

## GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The semi-monthly meeting of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, July 10, 2008, in the Conference Room of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Administration Building, 5045 Stanley Rd., Flint, Michigan.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joe Krapohl, President  
Mike Keeler, Citizen Representative  
Rose Bogardus, Commissioner  
William Lucas, Secretary  
Ted Henry, Commissioner  
Dave Miller, Ex-Officio  
James Washington, Vice President  
Raynetta Speed, Commissioner  
Bob Ranger, Ex-Officio  
Jeff Wright, Ex-Officio

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Amy M. McMillan, Director  
Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer  
Hilda McShane, Marketing Specialist  
Debra Gray, Seasonal Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brian Barkey, Legal Counsel  
Auburn Copeland

### **(1) CALL TO ORDER**

President Krapohl called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### **(2) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

No members of the public addressed the committee.

### **(3) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Discussion:** Commissioner Henry requested that the ratification of the bills be removed from the consent agenda.

### **Motion to approve the items on the consent agenda with the exception of commission bills.**

#### **Action Taken:**

Motion by Commissioner Bogardus  
Supported by Commissioner Washington

#### **Roll Call:**

Yeas: Washington, Lucas, Keeler, Ranger, Wright, Miller, Henry, Bogardus, Krapohl  
Nays: None  
Absent: Commissioner Speed was not present for the vote.

### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0**

### **(4) REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL**

Mr. Barkey had no report.

### **(5) DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. McMillan introduced Debra Gray who is recording the meeting today in the absence of Debbie Wilkes. Ms. McMillan asked Hilda McShane, Marketing Specialist to update the commissioners about the Huckleberry Hustle race scheduled for this evening at 7pm. Ms. McShane told the commissioners that pre-registrants numbers are at 197 entries and we expect more late registrants, hopefully we will double the numbers from last year. New this year is the Little Berry Dash for children aged 3-6. This event is sanctioned and is a voucher race by the Crim Festival of Races. (Crim training members can use a voucher to participate in this race)

Ms. McMillan reported that there was a letter from a resident of the City of Flint posted on the Pure Michigan web site. The letter said that she has lived here all her life and has often felt it was not the best place to live, but after hearing the Pure Michigan commercials she has a new sense of pride in the area. Ms. McMillan stated that this is the exact reason we are investing the money in local radio: to help improve our own image with ourselves so we can help people talk better about our area to other people.

We had an outstanding 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. We had very good attendance at Crossroads Village with attendance up from last year.

We will ask the Budget sub-committee to meet after the next commission meeting (July 24).

The Parks Report was included in the Flint Journal on Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>.

Joe Krapohl said he saw a billboard yesterday and asked Amy to explain it to the commissioners. She stated the billboards are a result of the partnership with the Crim Fitness Foundation and we are tentatively scheduled for a press conference on July 17 at Bluebell Beach to formally announce the partnership between the Parks and the Crim. There are several billboards around the county.

Mr. Wright commended Ms. McMillan for her position regarding the Gale Rd, Richfield Park situation. It is not always easy to stay consistent and Amy's comments to the Flint Journal were appropriate.

## **(6) OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. Ratification of the Commission Bills.**

**Discussion:** Commissioner Henry asked about the Absopure bottled water. He questioned why we purchase so much water. Ms. McMillan said it was the large cooler jugs and dispensers we use. She said our well water quality here is very poor. Commissioner Wright said it is true that bottled water doesn't go through as stringent testing as municipal waters, but he confirmed that there is no municipal water available here and the water quality is less than desirable here in this building and around the parks.

### **Motion to approve the ratification of the commission bills.**

#### **Action Taken:**

Motion by Commissioner Washington  
Supported by Commissioner Lucas

#### **Roll Call:**

Yeas: Bogardus, Henry, Miller, Speed, Ranger, Wright, Keeler, Lucas, Washington, Krapohl  
Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 10-0**

## **(7) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Speed asked how well the Bidwhist Tournament went. Ms. McMillan said it

went well and there were about 12 players and everybody had a good time.

Commissioner Wright asked about Thomas the Train tickets. Ms. McMillan said that we have sold just under 9,000 tickets. We are a little bit behind, but not too much. We are working to see if we can have some tickets released to be sold here directly rather than over the web and the phone. Several trains are sold out and ticket sales are starting to pick up. The retail has been down around other Thomas sites by approximately 30%.

Commissioner Wright also commented that the Bluebell Beach e-coli numbers have remained down so far. He said he believes that it is partly because of the Parks efforts to control the wildfowl population. The hunting program has been very successful from the environmental aspect and inquired whether it generated revenue for the Parks. Ms. McMillan said the program actually costs us money, maybe coming close to breaking even the last couple of years. The bigger issue at Bluebell Beach lately seems to be the seagulls, which are, oddly enough, federally protected birds. However, we are still very pleased with our e-coli counts so far this year.

Commissioner Bogardus said the Senior Center Directors have put together a film on the senior centers that last about 10-15 minutes that may be interesting for the board to see. The film was done professionally and shows what is going on in our senior centers and the senior groups are showing it everywhere. It is a very well put-together film. Commissioner Henry also said the film was exceptionally well done. Ms. McMillan said we could certainly show it after a regular board meeting, especially if we have a light agenda.

Commissioner Ranger asked about the Thomas retail across the nation being down. Ms. McMillan said that Ms. McShane had contacted several Thomas sites across the nation and the rate is about 75% of previous years sales. It is difficult to compare apples to apples though because the total attendance is based on the number of trains that are run and ours can be around 24,000 and other areas have smaller trains, less runs, so their number of people attending and spending money are different, but there seems to be a trend that the retail end is taking a really big hit with people not spending money on those discretionary items.

Commissioner Ranger also asked about the Pure Michigan logo and commercials. Ms. McMillan said our Parks version of the Pure Michigan commercials are out and we are getting a good response.

Commissioner Henry asked about disc golf activity. Ms. McMillan said that we are doing tremendously well at the disc golf course. He asked about the differences in configuration of courses. He doesn't see many players at Willowbrook in Byron. Commissioner Wright said he has never been out near the disc golf course when there haven't been people on our course. It is certainly getting used. Commissioner Henry asked if we have had any further communication from the disc golf gentleman that attended a previous commission meeting. Ms. McMillan said the problem with the disc golf community is there doesn't seem to be one voice for the golfers. What seems to be good for one group is not good for the others. Communication is a challenge.

Commissioner Bogardus asked if we could talk to the retail people handling Thomas to ask for pricing adjustments to help with sales. Ms. McMillan stated that pricing is an issue far bigger than us and we have a tight contract with Hit Entertainment so probably that would not be possible as those are decisions that are made solely by the entertainment company and we do not even have any say in the merchandise that is ordered. It is a very prescribed process.

**(8) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

Auburn Copeland of 5190 N. Jennings Rd. addressed the commission regarding boat launch passes. He purchased a pass to try out his boat and pulled it with an SUV, which is not the normal vehicle he plans on pulling his boat. He did not want to adhere the launch

sticker to the SUV that he was using that day. He asked (the toll booth staff) if he could transfer the sticker from one vehicle to another. He was told he had to purchase a pass for each vehicle. He wanted to go on record to say that it is not appropriate that he should have to purchase more than one launch sticker if he brings his boat with a different vehicle. He thinks this is an inappropriate and an unfair policy.

**(10) ADJOURNMENT**

With no objections made, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.