

CITY OF HOYT LAKES

Resolution 2025-033

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE BROADER STEVEN CHAMBERS AREA, INCLUDING THE 1940 CCC SWIMMING PAVILION STRUCTURE, A HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT LOCATION AND TO BE REPURPOSED AND TRANSFORMED INTO A NEXT GENERATION MULTI-TRAIL RECREATION AND INTERPRETATIVE TRAILHEAD AREA

WHEREAS, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was President Franklin Roosevelt's first program during the Great Depression and at a time when unemployment nationally was 50% and even worse on the Iron Range at nearly 80% and;

WHEREAS, Minnesota had 148 CCC camps between 1933 and 1942, including the Allen Junction CCC Company P-52-2767 and Camp established December 20, 1937 on the Partridge River near what is the Municipal Golf Course east of present-day Hoyt Lakes and;

WHEREAS, the Allen Junction CCC Camp was a 160-person full-service camp complete with seven barracks, a large mess hall and kitchen, hospital, library and recreation room, auditorium, supply room, various garages and warehouses and;

WHEREAS, the men of the Allen Junction Camp constructed 41 miles of road and two bridges over the St. Louis River, erected a 110-foot steel fire look-out tower near Skibo Vista, completed the Whiteface Road (now Forest Highway 11) to Skibo Tower Road, planted more than 3 million white, red and jack pine seedlings while stocking area lakes with 250,000 fish and built a modern USFS Ranger Station near Aurora and;

WHEREAS, the CCC Camp P-52-2767 team designed and constructed a log style girls and boys Swimming Pavilion, complete with a fireplace and nestled on the south shore of Colby Lake in 1939-1940, some 15 years prior to ERIE MINING COMPANY and the establishment of the City of Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota and;

WHEREAS, the Swimming Pavilion area was widely used by area families, scouts, hikers and the local water-ski club and later re-named in honor of a boy-scout, Steven Chambers, who died of leukemia in May 1960 leaving a community reeling and;

WHEREAS, over the decades and as a result CCC termination, no permanent owner, the Chamber's name change and lack of regular maintenance, the CCC-Camp 2767 and its Swimming Pavilion lost their history, identity and luster all while falling into disrepair and;

WHEREAS, the structure was partially restored in 2015 by Minnesota Power-Lakehead Constructors and others only to have its roof, gables and fireplace severely and tragically damaged by an arsonist in June 2024 and;

WHEREAS, the Swimming Pavilion is perfectly situated at the intersection of three major trails namely; the soon to be created Mesabi Trail bike path extension from Aurora to Hoyt Lakes, the current Ranger Snowmobile & ATV Club trail and the nearby Superior National Forest Scenic Byway route and that the historic 1940 CCC Pavilion-Steven Chambers area could become an ideal TRAILHEAD RECREATION & INTERPRETATIVE AREA and;

WHEREAS; lands currently hosting the historic CCC-Swimming Pavilion have already been transferred from ALLETE-Minnesota Power to the 501-c-3 Rajala Woods Foundation (RWF) non-profit, who will serve as owner/fiscal agent for grant writing purposes and further; that structure restoration is underway and that the trailhead recreational/interpretative idea has gained considerable political/agency support,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOYT LAKES, MINNESOTA, AS FOLLOWS:

That the broader Steven Chambers area, including the 1940 CCC Swimming Pavilion structure, be designated a historically significant location. Be it further resolved, that the 1940 CCC Swimming Pavilion/Steven Chambers area be repurposed and transformed into a next generation multi-trail RECREATION & INTERPRETATIVE TRAILHEAD AREA.

AYES:

NAYS:

ADOPTED: This 8th day of December, 2025.



Brennan Scott, Mayor

Attest:


Dean Weiberg, City Administrator