



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

Date: 1/25/2024

Minutes prepared by Liz Hansen

Location: Western Service Center

Attendance

Members Present

- Jerry Rich
- Amy Hunting
- James Guttman
- Tony Nelson
- Kelly Kausel
- Dennis Peine
- Brady Folkestad
- Lori Hansen
- Jill Smith

Dakota County staff members attending:

- Kurt Chatfield, Planning Manager
- Liz Hansen, Administrative Coordinator
- Lil Leatham, Principal Planner
- Joe Walton, Natural Resource Senior Ecologist

Member(s) Absent:

- Barry Graham
- Mike Cahn

Meeting Called to Order

- Time: 7:04 p.m.
- By Planning Manager, Kurt Chatfield
- Commissioner Folkestad arrived at 7:06 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

- The Planning Commission opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

- Comments/Notes: No audience member wished to address an item not on the agenda.

Election of 2024 Planning Commission Officers

Election of 2024 Planning Commission Chair

Kurt Chatfield summarized the Planning Commission's bylaws before the Planning Commission votes on its 2024 officers. He then informed the Planning Commission that the following Planning Commissioners had expressed an interest in the following positions: Commissioner Hunting was interested in the Chair position, Commissioner Guttman was interested in the Vice-Chair position, and Commissioner Graham was interested in serving in the Secretary position.

Planning Manager Kurt Chatfield began the election of Planning Commission positions by calling for a nomination for the Planning Commission Chair.

Commissioner Hansen nominated Commissioner Hunting for the position of Planning Commission Chair. No additional nominations were made.

Second by Commissioner Folkestad.

Vote: unanimously approved

Commissioner Hunting then assumed the duties of Chair for 2024.

Election of 2024 Planning Commission Vice-Chair

Chair Hunting called for nominations for the position of Planning Commission Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Nelson nominated Commissioner Guttman for the position of Vice Chair. No additional nominations were made.

Second by Commissioner Rich.

Vote: unanimously approved

Commissioner Guttman then assumed the duties of Vice-Chair.

Election of 2024 Planning Commission Secretary

Chair Hunting, called for nominations for the position of Planning Commission Secretary.

Commissioner Hansen nominated Barry Graham. No additional nominations were given.

Second by Commissioner Smith.

Vote: unanimously approved

Commissioner Graham then assumed the duties of Secretary.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Hunting asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

The Planning Commission advised no changes, additions, or deletions.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Kausel, approving the agenda. Voice vote: Ayes – 9 – Nays – 0 – Unanimously Approved

Approval of Minutes (from December 14, 2023)

Chair Hunting asked if there were any changes to the previous meeting's minutes.

The Planning Commission advised no changes, additions, or deletions.

MOTION: Commissioner Folkestad moved, seconded by Commissioner Hansen, approving the previous meeting's minutes. Voice vote: Ayes – 9 – Nays – 0 Abstain – 0 – Approved

Establishment of 2024 Meeting Dates – Action

Kurt Chatfield proposed meeting dates for 2024.

Chair Hunting entertained a motion to approve the 2024 meeting dates as presented. The Planning Commission voted to approve the 2024 meeting dates.

MOTION: Commissioner Kausel moved, seconded by Commissioner Guttman, approving the 2024 Meeting Dates. Voice vote: Ayes – 9 – Nays – 0 Abstain – 0 – Approved

Planning Commission Administrative Forms – Information

Administrative Services Coordinator Liz Hansen spoke about two forms that need to be filled out and returned. The two forms are: "Consent to Release Private Data" and "Citizen Advisory Committee Member Statement of Representation." Every year, Planning Commissioners must fill out the two mandatory forms.

2024 Planning Commission Work Plan – Information

Planning Manager Kurt Chatfield outlined the County Board's adopted 2024 Planning Commission Workplan.

Planning Commission members asked several clarifying questions about the plans and studies for 2024.

