

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Annual Parks Tour Notes

August 12, 2020 – 6:00 PM

Battle Creek Regional Park

Commission Members In Attendance: Chairperson: Leah Shepard (AL), Michael Berger (AL), Jessica Pitzel (1), Jordan Nelson (2), Brian Tempas (3), Metric Giles (4)

Not Present: Bryan Shirley (5), Melissa Wenzel (6), Candy Petersen (7)

Guests: Dr. Ranry Salk, Catherine Zimmer, Holly Jacobs (sp?) and Lisa Garcia

Staff: Mark McCabe, Zoua Yang, Lisa Hanson Lamey, Ann WhiteEagle, Gus Blumer, Benjamin Karp, Justin Townsend, Claire Thone, Branden Block, Darren Tobolt and Angela Marlette

Nature Play Area Tour

- Gus Blumer and Benjamin Karp lead a tour of the New Nature Play Area discussing features and play design.

Soil & Water Conservation Demo:

- Watercraft inspection program: The Soil and Water Division of Parks manages a very extensive aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention program. That includes contracting with WaterGuards for over 2000 hours of inspections at the launches by DNR trained inspectors. The second piece, somewhat unique in the state, is deployment of our decontamination unit. This unit uses a combination of hot water and high pressure to remove and kill any AIS in or on a watercraft. This includes zebra mussel veligers (babies) that are invisible to the naked eye. Our unit is normally placed at known spreader lakes such as White Bear Lake. With consistent use and public support we hope to lower the risk of spread with a simple wash of the boat and flush of the engine. Five minutes of decontamination can save lake users a lifetime of negative impacts.

Battle Creek Master Plan Update

- Ben reviewed the ongoing Master Planning and Community Engagement.

Discussion with Community Members:

- An in-depth discussion with attending Community members regarding shared trail use and their concerns occurred. Commission Members were able to address some concerns on improved wayfinding signage. More review of the MOU with MORC will need to be done in alignment with Community feedback already obtained prior to developing the Master Plan.

Next Meeting: September 9, 2020