

**Recreational Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 3, 2012**

Committee Members Present: Karen Mulari (C) Del Bergseth, Hank Ludtke (VC), Ray Vlasak, Larry Knutson, Gerry Schram, Dennis Hopman

Staff Present: Martin Wiley, Guy Fischer, Ryan Tangen

Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda: Howard Kluender, Willis Mattison, Matthew Davis, Patrick Hollister, Karen Nitzkowski, Katherine Warren

1. Chair Welcome Introductions

- **Meeting Minutes Review/Approval: 1) January 10th (revised); 2) February 7th (no quorum); 3) March 6th;** (Ludtke motion to approve Jan., Feb., and March meeting minutes, Vlasak 2nd ; motion passed)

2. Approval of Agenda: Ryan Tangen requested time on the agenda to talk about the Parks and Recreation Ordinance; The Chair granted his request and suggested that he be put on the agenda immediately following approval of the agenda (as 3A); motion to approve agenda by Hopman; 2nd by Ludtke; motion passed

3. Parks and Recreation Ordinance update provided by Ryan Tangen who spoke about recent changes that were being suggested per the Public Hearing that was held on the Ordinance. If RAC members had any suggested changes/comments they needed to be provided by tomorrow as the language was being finalized. He noted that the ordinance was a living document and that as needs arise it was subject to change. The Ordinance would be up for consideration by the County Board on April 23rd.

4. Open Forum: <Howard Kluender mentioned that there were now 2 certified ambassadors for the Woods and Wheels club. The Ambassador program is a DNR program and “we plan to be out on the trails” – must log certain number of hours each month to maintain certification (2 hrs. riding a week and 2 hrs. at intersections with literature). <Willis Mattison requested that the pending recreational survey seek to determine impacts on hwy ROW, sensitive lands, wisdom of road racing on County managed lands – looking for County policy on that issue using forest resources for Road Rally racing. <Matthew Davis request to reprint county hwy map and put the North Country Trail on there. Mention of Hubbard county’s map (1 side hwy; other side recreational trails as example). Noted that while BC map legend lists various recreational activities the trails are not detailed. Per subsequent discussion, Katherine Warren did not want network of non designated trails put on the map.

5. RAC Vacancies listed in agenda; Ludtke motion to fill vacancies; Hopman 2nd; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- 6. Recreational Needs Survey Update & Discussion:** Fischer asked RAC members to review and compare the two proposals that had been developed by NDSU (\$12,000) and U of MN (\$27,000) for the purposes of a County Recreational Needs Survey.

General Comments on Survey: If property tax statements were to be used what about reaching tribal members who may not own homes (Warren); lean on elements in the REC Plan/rural urban elements (Powers); Survey questions need to help us figure out what we are trying to answer (Vlasak); What information is going to be the most useful – look at creating subcommittee (Mattison); Have Technical subcommittee set task – empower, County-wide (Knutson); Question validity of the survey (Schram); Q. (to Patrick Hollister/Karen Nitzskorski – Ship4 Health) What did you learn from doing the active living survey for Detroit Lakes (Fischer)? Frequency of Parks utilization, data used for DNR trail grant requests for Perham which received funding for a trail and for Detroit Lakes which received grant funding for building sidewalks for creating safe routes to school; What is it that we want out of this survey? (Vlasak)

Comments on Survey Proposals: Univ. of MN proposal (8 pages is too long – Mulari); general comment on high cost of U of MN proposal; NDSU proposal – liked size of survey being proposed and cost; would like to go with NDSU proposal (Ludtke); I agree with Hank (Vlasak), but lets also look at selecting Tech subcommittee. (Motion by Vlasak to make recommendation to the County Board to support the NDSU proposal to do the Recreational Survey in the amount of up to \$12,000 – 2nd by Hopman; motion passed. Mention of SHIP4 Health’s interest in piggyback on survey and include questions that meet their aims – potential to pick up 25% or more of the cost of the survey depending on % of questions included. MN Department of Health is fine with participating in the survey (Hollister).

Tech Subcommittee suggestions for consideration (check with Board and see if they want input); Neal Powers (Tamarac), Katherine Warren (WE), Marty Wiley, Matt Davis (NCT), Ray Vlasak (NCT/RAC), Brad Green, applicable contacts for Itasca and DNR should be explored. Howard Kluender what about ATV clubs? Want to avoid special interest groups (Mulari). Staff to put decision package together for next Finance/Board meeting.

- 7. Snowmobile Club Maintenance and Grooming Update for 2011-2012:** snowmobile clubs looking at insurance consolidation, proposal to smooth out some trails (Reapers) - interest in keeping the RAC in the loop as these proposals develop.
- 8. Heartland Trail Alignment Options:** Fischer provided information showing an opportunity to explore/piggy back potential trail alignment options in conjunction with planned DOT Hwy 34 improvements slated for scoping in 2014 and for construction in 2018. Planning to bring information to next Heartland Trail Committee to be held in Osage on the 13th.

- 9. Meeting Adjournment**