Minutes for July 22, 2026

Hok Si La Park
2500 North Hwy 61
Lake City, MN 55041
APPROVED

Commissioners Present: Rick Anderson, Rob Mason, Beth Pierce, Jen Foley, Tom Schmitz, Tom Stoa,

Commissioners Absent: Reid Huttunen, Barry Wendorf, Brad Bonk, Jonathan Wolf, Peg Furshong, Tim Engrav, Karlin Ziegler

Consultants Present: Renee Mattson-Executive Director, Joe Czapiewski System Plan Coordinator

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Anderson 10:06 am
   Meeting Goals – to conduct a timely and efficient meeting but no actions will be taken due to the lack of a quorum

2. **Acknowledge Members of the Public in Attendance**
   Lisa Quest, Park Manager and Doug Grout, Executive Director of the Lake City Port Authority
   Lisa spoke about the park, which is 252 acres and offers rustic tent camping along with 10 camper cabins. The park is very popular, with 80% of their campers being repeat visitors. In 1973 the city purchased the property from the Boy Scouts with the caveat that the park remains rustic, i.e. no camper vans, motorhomes, travel trailers, etc. The park has an amazing beach and the dining hall, in which the meeting was held, is a popular gathering place for weddings, reunions and other events. Future plans call for an improved parking lot, elevated boardwalk and a four-season bathhouse.

3. **Approval of Agenda for July 22, 2026, Minutes from June 24, 2026 and Treasurer's Report through June 2026.**
   Information was reviewed but no action was taken due to lack of a quorum

4. **Executive Director's Report**
   There was nothing to add beyond the report submitted prior to the meeting.

5. **System Plan Coordinator's Report**
   There was nothing to add beyond the report that was submitted prior to the meeting.

6. **Items from Members and Letters to the Commission**
   Mason – Work on the Gull Lake Trail Master plan update is underway.
   Pierce – no
   Foley – Appreciated the letter Commissioner Stoa sent to Kevin Fellbaum after the tour of Phelps Mill. The letter asked that accessibility improvements be strongly considered for the future and reminded him there are grant funds available for that purpose.
   Schmitz – Brown County is supportive of a Lake Hanska designation for regional significance and will start working on that. The Kern Bridge project over the Blue Earth River is underway and will connect the Land of Memories and Sibley parks on either side of the river. The Commission provided grant funds to help support this costly, but beautiful improvement, which in addition to being necessary is also saving an historic bridge from being sent to the dump heap.
   Stoa – Announced he will soon be assuming the role of Chairman of the Board of the Parks and Trails Council. Most of the work of the council is done on behalf of the State Parks and Trails. Their annual meeting will be held on September 17, 2026.
   Anderson – The Lyon County Board approved the Garvin Park contracts for work using the most current grant funds. The work includes a new bathroom, camper cabins, electrical and dirt work.

7. **New Business**

   7.1 Approval of Master Plan Update for Quarry Park 14-007D

   The previous score for this master plan was 450, the score for the update is 457 and there is a Grade of B. The consensus recommendation from those present was to accept the score and update. Action will be taken at the September meeting to formally accept the new master plan.

   7.2 Approval of Master Plan Update for Northerly Park 16-050D

   The previous score for this master plan was 343, the score for the update is 414 and there is a Grade of B. The consensus recommendation from those present was to accept the score and update. Action will be taken at the September meeting to formally accept the new master plan.

7.3 Preview of FY28 Funding Applications

Czapiewski reviewed with Commissioners the 13 applications that have been submitted for FY28 grant funding. The number of applications is lower than in a typical grant year, however the dollars requested are generally larger than is typical. With $14-$16 million that may be available for granting, there is an obvious shortfall between requests and actual funds available.

7.4 Legislative Agenda for 2027

Mattson discussed the upcoming legislative session, which will likely see changes with the makeup of the Legacy committees due to 2026 elections. Discussion about the lack of response from the DNR regarding the follow up letter sent to those in attendance at the May meeting with Anderson and Mattson. There was a consensus that perhaps the $280,000 offered in the letter was too much given the lack of response or action to provide monthly reporting as promised more than a year ago. There seemed to be agreement that $250,000 annually for grant administration would be a better number.

8. Old Business

8.1 Marketing RFP

Discussion about the marketing RFP was positive and agreement on sending it out as is was reached.

8.2 Development of the Park Finder Application

The group agreed the development of a park finder application, supported by funding from the Coordination Among Partners Fund would be a good step to increasing awareness of all three systems and would be a much better tool than the current, outdated website that was developed some years ago. The suggestion was made to be sure the application made reference to the Legacy Amendment as the funding source for the improvements seen across all three systems.

9. Approval of Expenses for July 2026

With no quorum present the approval of the July 2026 expenses will occur at the September 23 meeting in Chisholm.

10. Meeting Adjourned