

Sochacki JPA Board Meeting

September 21, 2020; 4 PM

Zoom meeting

AGENDA

Roll Call

- 2020-01. Appointment of a new Chair for the JPA Board
- 2020-02. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2019 JPA Board Meeting
- 2020-03. Water Quality Update: Information and Discussion
- 2020-04. 2021-2025 Draft Capital Improvement Program
- 2020-05. Update on programming in the time of Covid-19
- 2020-06. Addition of JPA information on the Three Rivers Sochacki Park webpage
- 2020-07. JPA member and staff updates
- 2020-08. Next Meeting

Adjournment

SOCHACKI JPA BOARD ACTION ITEM

Meeting Date: 09/21/2020

Item Number: **2020-01**

Agenda Item: Appointment of a new Chair for the JPA Board

Operation Committee’s Recommendation:

MOTION TO APPROVE _____ AS THE CHAIR OF THE SOCHACKI JOINT POWERS BOARD.

At their first meeting in 2016, the JPA Board decided informally to alternate Chairs of the JPA between Robbinsdale and Golden Valley with the idea that a new Chair would be elected each year. Upon reflection of the past four years, it may be in the best interest of continuity to amend that recommendation so that each Chair serves approximately two year terms. The JPA may wish to codify the election and term length through amendment of the JPA Agreement, or may decide that an informal approach is sufficient and desirable.

Upon approval of the new Chair, the new Chair shall lead the remainder of the meeting.

Chair History:

Robbinsdale Mayor Regan Murphy was elected Chair of the JPA at the February 2016 meeting.

Golden Valley City Council member Larry Fonnest was elected Chair at the April 2018 JPA Meeting. Mr. Fonnest is the current Chair of the JPA.

REQUEST FOR SOCHACKI JPA BOARD ACTION

Meeting Date: 09/21/2020

Item Number: **2020-02**

Agenda Item: Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2019 JPA Board Meeting

Operation Committee's Recommendation:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2019, SOCHACKI JOINT POWERS BOARD MEETING.

Minutes Attached.

DRAFT Minutes
Sochacki Park JPA Governance Policy Board Meeting
April 22, 2019, 4:00 p.m.
Golden Valley Fire Station

Roll Call

Board Members:

Pat Backen, City Council Member, Robbinsdale
Larry Fonnest, City Council Member, Golden Valley
Dan Freeman, District 3 Commissioner, Three Rivers
John Gunyou, Chair, Three Rivers Board
Shep Harris – Mayor, Golden Valley (unable to attend)
Regan Murphy – Mayor, Robbinsdale

Operations Committee present:

Boe Carlson, Three Rivers (Unable to attend)
Timothy Cruikshank, Golden Valley
Marcia Glick, Robbinsdale

Others present:

Rick Birno, Golden Valley (Unable to attend)
Patty Maher, Three Rivers
Ryan Parks, Robbinsdale
Jonathan Vlaming, Three Rivers
Danny McCullough, Three Rivers
Barb Jordan, resident (neighborhood representative for the Water Quality Study)
Mac Murphy, resident

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 22, 2019**

Board members approved the minutes.

2. **Water Quality Update**

Staff provided an update on the discussion around improving water quality within Sochacki Park, including feedback from the September 16th community meeting held at Brookview Community Center in Golden Valley.

3. **Water Quality Action Motion to Approve**

The Operations Committee recommended creation and implementation of a water resources plan for the south and north Rice Pond wetland complex within Sochacki Park. Staff recommended creation of a steering committee whose members would include the Sochacki JPA partners, Bassett Creek WMO, other cities within the sub-watershed and a Citizen representative from the neighborhood adjacent to the South Pond.

Three Rivers agreed to take the lead in developing and implementing the water quality plan, and has funding identified in its 2020 Asset Management Program for this work. In addition, Three Rivers proposed to act as the first point of contact for water quality issues in Sochacki Park.

Freeman made a motion to approve the following action, seconded by Murphy:

MOTION TO DIRECT THE JPA OPERATIONS STAFF TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A WATER RESOURCES PLAN FOR THE SOUTH AND NORTH RICE POND WETLAND COMPLEX WITHIN SOCHACKI PARK.

The Motion was approved unanimously by the JPA Board.

Barb Jordan volunteered and was accepted as the neighborhood representative to sit on the steering committee.

4. JPA Member and Staff Updates

Discussion ensued about the Sochacki Expo, and included positive observations from JPA members about how well it went, and staff shared that attendance was about 280 people at the event.

5. Next Meeting: Information and Discussion

JPA members agreed to meet on Monday April 20, 2020 at Three Rivers Administrative Offices.
(Note – that meeting was later cancelled due to the pandemic)

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30. An optional bike tour of the park was well attended by JPA members and staff.

