Plan**

**Action / Information**

Comments/Notes: Planning Manager Kurt Chatfield outlined the County Board adopted 2021 Planning Commission Workplan.

A suggestion was made to consider having an in-person meeting/site tour in one of the parks with appropriate social distancing during the summer months.

In their review of the 2021 workplan several Planning Commission members mentioned that they would have desired to have the County's Bison study on their 2020 workplan, and have had the opportunity to provide comments to the County Board at that time. *Staff responded that Planning Commission still has*

*the opportunity to provide comments on the potential re-introduction of Bison in the park system as part of the update of the Spring Lake Park Reserve Master Plan.*

#### **Item #4: Spring Lake Park Reserve Natural Resources Management Plan and Master Plan – Action / Information**

Comments/Notes: Lil Leatham, Senior Planner, and Joe Walton, Natural Resource Senior Ecologist, presented the Spring Lake Park Reserve Natural Resources Management Plan and Master Plan to the Planning Commission and responded to questions.

Questions and comments by Commissioners along with responses from staff (italics):

A comment was made about a statement in the draft plan that refers to erosion control along new segments of the Mississippi Regional Greenway (MRG). Is the MRG complete through the park? *Staff responded that while most of the MRG has been completed, there is a section on the west end of the park that has yet to be constructed. The MRG erosion language could also apply to existing segments that have a few erosion issues.*

A concern was raised about tying natural resource projects to external funding, particularly if external funding becomes unavailable. Natural resource projects should be a priority and should be completed with County funding if external resources are unavailable. *Staff responded in agreement with the statement but also explained the strategy of seeking external grant funding and the county's successful track record to date. The County Board will need to provide direction if external funding is no longer available.*

It was noted that this plan is written in a way that is less precise and more flexible than a typical master plan in order to be responsive to the culturally sensitive landscape and the importance of the land to Native Americans. It is important to continue to engage the Dakota Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) and avoid disturbing culturally sensitive sites, some of which are not yet entirely investigated. *Staff responded that the upper park by Schaar's Bluff will need follow up studies to determine where the programmatic vision can take place.*

A commissioner expressed their appreciation for the partnership with Native American communities and wondered if funding has been discussed as part of a future partnership. *Staff responded that the partnership has been focused on sharing information and ideas and that there have not been discussions about funding partnerships to this point.*

A suggestion was made to show where public restrooms would be located on the plan graphics. *Staff responded that public restrooms could be added.*

A comment was made that the interior of the park is somewhat difficult to access and that a small parking area near the end of Hilary Path should be considered. *Staff responded that the poor condition of the existing minimum maintenance road and highly erodible ravine location makes a parking area at this location difficult, and there are several homes on Hilary path whose residents expressed concerns during the plan concept phase about the road becoming a primary park access road.*

A comment was made that the plan references removing Euro-American names. It may be more appropriate to be more clear about what names should be used in what situation. The use of Native American names or European names could be decided according to the nature of the place, historical significance, or cultural sensitivity of each site and situation. *Staff responded that the language was*

*included to address the concern that many of the culturally significant sites, such as burial grounds, are currently named after European landowners. Staff will look at wording this section more clearly.*

A request was made to clarify how developed and undeveloped areas of the park are calculated, specifically as it applies to the 80/20 rule for park reserves. *Staff responded that they would provide documentation of how the calculations are performed.*

Several Planning Commissioners stated their support for recognizing the importance of this park to Native American people and for developing an on-going relationship with THPOs to protect and interpret the culturally important sites within the park.

Drew Brockman, Assistant Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Upper Sioux Community, thanked Dakota County staff for involving Dakota leaders in the investigation of culturally significant sites and the preparation of the master plan. Mr. Brockman described the on-site survey and stated that there is much more work to do. He mentioned the importance of the park to the Dakota people and that it is rich in history. He expressed optimism for a continued partnership with Dakota County.

Several Commissioners complimented and thanked staff for the quality of work on the master plan and the natural resource management plan.

Motion by: Commissioner Rich  
Second: Commissioner Timmerman  
Vote: Unanimously approved.

**Item #5: 2021 Parks CIP Work Program – Review**

**Action / Information**

Comments/Notes: Jeff Bransford, Parks Sr. Project Specialist, presented this item and responded to questions.

Questions and comments by Commissioners along with responses from staff (italics):

A comment was made that it is useful to receive an overview on Parks and Greenway CIP projects, and it would also be useful to receive a presentation regarding other CIP projects for highways, environmental protection, solid waste, etc.

A question was raised regarding whether the proposed Lebanon Hills Connector Trail is Lebanon Hills Park master plan. *Staff responded that the Connector Trail is in the master plan and that the next step is to conduct a feasibility/design study.*

**Planning Manager Update and County Board Actions**

Comments/Notes: Kurt Chatfield, Planning Manager, provided the Planning Commission with an update on the following PDC and County Board Actions:

- Adoption of the Dakota County Groundwater Protection Plan

**Upcoming Public Meetings – Community Outreach**

County Road 30 (Diffley) School area improvements	Virtual Open House, Jan 22 – Feb 5 <a href="https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Transportation/PlannedConstruction/CR30Braddock/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Transportation/PlannedConstruction/CR30Braddock/Pages/default.aspx</a>
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**Planning Commissioner Announcements/Updates:**

Chair Oxley and other Commissioners provided condolences to Commissioner Nelson on the loss of Commissioner Nelson's wife and thanked him for attending during the difficult circumstances.

**Topics for Next Meeting**

- All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
- School Zone Safety Study
- County Highway 42 Visioning Study

**Adjourn: 9:07 p.m.**

Motion by: Commissioner Reitz

Second: Commissioner Post

Vote: Unanimously approved.

**Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, February 25, 2021, 7:00 p.m., Virtual Remote Meeting.**