

**Virtual Dakota County Planning Commission  
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes-Final  
Date: December 17, 2020  
Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Members Present		Staff Present		Others Present
Jerry Rich	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barry Graham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Timothy Tabor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ramraj Singh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Lori Hansen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Timmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Jill Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nate Reitz	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Greg Oxley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jim Guttman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Amy Hunting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tony Nelson	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Donald Post	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		Kurt Chatfield	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		Liz Hansen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		Lil Leatham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		Jennifer Wolf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

**Meeting Called to Order**

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

**By: Chair Hansen**

**Public Comment**

No members of the public were present.

**Outline of Meeting Format**

Chair Hansen stated the need to hold a remote meeting as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Governor Walz declared a peacetime emergency (Emergency Executive Order 20-01) on March 13, 2020, and extending the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency (Emergency Executive Order 20-75) on June 12, 2020, and extending the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency Declared in Executive Order 20-01 (Emergency Executive Order 20-78\_ on July 12, 2020, and Continuing to Safely Reopen Minnesota's Economy and Ensure Safe Non-Work Activities during the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency (Emergency Executive Order 20-74) on June 5, 2020, which prohibits gatherings of 10 or more people and strongly encourages remote governmental meetings whenever possible. Dakota County Board of Commissioners Chair, Mike Slavik, declared a local state of emergency in Dakota County on March 17, 2020, in response to COVID-19. All County Board Commissioners voted to maintain this order on March 20, 2020.

The Planning Commission met virtually as outlined under Minnesota Statutes section 13D.021.

**Approval of agenda**

Motion by: Commissioner Hunting

Second by: Commissioner Smith

Vote: Unanimously approved

**Approval of minutes (from November 19, 2020 meeting)**

Motion by: Commissioner Rich

Second by: Commissioner Oxley

Vote: Unanimously approved with corrections.

**Item #1: Remote meeting election procedures**

**Action** / **Information**

Kurt Chatfield, Planning Manager, presented this item and responded to questions. Jennifer Wolf, Civil Division Head, County Attorney, was also in the audience and responded to questions.

Kurt informed the Planning Commission of two different election options for next month's elections of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. The nomination procedure will remain the same as previous years, and officer candidates are encouraged to contact the Planning Manager prior to the meeting so that their interest in one of the positions can be shared with the other committee members. At the first meeting of the year, the list of members interested in serving as officers shall be read. The Planning Manager will ask the Commission if other members would like to be considered for an office. The floor shall then be open for nominations from the list and from additional members who express interest in holding an office. A nomination does not require a second by another member. If only one member is nominated for a certain office, the election shall proceed by voice vote. In the event that there is more than one candidate for a given officer position, it will be necessary to use a voice vote as opposed to a paper ballot this year, and two options exist:

**Option 1: (State Sentencing Commission model)**

At the close of nominations, a roll call vote is taken, with each Commissioner stating their choice by name. As needed, voting continues until a single candidate carries a majority.

**Option 2 (Robert's Rule):**

At the close of nominations, a roll call vote (aye-nay) is taken on each nominee in the order in which they were nominated until a single candidate carries a majority, at which time the election ends. If a majority does not emerge in voting, subsequent votes are taken in the order in which nominations were received.

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

Commissioners discussed the two options and expressed a general preference for the first option. There was agreement that prior to the vote for officers in January, Commissioners would like to be provided a list of interested parties in the January Planning Commissioner meeting materials packet. *Staff responded that a list would be provided prior to next month's meeting with interested commissioners listed.*

**A motion and a second were given to move ahead with Option 1 (State Sentencing Commission Model).**

Motion by: Commissioner Singh

Second by: Commissioner Tabor

Vote: Ayes: 10                      Nays 1 (Commissioner Post)

**Item #2: Spring Lake Park Reserve Master Plan – Information**

**Action** / **Information**

Lil Leatham, Senior Planner, presented this item to the Planning Commission and responded to questions. Lil gave an overview of the following: Dakota Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) involvement, preliminary approach to Master Plan changes based on THPO feedback, and prioritization and phasing.

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

What feedback did we receive from the Dakota THPOs about the bison idea? *Staff responded that the THPOs are supportive of reintroducing Bison to the park. The reintroduction of Bison is seen as a step toward healing the land.*

The Planning Commission noted that some of the proposed trails in Church’s woods appeared to have been removed from the plan. *Staff responded that some of the proposed trails were removed to reduce impacts on culturally sensitive sites but that, in general, more investigative information about cultural sites will be needed before new trails can be located.*

A Planning Commission member complimented staff for their efforts in involving tribal representatives in the planning process.

The topic of renaming the park, and areas within the park using Dakota Native American names were discussed. *Staff responded that the potential to rename the park and sites within the park is in the working draft document, and the possibility of new names has been discussed with the Dakota THPOs. The THPOs have not provided any specific names to identify the area at this time but may wish to do so in the future. If new names were to be considered for the park or locations within the park, it would also be important to involve the County Communications Department.*

The importance of the park to Native American peoples was discussed. A Commissioner stated that Dakota County should continue to work with the THPOs and explore ideas such as reserving spaces for ceremonial events, offering Bison for ceremonial purposes, and interpreting the Native American history and use of the land

The question was raised about whether there is currently recognition of Dakota people within existing park facilities. *Staff responded that there is a plaza at the Spring Lake Gathering Center that has Dakota words and interpretation; there is also interpretive information in the lobby of the Gathering Center.*

**Planning Manager Update and County Board Actions**

- Approved purchase of property in southwest Hastings along Vermillion River Greenway

**Upcoming Public Meetings – Community Outreach**

Dakota County Comprehensive Plan Amendment (Transportation Chapter)	Public Hearing, January 19 <sup>th</sup> , 9am, virtual and in-person format held during County Board meeting.
County Road 46 Study in Hastings	TBD - Virtual Open House from late December through mid-January
County Road 30 (Diffley) School area improvements	TBD – Virtual Open House later January to early February

**Planning Commissioner Announcements/Updates:**

Commissioner Timothy Tabor from District 4 stated this would be his last Planning Commission Meeting as he will be moving to Nebraska.

Commissioner Rich commended Chair Hansen, and Vice-Chair Oxley for the work that was done and the good job they did adapting to the remote meeting format.

Commissioner Graham recognized Steve Sullivan, Parks Director, and Parks staff for their response to the Pandemic this summer and the establishment of one-way trails at Lebanon Hills that allowed people to safely use the park system.

**Topics for Next Meeting**

- Election of 2021 Planning Commission Officers
- Adoption of 2021 meeting schedule
- Review of 2021 Planning Commission Work Plan
- Spring Lake Park Reserve – Draft Master Plan
- School Safety Plan Study

**Adjourn: 8:14 p.m.**

Motion by: Commissioner Singh

Second: Commissioner Oxley

Vote: Unanimously approved by roll call vote

**Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, January 28, 2021 , 7:00 p.m., It is anticipated that the meeting will be a remote meeting format.**