

**Dakota County Planning Commission
 Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes-Final
 Date: October 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"/>	Jason Naber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lori Hansen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nate Reitz	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Jill Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jim Guttman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Greg Oxley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tony Nelson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Amy Hunting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donald Post	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Barry Graham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dennis Peine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ramraj Singh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
		Kurt Chatfield	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
		Liz Hansen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
		Niki Geisler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
		Lil Leatham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
		Joe Walton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Meeting Called to Order

Time: 7:01 p.m.

By: Chair Oxley

Commissioner Hansen joined the meeting at 7:19 pm

Public Comment

Approval of Agenda

Motion by: Commissioner Singh

Second by: Commissioner Smith

Vote: Unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes (from September 23, 2021 meeting)

Motion by: Commissioner Graham

Second by: Commissioner Post

Vote: Unanimously approved.

Item #1: Miesville Park Reserve Natural Resources Management Plan

Action / **Information**

Comments/Notes: Joe Walton, Natural Resource Senior Ecologist, Parks, and Jason Naber, Project Manager-Biologist, Emmons & Olivier Resources, presented this item and responded to questions.

Research and Findings were discussed regarding the site location, features, observations, and issues.

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

Commissioners discussed the increasing levels of nitrates in the Trout Brook and asked staff about the source of the nitrates and implications for aquatic health. *Staff responded that the nitrates are primarily from agricultural fertilizers that are from runoff but also through rapid groundwater infiltration and enter*

the trout stream from springs. The increased nitrogen levels contribute to algae blooms and result in vigorous aquatic plant growth. The nitrate levels are not at critical levels at this time, but they are significantly above the State's nitrate standards.

Commissioners discussed the status of buckthorn and other invasive plants in the park and inquired about the extent of invasive species. *Staff responded that buckthorn and other non-native plants are present, but they are still at manageable levels. It is important to act now to stay on top of invasive species. One of the most damaging invasive species is earthworms because they are so impactful on soil health. Unfortunately, there are not effective strategies at this time to control earthworm impacts.*

Commissioners discussed whether it is safe to eat fish from the Trout Brook. *Staff responded that fish are abundant, and there are no known health concerns with eating the fish.*

There was a general discussion about the high quality of natural resources in the park. Several Commissioners expressed their desire to protect and restore the park's natural resources and that this should be a priority in the Natural Resources Management Plan. Recreational uses may be limited at this park because Lake Byllesby Regional Park is relatively nearby and is well suited for providing more active recreational uses.

Commissioners also discussed the likelihood of cultural resource sites in the park and supported the idea of engaging Native Americans in the planning process. *Staff responded that similar to Spring Lake, a Cultural Lands Survey will be conducted and that Tribal Historic Preservation Officers will be asked to be part of the planning process. It is anticipated that since there are so many known burial sites, campsites, and ceremonial sites in the Cannon River Valley that there will be sites within the park.*

Commissioners discussed the presence of a large powerline that is within the park and running within the banks of the Cannon River. A request was made for staff to determine who owns the powerline, with the possibility of notifying the utility company to consider relocating the line in the future.

At the conclusion of the Natural Resource Management Plan discussion, the Planning Commission watched a short video courtesy of Trout Unlimited showing the results of recent natural resource restoration efforts along Trout Brook. The video can be found on YouTube at the following link: <https://youtu.be/rhk2BAMae0g>

Item #2: Miesville Park Reserve Master Plan Update

Action /

Information

Comments/Notes: Lil Leatham, Sr. Planner, presented this item and responded to questions.

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

Following the staff presentation, Commissioners inquired about the existing Master Plan, including the planned bridge over the Cannon River and what agency would construct the bridge. The location of the bridge was also discussed with respect to public use areas and viewsheds. *Staff responded that it had not been determined what agency would build a bridge over the river at this time (to the Cannon Valley Trail), and that is something that can be addressed in the update of the Master Plan.*

There was a brief discussion about the existing informal canoe landing. *Staff mentioned that a new landing was proposed in the existing Master Plan that is down the river and on land that is envisioned to be part of the park someday.*

The Planning Commission concluded their discussion of the upcoming Master Plan with a few observations about the quality of the Trout Brook, natural resources, and cultural resources. Several comments were made that the emphasis of the Master Plan should be on natural resource restoration.

Planning Manager Update and County Board Actions

Authorized acceleration of Dakota County Greenway System in 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Program

Upcoming Public Meetings – Community Outreach

South St. Paul Library Open House	Wednesday, November 10, 5:00pm-7:00pm Central Square Community Center, Centennial Room, South St. Paul https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/libraries/HoursLocations/SSP/
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Topics for Next Meeting (Thursday, November 18, 2021)

- County 42 Visioning Study – Draft Report

Planning Commissioner Announcements/Updates

Adopt-a-Drain Program

A commissioner mentioned that the Adopt a Drain Program invites citizens to adopt one or more local storm drains and to voluntarily keep those drains clear of debris throughout the year as a means of protecting and improving water quality in our lakes and rivers. The Adopt a Drain Program can be viewed as the following website: (<https://mn.adopt-a-drain.org/>).

Adjourn: 8:35 p.m.

Motion by: Commissioner Graham

Second: Commissioner Post

Vote: Unanimously approved.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 2021. The next meeting is planned to be in person at Western Service Center.