

Brown County Park Commission Meeting Minutes
Brown County Courthouse – 6:30 PM, November 3rd, 2025

Members Present: Marie Guggisberg, Lisa Schmitz, Tom Schmitz, and Don Wellner

Others present: Tony Berg- County Commissioner, Sam Hansen- County Administrator, Gary Schenk- Park Caretaker, Robert Santaella- Park Director, and Allison Kletscher- Park Assistant

Members of the Public: David Feirer

1) Call To Order 6:31 PM

2) September 15th Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Guggisberg to approve the meeting minutes and seconded by Lisa Schmitz. Motion passed 4-0.

3) Park Reports

- a. Lake Hanska: Santaella stopped out at the park today. He stated they have been doing brush and tree removal. He went over the new campground system with the park caretaker. Santaella noted that the camping permits were lower this year, but we don't have site specific numbers or data on total number of nights booked. We are a little too early to have the revenue information. Tom Schmitz noted that he would like to see more data on the camping usage next year with the new system.
- b. Lost Dog and Fox Hunter: Santaella stated that the park closed for the season October 15th. There were no big projects at this park this year. He noted he met about fixing the dock and is waiting on quotes for the project. There is welding, repainting, and new dock boards needed to repair the dock.
- c. Tremi: Santaella noted that the park closed for the season October 15th. STS is installing the new entry gate this week. It will be closer to the beginning of the driveway. Eric Bruns trapped 2 or 3 beavers by the outlet that were being a nuisance.
- d. Mound Creek: Schenk stated that he got sand out there and leveled it all out. The dock is out for the winter. He noted the shingles and the pole on the shelter need to be replaced. Schenk requested No ATV signs.

Tom Schmitz asked about the use of the park. Schenk stated that it depends on the weather. There are a couple of waves in mid afternoon and evening after school and work get out. The main activity and use area is the swimming beach.

Wellner asked question about when Highway would be doing work out there. Robert stated they will be out there on Wednesday.

The Park Commission discussed haying contracts at Mound Creek and going out for bids again. Concerns from staff are that while the leafy spurge is more controlled it still may not be enough, and haying could spread it further especially if hayed while it is seeded out. Tom Schmitz suggested getting a biologist's recommendation and would like to see a vegetation management plan for the park. Yearly revenue from previous contracts was about \$1600 annually with about \$600 advertising cost the first year.

Motion made by Wellner to recommend advertising and going out for bids in Spring 2026 for a 3-year haying contract at Mound Creek that would follow previous contract requirements with an optional 2-year extension and seconded by Guggisberg.

Roll Call Vote:

Guggisberg – Y L. Schmitz – Y T. Schmitz – Y Wellner – Y

4) **New Business**

- a. ADA Park Evaluation- Santaella stated that the highway was doing an ADA assessment and we were given the opportunity to have the parks added to that. The document we received from them has all the suggested improvements to the parks to make them ADA compliant.

b. Park Caretaker Contracts

The Park Commission discussed the Park Caretaker contracts and proposed increases. Santaella noted that not all of the increases were the same, but the numbers were what the caretakers felt was necessary to be able maintain the park. Tom Schmitz stated next year he would like to see some more info next year on hours spent, equipment cost, etc.

Motion made by Lisa Schmitz to recommend approval of the Park Caretaker contracts and seconded by Guggisberg.

Roll Call Vote:

Guggisberg – Y L. Schmitz – Y T. Schmitz – Y Wellner – Y

- c. Park Commission 2026 Schedule- Park Commission discussed the 2026 meeting schedule.

Motion was made by Lisa Schmitz to approve the proposed meeting dates but change the meeting times from 6:30pm to 6:00pm and seconded by Wellner. Motion passed 4-0.

5) **Old Business**

- a. Camping Reservation System- Santaella gave an update on the new system. It looks nice and should be more user friendly. It should be up and running for next year.

6) **Other Business**

- a. Park Commission Information- Santaella noted that we can remove Jason Melzer from the contact list and there have been conversations with the appropriate County Commissioner about finding a new Park Commission member for District 3.
- b. Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission- Tom Schmitz provided a link and showed the park commission the website for the [Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission](#) because of the interest in trying to make Lake Hanska and Mound Creek regionally significant park to open up the opportunity to apply for grants for improvements to the parks.

7) At 8:03pm, Chairman Schmitz declared the meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes to be approved at the next Park Commission meeting which is scheduled for May 4th, 2025.