SOCHACKI JPA BOARD INFORMATION ITEM

Meeting Date: 09/21/2020

Item Number: **2020-03**

Agenda Item: Water Quality Project Update

Operation Committee's Recommendation:

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Angie Smith, Director of Natural Resources at Three Rivers, will provide an update on the Water Quality Project.

SOCHACKI JPA BOARD INFORMATION ITEM

Meeting Date: 09/21/2020

Item Number: 2020-04

Agenda Item: 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Program

Operation Committee’s Recommendation:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2021-2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR SOCHACKI PARK

Bottineau LRT and the CIP

The 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) no longer assumes that Bottineau LRT project will be using Sochacki Park for staging within the next five years. The new CIP reflects past JPA Board discussions of desired capital improvements and priorities.

Water Quality Implementation:

The CIP proposes to fund the second half of the Water Quality study in 2021, followed by an estimated investment of \$500,000 split between years 2022 and 2023 for implementation of the recommendations from that study. More detailed cost estimates will be known once the study is completed in 2021, and the next CIP will be updated to reflect that information. Funding is proposed through a combination of State of Minnesota Legacy Grant(s) (75 % of cost) and a local match of 25 percent by the JPA and WMO, with actual cost share details to be worked out by the JPA once more detailed cost estimates are known.

Classroom/Restroom/Potable Water:

The CIP proposes a one-room classroom, with adjacent restrooms and potable water be built at the site of the old picnic shelter southeast of the central parking lot. Design will begin in 2022, and construction will likely occur in 2023. Restrooms will be available to all park visitors through outside doors. Funding is included in Three River’s draft 2021-2025 CIP.

Pond water docks/boardwalks/learning stations:

The CIP proposes a to-be-determined assortment of docks and boardwalks on south Rice pond and north Rice (Grimes) pond. Public input will be sought on design and location. These may replace the existing dock on the south Rice pond, and the dilapidated boardwalk on the north end of that pond, possibly connecting them to create another entry into the park. Learning stations would be used for environmental education classes on aquatic life and the water quality improvements. Funding is included in Three River’s draft 2021-2025 CIP.

Interactive art/play nodes:

Starting in 2024, the CIP proposes installation of an interactive art play node along the trail within the park. Each year an additional installation will occur, with a goal of a total of 5 interactive play nodes replaced on a 5-year rotational schedule. The interactive art/play nodes would be curated and interpreted by staff from Silverwood Park. Public input will be sought on design and location.

Feasibility Study : trail underpass of Golden Valley Road

The in-park trail in Sochacki currently ends at Bonnie Lane. The original LRT plan called for replacing the Golden Valley Road bridge to accommodate the LRT, and to extend the Sochacki internal trail under the bridge into Wirth Park, ultimately connecting to Wirth Park and the adjacent Wirth-Memorial Parkway Regional Trail. The bridge replacement and associated trail extensions were all part of the original LRT plan.

Even without the LRT in the area, It may be possible to complete the trail connection. Staff proposes to do a feasibility study in 2025. In the meantime, bicyclists and pedestrians can access Wirth Parkway via Bonnie Lane and the north sidewalk (or bike lanes) along Golden Valley Road.

