

Brown County Park Commission Meeting Minutes

Lake Hanska Park – 6:30 PM, September 15th, 2025

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

Others present: Jeff Veerkamp- County Commissioner, Lynn Hage- Park Caretaker, Gary Schenk, Robert Santaella- Park Director, and Allison Kletscher- Park Assistant

1) Call To Order 6:30 PM

2) August 4th Meeting Minutes

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

3) Park Reports

- a. Lost Dog and Fox Hunter: Santaella talked to Eric who said there is not a ton going on at the park and aside from some people fishing things are starting to slow down.
Park Commission discussed the fence line along the driveway. They were in agreeance that if it is an eyesore that it should be removed or improved. Santaella noted that it is there to discourage trespassers when the park is closed for the season. Once a living fence or hedge row is planted and established the fence can be evaluated and likely removed. Guggisberg stated that we should be keeping in mind what is the most cost effective and not making it look nicer if it is going to be removed once fence line is planted.
- b. Trembl: Santaella talked to the park caretaker who said everything is looking good. There has been less traffic lately. The rodents are messing with the siding on the privy. Santaella noted that he new yard light and lights in the shelter work and that there is no news on the outlet and we are still waiting on the DNR.
- c. Mound Creek: Schenk stated that things are going well at the park. There have been a couple of fishing tournaments. He asked about getting signs to prohibit side-by-sides in addition to the ATV sign. Santaella noted he spoke with the County Attorney and the laws about UTVs are convoluted on where they are allowed or not. The park commission agreed that a “no motorized vehicles beyond this point” sign may be sufficient.
Wellner stated the spray crew was out today. He was wondering what the plan is for tree and brush removal in the dam area is. Santaella stated he is meeting with highway at the park soon to discuss what work needs to be done.
Schenk asked about cutting down the trees along the driveway. Santaella stated if we have the funding we will look into starting to remove them next year or have STS work on it as they have time.

- d. Lake Hanska: Hage stated that there was work done in the beach area. A berm was built to divert water and some brush was cleared to open up the lake view. He also noted that they have been doing some painting and that camping is slowing down.
Santaella stated that a master park plan is in the preliminary budget for 2026.

4) **New Business**

- a. Lake Hanska Beach Project: Santaella stated that the highway department was out and completed a project in the beach area. A berm was built to redirect water that was causing erosion problems

- b. Lake Hanska Camping Reservation Programs: Santaella stated they have had demo meetings for 3 different reservation systems.
ResNexus- \$84/month, credit card fees 2.9% plus \$.30 per transaction. (Same system as Blue Earth County)

Rover Pass- \$7.97 per reservation, credit card fee 2.9% plus \$.25 per transaction. Reservation fee is paid by the camper. Staff felt this would not be favored locally.

Campspot- \$100/month, credit card fees not discussed. Has a marketplace that is opt in for 10% of the reservation fee.

Motion to recommend County Board approve using ResNexus for the camping reservation program by Lisa Schmitz and seconded by Guggisberg. Motion passed 4-0.

- 5) At 7:33pm, Chairman Schmitz declared the meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes to be approved at the next Park Commission meeting which is scheduled for November 3rd, 2025.