Miesville Ravine Long-Range Plan and Natural Resources Management Plan– Action (Lil Leatham, Principal Planner, and Joe Walton, Natural Resource Senior Ecologist)

The Planning Commission received an update on the public comments received on the Draft Miesville Ravine Long-range Plan (LP) and Park Reserve Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) and resulting plan changes. Lil Leatham, Principal Planner, and Joe Walton, Natural Resource Senior Ecologist, presented this topic and responded to questions.

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

Is there anything we can do regarding the public comments on equity at Miesville? *Staff suggested increasing park patrol frequency to address concerns about safety and adding multilingual signage.*

There was a troubling public comment about feeling unsafe in the park because of the presence of guns. Could staff give more information about that issue? *State law allows guns in the park. There was a specific incident at Miesville, and Sheriff deputies have responded and believe that they have resolved the issue. The frequency of Park Patrols for Miesville has been increased as a precautionary measure. Parks maintenance staff have also been made aware of this particular issue and have been alerted to report suspicious or concerning behavior.*

There are neighboring landowner concerns about people within the park leaving the park to trespass on adjacent private property, either intentionally or unintentionally. Is this something that can be addressed through the recently adopted Park Ordinance? *Staff responded that they would follow up on this concern.*

Several suggestions were made about how to improve ADA accessibility at the park. One suggestion was to include signs with larger print. Another suggestion is to make sure that the boat/tube launch improvements are ADA-accessible. *Staff noted the comments along with a response that improvements to the park use area by the river will be reviewed from the perspective of ADA accessibility.*

Commissioners discussed the public comments received requesting mountain biking in the park. There was general agreement among the Planning Commission that while mountain biking is desired by some, the natural environment and cultural resources at Miesville are particularly sensitive and could be impacted by mountain biking. A comment was made that while sharing a trail system may be proposed, a shared trail system is often an unpleasant experience for hikers and, therefore, wouldn't work very well at this park. A question was raised about whether mountain biking is offered at other parks in southern Dakota County. *Staff responded that there may be opportunities to provide mountain biking at other parks and that this could be explored in the Park System Plan update.*

MOTION: Commissioner Rich moved, seconded by Commissioner Peine, approving the recommendation to the Physical Development Committee of the Whole to adopt the Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Long-range Plan and the Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Natural Resources Management Plan and authorization to submit the Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Long-range Plan to the Metropolitan Council for Approval. Voice vote: Ayes – 9 – Nays – 0 Abstain – 0 – Approved

Preparation for Joint Work Session with County Board - Discussion

Kurt Chatfield, Planning Manager, Provided the Planning Commission with an update about the proposed joint work session with the County Board. The Planning Commission discussed how they could best serve as an advisory body to the County Board. Commissioners requested that staff provide general talking points or slides to guide the discussion with the County Board around plans and policies.

Planning Manager Update and County Board Actions

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

- Authorized joint powers agreement with Scott County for RecycleZone Plus
- Provided direction on County Energy Conservation and Greenhouse Gas Policy

Upcoming Public Meetings – Community Outreach

Pilot Knob (CSAH 31) Trail Improvements in Farmington Open House	Tuesday, January 30, 5-6:30pm Farmington City Hall, Atrium Web Site: Pilot Knob Road (County Road 31) Trail, Farmington Dakota County
Vermillion River Watershed Plan Public Meeting	January 24 th , 5-7pm Pleasant Hill Library, Hastings

Topics for next meeting (Thursday, February 22, 2024)

Kurt Chatfield, Planning Manager, provided an overview of next month's meeting topics:

- Next month's meeting will be replaced by a work session with the County Board to discuss the 2024 Work Plan

Planning Commissioner Announcements/Updates:

A commissioner mentioned the Kaposia Library in South St. Paul Grand Opening scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2024, from 5–7 p.m. Ribbon cutting will occur at 5:30 p.m.

A commissioner mentioned that a Lunar New Year celebration event is scheduled for January 27 and 28, from 11:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Burnsville Center.

Adjournment

Chair Hunting asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Commissioner Kausel moved, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. Voice Vote: Ayes – 9 – Nays – 0 – Unanimously Approved.

**County Board/Planning Commission Joint Work Session: Thursday,
February 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., Dakota County Western Service Center,
Apple Valley**

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Hansen, Administrative Coordinator