Sochacki and the Three Rivers 2040 System Plan

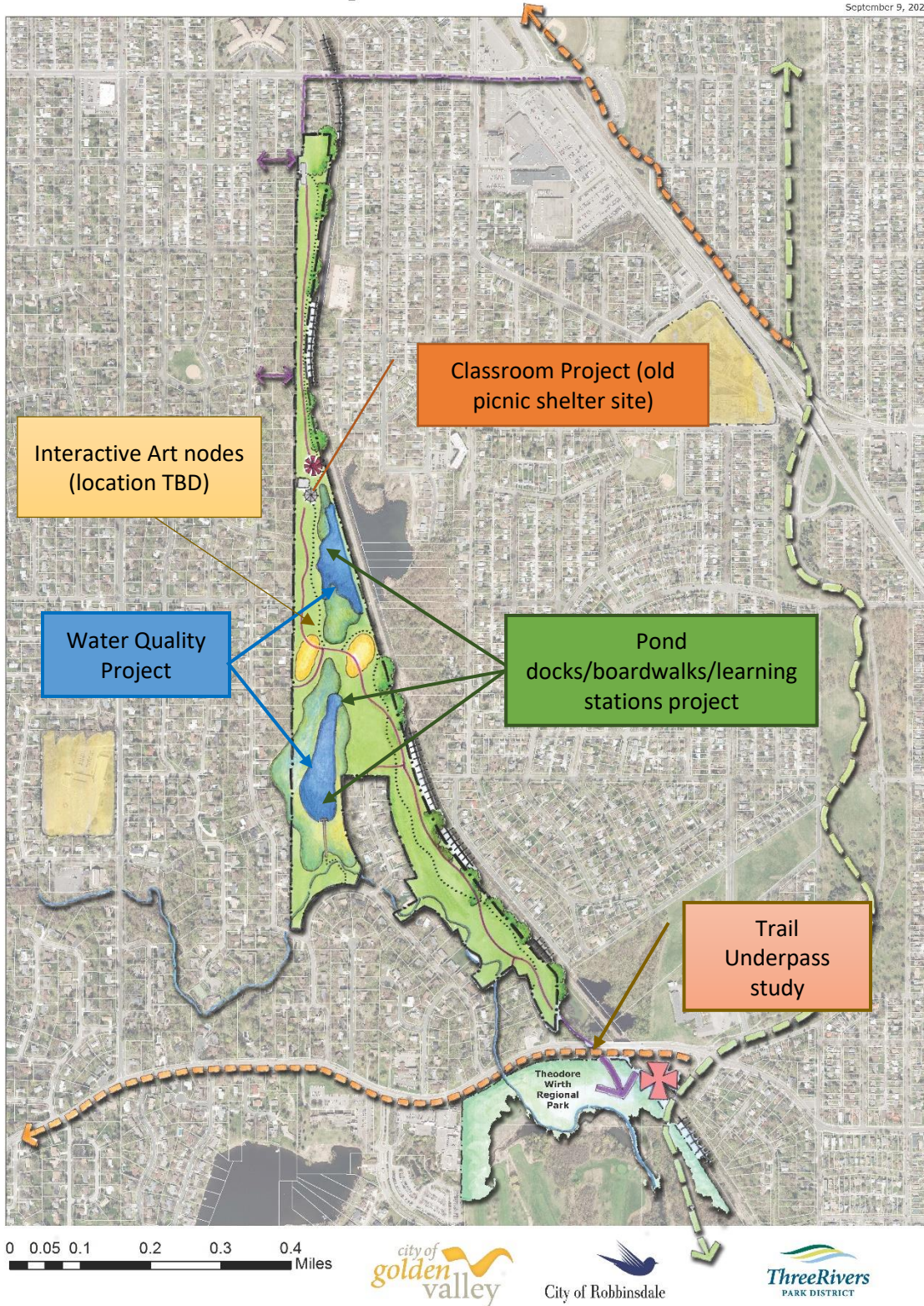
Three Rivers recently approved its 2040 System Plan. That plan has a strong focus on introducing new visitors to its nature-based park system. One of the initiatives identified in that plan is to work with Three Rivers’ first-ring cities partners to replicate and build upon our successes to date such as the Sochacki Park and Crystal-MAC Environmental Area partnership. This initiative will result in Sochacki being identified as a Regional Park System unit, making it eligible for future regional and state funding.

Proposed Capital Projects: 2021 - 2025

Capital Projects	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<i>Water Quality Project</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>\$250,000</i>	<i>\$250,000</i>		
<i>One-room classroom, with adjacent restrooms and potable water</i>		<i>\$700,000</i>			
<i>Pond water docks/boardwalks/learning stations</i>				<i>\$500,000</i>	
<i>Interactive art/play nodes (1 or 2 per year, on a five year rotation)</i>				<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>
<i>Feasibility study: Trail underpass/connection at Golden Valley Road</i>					<i>\$20,000</i>

Sochacki Park Improvements

September 9, 2020



SOCHACKI JPA BOARD INFORMATION ITEM

Meeting Date: 09/21/2020

Item Number: 2020-05

Agenda Item: Update on programming in the time of Covid-19

Operation Committee's Recommendation:

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Patty Maher from Three Rivers will provide an update on programs in 2020.

SOCHACKI JPA BOARD ACTION ITEM

Meeting Date: 09/21/2020

Item Number: 2020-06

Agenda Item: Addition of JPA information on the Three Rivers Sochacki Park webpage

Operation Committee's Recommendation:

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Three Rivers currently maintains a webpage for Sochacki Park.

<https://www.threeriversparks.org/location/sochacki-park>

This site currently includes information about the park and its facilities, programs, news, and brief information about the partnership.

Operations Committee members expressed an interest in expanding that webpage to include the following JPA related items:

1. Notices of upcoming meetings
2. Approved minutes from past meetings
3. Contact information (JPA members, primary park contact)
4. The JPA Agreement

The webpage will be the hub in which Sochacki information can be shared with the public. Partners can link directly to this page on their own sites.

SOCHACKI JPA BOARD INFORMATION ITEM

Meeting Date: 09/21/2020

Item Number: 2020-07

Agenda Item: JPA member and staff updates

Operation Committee's Recommendation:

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

This item serves as an opportunity to provide additional information or to discuss other topics not on the formal agenda.

SOCHACKI JPA BOARD INFORMATION ITEM

Meeting Date: 09/21/2020

Item Number: **2020-08**

Agenda Item: Next Meeting

Operation Committee's Recommendation:

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Identification of a date for the next JPA meeting.