

Brown County Park Commission Meeting Minutes

Treml Park – 6:30 PM, May 5th, 2025

Members Present

Marie Guggisberg, Lisa Schmitz, Tom Schmitz, and Don Wellner

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

Members of the Public: Leon Treml

1) Call To Order 6:28 PM

2) Electing of Officers

Chair:

Motion was made by Guggisberg to nominate Tom Schmitz for Chair and seconded by Lisa Schmitz. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion was made by Wellner to cast unanimous ballot for Tom Schmitz as Chair and seconded by Guggisberg. Motion passed 4-0.

Vice Chair:

Tom Schmitz called for a volunteer for Vice Chair. Don Wellner volunteered.

Motion was made by Guggisberg to cast unanimous ballot for Don Wellner for Vice Chair and seconded by Schmitz. Motion passed 4-0.

3) November 5th Meeting Minutes

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

4) New Business – Park Reports

Staff provided background information on each park for new park commissioner members.

a. Treml: Santaella stated STS was working on fixing up the privy and that project is almost done. We are also looking at replacing the entry gate this year. Highway staff looked at the outlet structure and recommended repairs. The options for the outlet are 1) maintenance/repairs or 2) lake study for a new outlet structure. The maintenance/repair is likely the most cost-effective option.

b. Lost Dog and Fox Hunter: Santaella stated the ash tree project is completed. STS took down around ash trees and Carr's Tree Service ground the stumps and filled holes with dirt. Santaella also noted that the fishing dock need maintenance as some of the locking pins are worn out. Tom Schmitz stated we may be able to apply for a DNR grant.

- c. Lake Hanska: Hage stated that they are working on cleaning up the beach area because a big oak tree fell. Hage noted that the wells are working after being cleaned out last year. He also stated they are working on the shower house and getting it ready for camping which starts fishing opener weekend. Santaella stated that staff is looking into getting new software for the camping reservations similar to the one Blue Earth County uses. Lisa Schmitz asked about having benches near the beach area.
Tom Schmitz stated that he thinks Lake Hanska Park could qualify as a regionally significant park which would open up the opportunity to apply for DNR Legacy grants. We would first need to get a professional masterplan to be able to get the regionally significant designation.
- d. Mound Creek: Schenk stated he would like more “no pets and no fishing on the beach” signs. He asked if a small area of the park could be mowed or if it could go out for bids to be hayed. Schenk noted that the south shelter could use some new shingles, the bathroom needs painting and the trees along the driveway are starting to look bad. He asked about the buoys for the swim area. Santaella stated we got the buoys through a water safety grant and how we intend on installing them.
Santaella stated that the county board approved the spraying bids for this year. They will be using garlon 3A which has no haying restrictions.
Wellner had questions about haying as well as the bids and bid process for the spraying and haying. Santaella explained the bid processes.

5) At 7:40pm, a **Motion** was made by Wellner to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Guggisberg. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting minutes to be approved at the next Park Commission meeting which is scheduled for June 2nd, 2025.