

City of Winsted
Park Commission
Monday, March 11, 2013
7:30 p.m.

Park Commission Members Present: Steve Ebert
Petie Littfin
Kimberly Moen
Bonnie Quast, Council Liaison

Staff Present: Brad Martens, City Administrator
Raquel Kirchoff, Administrative Assistant

1) Call the Meeting to Order

Ms. Moen called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2) Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2012

Mr. Ebert questioned if anything has been done beyond the Park Commission's recommendation for the Park Capital Improvement fee. Mr. Martens stated that the fee was adopted with the City's 2013 Fee Schedule and was placed on the February, 2013 utility bill.

Mr. Ebert made a motion to approve the minutes of the Park Commission Meeting on December 10, 2012. Ms. Littfin seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

3) Staff Report

Mr. Martens gave the following City of Winsted Staff Report related to the Park Commission:

- Ice skating rink on the lake is closed due to the warmer weather.
- Update on the Luce Line State Trail.

Council Member Quast asked if the Public Works Department has seen any dead trees from the Emerald Ash Borer disease. Mr. Martens stated no. Ms. Littfin asked if there is information published regarding Emerald Ash Borer. Mr. Martens recommended the University of Minnesota's website for information.

4) No Old Business

5) New Business

a) Connecting Downtown Winsted to the Luce Line State Trail

Mr. Martens stated that at the December 4, 2012 City Council meeting, a cooperative agreement between the City of Winsted and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was approved, committing \$100,000 toward the paving of the Luce Line State Trail. The commitment of funds is part of an agreement between the DNR, City of Winsted, City of Hutchinson, City of Silver Lake, and McLeod County to fund \$1,860,000 toward the project in 2013. A remaining commitment of approximately \$1,650,000 remains to complete the improvement. The DNR has agreed to place the project at the top of their priority list for 2014 funding.

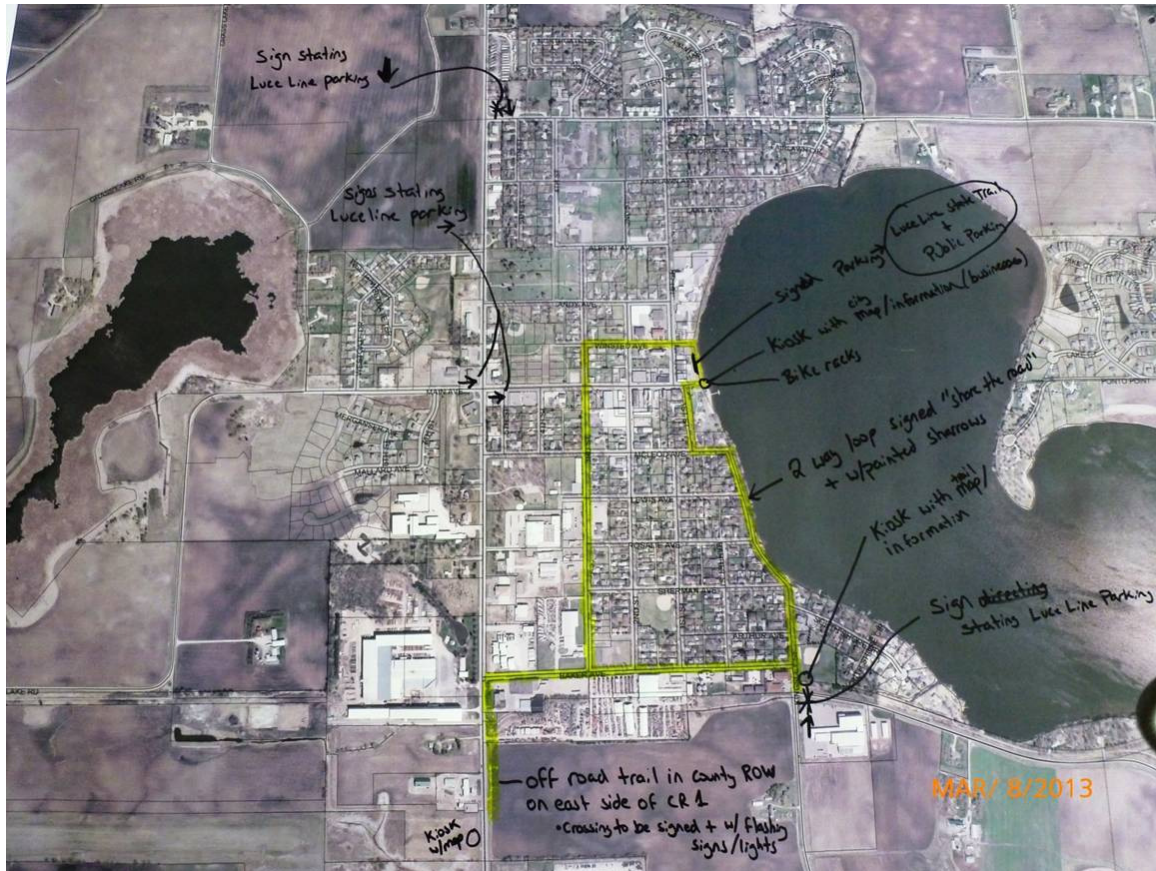
Mr. Martens stated that the trail could be paved by the summer of 2014. Trail improvements will be maintained by the DNR, no additional local funding will be required after the improvements have been made.

