

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

Date: 02/24/2022

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

Members Present		Staff Present		Others Present	
John Ross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nate Reitz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kurt Chatfield	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jerry Rich	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jim Guttman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Liz Hansen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Barry Graham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tony Nelson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Niki Geisler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lori Hansen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donald Post	<input type="checkbox"/>	John Mertens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jill Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anna Boroff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Matt Parent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Greg Oxley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dennis Peine	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Amy Hunting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Timmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Kurt Chatfield shared sad news prior to the meeting that former Clerk to the Planning Commission, Aaron Sather, passed away this past weekend. An email will be sent to the Planning Commissioners with his obituary.

Due to Commissioner Oxley’s absence, Vice-Chair Amy Hunting led the meeting.

Meeting Called to Order

Time: 7:00 p.m.

By: Amy Hunting

Commissioner Smith joined the meeting at 7:26pm.

Audience items not on the agenda

Comments/Notes: No one present in the audience wished to address an item, not on the agenda.

Approval of agenda

Motion by: Commissioner Hansen

Second: Commissioner Nelson

Vote: Unanimously approved.

Approval of minutes (from January 27, 2021 meeting)

Motion by: Commissioner Nelson

Second: Commissioner Timmerman

Vote: Unanimously approved.

Welcome new Planning Commissioner

Commissioner Amy Hunting introduced new Commissioner Anna Boroff from District 5 to the Planning Commission and shared information about her background. Commissioner Boroff addressed the Planning Commission and was welcomed by the other members.

Item #1: North Creek Greenway & Lake Marion Greenway Natural Resource Management Plans

Action / Information

Comments/Notes: Chris Klatt, Natural Resource Specialist, presented this item and responded to questions.

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

A Commissioner asked a question about the alignment of the Lake Marion Greenway as it entered Murphy Hanrehan in Scott County. *Staff responded that the graphic represented a working alignment and that Scott County and Three Rivers Park District will be responsible for the greenway alignment outside of Dakota County boundaries.*

A Commissioner expressed concern that the Lake Marion Greenway Natural Resources Management Plan appears to place too much emphasis on Ritter Farm Park and a few other natural areas along the corridor and not enough emphasis on the greenway corridor itself. *Staff responded that due to the developed suburban land use along the corridor, there are limitations to the natural resource restoration and management goals that can be accomplished. Much of the corridor is private land. Staff will add language to the draft plan to describe the challenge as well as some of the modest natural resource strategies that can be used for these constrained and narrow segments (e.g. buffers, pollinator plantings). There may also be opportunities to provide education to adjacent private landowners who may desire to do natural resource restoration and management on their own properties.*

Commissioners discussed the challenges of creating contiguous natural greenway corridors in urban settings and made suggestions about how to restore and manage natural areas. Commissioners discussed the role of volunteers. *Staff responded that volunteers can certainly play a role in natural resource management and that we already have examples of the role of volunteers doing invasive species management along the River to River Greenway. Volunteer language can be added to the draft plan.*

Planning Commissioners inquired about the role of cities in the development of plans and suggested that city park commissions and natural resource commissions should be engaged. *Staff responded that city cooperation to this point has occurred at the staff level and that staff at the cities have been communicating with their citizen committees.*

Commissioners discussed the importance of having city buy-in on the Natural Resource Management Plans, given that many of the projects will be in city parks and along city road right of way. There was some discussion about whether direct engagement with city park and natural resource commissions should be before or after the draft plans are released for public review. The Planning Commission reached a consensus that engaging city park commissions is important and that these meetings may occur once the draft plans are released. In order to provide adequate time to schedule meetings with city park committees, the Planning Commission agreed that a 60-day review period, as opposed to a 45-day review period, is preferred.

The Planning Commission recommended releasing the North Creek Greenway & Lake Marion Greenway Natural Resource Management Plans for public comment, including local city governments, extending the review period to sixty days.

Motion by: Commissioner Hansen

Second: Commissioner Graham

Vote: Unanimously approved.

Item #2: Veterans Memorial Greenway Alignment and Memorial Design Action / Information

Comments/Notes: Matt Parent, Sr. Project Manager, and Kurt Chatfield, Planning Manager, presented this item and responded to questions.

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

Planning Commissioners asked several questions about the alignment of the greenway. *Staff described the changes to the original alignment shown in the master plan alignment and as a result of County Board-directed design studies. Staff also described minor changes to the alignment at several locations along the corridor, including on Flint Hills land and by the highway 52 crossing.*

Planning Commissioners reviewed the Veterans Memorial concepts and made supportive comments. A question was asked about what consulting firm prepared the concepts. *Staff replied that the firm of SEH prepared the architectural renderings and 3D perspectives and that the Veterans Advisory Group was enthusiastic about the concepts.*

A question was asked about the cost of the memorials. Staff responded that the “basic” memorials that are the County’s responsibility would be similar in cost to the neighborhood gateways, interpretation, and wayfinding that are part of the County’s standard greenway delivery package. The “enhanced” memorial concepts are aspirational and significantly more expensive. The memorial at the Rich Valley trailhead is over \$1 million, as shown, and the extent to what is implemented will depend on outside fundraising efforts. Cost estimates for “basic” and “enhanced” memorials will be included in the draft plan scheduled to be presented to the County Board at PDC in the next few months.

Update on County Board Actions/Projects

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

- Reviewed greenway wayfinding design standards
- Reviewed the proposed Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort (ACRE) program
- Approved Joint Powers Agreement with Lakeville for Antlers Park Trailhead on Lake Marion Greenway

A Commissioner inquired about the status of the Lebanon Hills Regional Park Sustainable Trails Study. *Staff responded that the RFP for the study has been prepared and is ready to be released in the next week or two.*

Upcoming Public Meetings – Community Outreach

CSAH 33 and CSAH 46 Intersection Improvement Open House	Thursday, February 17, from 6:30pm – 8:30pm East Lake Elementary School, Lakeville
Lake Marion Greenway Trail Design (Sunset Pond to Williams Drive) Live Webinar	Thursday, March 3, from 6pm-7:30pm https://burnsvillemn.gov/2298/Lake-Marion-Trail
County 42 Visioning Study Study Virtual Open House	Comments due by March 7th https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Transportation/TransportationStudies/Current/Pages/county-highway-42-visioning-study.aspx .
County Road 6 (Thompson), and CSAH 73 (Oakdale) Improvements Open House	Wednesday, March 9, from 5pm-7pm Wentworth Library, West St. Paul, Large Meeting Room
North Creek, and Lake Marion Greenway Natural Resources Management Plan Open House	Tuesday, March 22, from 5pm-7pm Burnsville Library, Large Public Meeting Room

Topics for next meeting:

- Parks Capital Improvement Program
- Highway Ped Crossing Study

Planning Commissioner Announcements/Updates:

- A Commissioner asked if the County is involved in a possible roundabout at Annapolis and Dodd. *Staff responded that they do not believe the County is leading that project but will follow up with Transportation staff for more information.*
- A Commissioner announced that Wilderness in the City has received a grant for pollinator gardens in regional parks and that they are interested in working with Dakota County to plant pollinator gardens up to a quarter-acre in size. *Parks Director Niki Geisler confirmed that she is the appropriate contact person within the Parks Department to review the proposal.*

Adjourn: 8:39 p.m.

Motion by: Commissioner Nelson

Second: Commissioner Graham

Vote: Unanimously approved.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., Dakota County Western Service Center, Apple Valley