

Lebanon Hills Regional Park 2014 Master Plan Citizen Panel – Composition and Selection Process

The County Board of Commissioners has established the Lebanon Hills Regional Park 2014 Master Plan Citizen Panel to review and comment on specific elements of the draft 2014 Master Plan. The Citizen Panel provides an additional opportunity for public involvement and comment, and will not supersede previous comments submitted.

Recommended Composition:

The Panel should reflect the broad range of users and interests in Lebanon Hills Regional Park. *Special consideration for broad geographic composition should be given.* Users and interests could include the following:

Demographic Minority Groups

- Senior citizens over age 65 (10.0 percent of County)
- Youth (28 percent of County) or youth group leaders
- Racial and ethnic minorities (17.7 percent of County)
- People with disabilities (8 percent of County)
- Low-income households (7.5 percent of County meets definition of poverty)
- Other groups

Recreation and Park Interests

- Mountain Biking
- Hiking
- Classic Cross Country Skiing
- Skate Skiing
- Equestrian
- Trail Running
- Naturalist: e.g., birding, plant study
- Natural Resources Stewardship
- Bicycling
- Swimming
- Canoeing and Kayaking
- Camping
- Picnicking
- Volunteerism

Recommended Process:

Notification:

The Citizen Panel application process will be publicized through news releases, posting on the County website, listserv items, and other notification and promotion methods after the February 25, 2014 County Board meeting.

Application:

The following pages include an application form, to be completed by interested individuals and submitted to the County Board by March 28, 2014 by end of day.

Selection:

Each Commissioner shall nominate two representatives to the Citizen Panel. At-large members may be nominated by the Board to provide adequate representation of Dakota County residents and their interests. The Citizen Panel will consist of no more than 20 members. Candidate interviews may be conducted at the discretion of County Commissioners. Selected candidates will be notified by phone and/or email.

1: General Information

The County Board of Commissioners has established the Lebanon Hills Regional Park 2014 Master Plan Citizen Panel to review and comment on specific elements of the draft 2014 Master Plan. The Board is seeking applicants to serve on a Citizen Panel. The role of the Citizen Panel is to review and provide comments to the Board on specific elements of the draft 2014 Master Plan. The Citizen Panel will meet approximately eight times between April 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014 – generally one to two evening meetings per month. Each meeting is estimated to be a maximum of three hours in length. Meetings will be held in the evenings. Additional preparation may be required outside of the panel’s formal meetings.

To form a high-performing and productive Citizen Panel, desired qualities for applicants include:

1. Respect for and interest in the perspectives of other potential park users
2. An ability to work toward finding common ground and solutions on a range of controversial and/or complex issues
3. Support for the mission of Lebanon Hills Regional Park as serving the diverse outdoor recreation needs of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, including all Dakota County residents.
4. Background reflective of a specific user experience within Lebanon Hills Regional Park.

2: Application Deadline

Applications for the Citizen Panel must be submitted to the Dakota County Board of Commissioners by no later than March 28, 2014, end of day. Applications can be sent to:

Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board
Administration Center
1590 Highway 55
Hastings, MN 55033

Email: board@co.dakota.mn.us

Fax: (651) 438-4405

3: Appointment Process

- Friday, March 28, 2014 – Applications Due, end of day.
- Thursday, April 3, 2014 – Individual Commissioners will submit a short list (three to five per commissioner) of highest priority nominees to County Administration by 12:00 p.m. Staff will compile the relevant applicant information for distribution to the Board of Commissioners, with availability on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, prior to the County Board meeting.
- April 8, 2014 – Citizen Panel appointments made.
- April 2014 – First meeting.