Mr. Martens stated that the City Council has directed staff to ensure that the City is fully ready to take advantage of this recreational amenity and has tasked the Park Commission with recommending the best method of connecting trail users to downtown Winsted. The Council has also requested that the Park Commission recommend how trail users travel through Winsted as there is a need to use streets for a small portion until land acquisition can take place.

Mr. Martens stated that the Park Commission held a Work Session on Thursday, March 7, 2013 to discuss the possible options that exist and created a plan accomplishing the following goals:

- Connecting the trail to downtown Winsted
- Allowing for a “through” path for those not interested in stopping in Winsted
- Providing signage and parking for a trail users in the promenade

Mr. Martens displayed the map that was discussed at the Park Commission Work Session as follows:



Mr. Martens stated that the details of the plan include the following:

- A two way loop along Kingsley and Third Street to be signed “Share the Road” with painted “sharrows”
- The Promenade to be used for a parking trail head with signs stating “Luce Line State Trail & Public Parking”
- Signs placed on County Road One (CR 1), County Road Nine (CR 9), and Linden Avenue directing vehicles to the trail head parking
- Bike racks installed on the Promenade’s area known as the “helipad”
- Kiosks located in three locations with the main kiosk on the “helipad” showcasing Winsted businesses

The Park Commission discussed the proposed loop that brings trail bikers through downtown Winsted, and if it is the most ideal path. The Park Commission members decided that the proposed path of Baker Avenue, Third Street, crossing over Main Avenue, and Winsted Avenue, is still the best option to bring bikers through the downtown area.

Ms. Moen asked if residents along the streets with the painted “sharrows” would still be able to park on the street. Mr. Martens stated yes. He continued by stating that residents should not be concerned that parking would change for them.

Ms. Littfin motioned to recommend the City Council direct staff to begin working on the plan to connect Winsted to the Luce Line State Trail as presented. Mr. Ebert seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

b) Pedestrian Crossing Signage Request – McLeod County

Mr. Martens stated that John Brunkhorst, McLeod County Engineer, has received a request from a citizen regarding the possible installation of pedestrian crossing signs on County Road 116 at the Sherman Avenue West intersection in Winsted. Locally, County Road 116 is known as Second Street South.

Mr. Martens stated that the County is willing to install the signage with the City's recommendation to do so as long as the City maintains the crosswalk painting on the roadway as it exists. He continued by stating that the Winsted Public Works is willing to maintain the crosswalk painting.

Ms. Moen motioned to recommend that City staff approve a request by McLeod County to install Pedestrian Crossing Signage at the intersection of Sherman Avenue and Second Street South. Mr. Ebert seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

6) Announcements

a) Park Commission Openings

Mr. Martens stated that there are two openings on the Winsted Park Commission and encouraged residents to consider these openings. He continued by stating that the Park Commission is working on exciting projects of the Luce Line Trail and the development of a permanent ice rink.

7) Adjournment

Ms. Littfin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ebert seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Brad Martens,
City Administrator
City of Winsted

ATTEST:

Raquel Kirchoff
Administrative Assistant
City of Winsted