

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The semi-monthly meeting of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, June 26, 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
Billy Bradshaw, Ex-Officio
James Washington, Vice President
Raynetta Speed, Commissioner
Bob Ranger, Ex-Officio

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Amy M. McMillan, Director
Ron Walker, Deputy Director
Deborah Wilkes, Secretary
Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer
Nancy Edwards, Recreation Program Specialist
Hilda McShane, Marketing Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Barkey, Legal Counsel
Rich Richardson

(1) CALL TO ORDER

President Krapohl called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. President Krapohl welcomed Mr. Bradshaw as the representative from the Road Commission who is filling in for Mr. Miller today.

(2) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Rich Richardson, 2225 Ridgemoor Ct., asked for an update of where the commission is at on the issue of hunting in the parks. He also said he is uneasy that the issue is not moving forward. President Krapohl said that his questions would be answered during Other Business.

(3) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion: Commissioner Bogardus asked that the Park Status Report be removed for further discussion.

Motion to approve the items on the consent agenda.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Henry
Supported by Commissioner Washington

Roll Call:

Yeas: Bogardus, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Lucas, Bradshaw, Ranger, Speed, Washington, Wright

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 10-0

(4) **REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL**

Mr. Barkey asked that we move the report from legal counsel until later in the meeting because he will be requesting a closed session today to discuss some legal matters.

(5) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. McMillan responded to Commissioner Bogardus' question regarding volunteer hours at For-Mar. The status report showed zero hours. Ms. McMillan stated that volunteers report their hours at different times during the season and we have not received the hours from For-Mar volunteers.

Capital Improvement Funds: At the beginning of the year the commission discussed spending a certain amount of dollars on capital improvements, based upon the customer user survey. At the top of that list was playgrounds and we are happy to say that playgrounds have been installed at Wolverine Campground, Davison Roadside Park and the swing set has been installed at Bluebell Beach.

We have had discussions about the disc golf tee pads and Max Brandon Park but decisions have not been made. We have spent money on mowing equipment that is being used at Richfield County Park. We also proceeded with the expenditure of marketing funds. We also budgeted for vault toilets at Flushing County Park. We have received bids for toilets and were opened last Friday. The bids are considerably higher than the amount we had budgeted for this purpose. Commissioner Ranger asked about the size of the vault toilets. Ms. McMillan said they are the same size as the vault toilets at Buell County Park. There was a bid that was lower, but it was a fiberglass model, just a larger version of a portable toilet, and did not meet our specifications; the block buildings are nearly indestructible. It is also less expensive to purchase the building pre-fabricated vs. having it built on site. Transporting the structure is a large part of the expense.

Ms McMillan based her recommendations by taking our budget into account and the fact that we have concerns about the increase in fuel and utilities, which we have already used this year's budgeted amount and we have 3 months to go until the end of the fiscal year. Revenue-wise we are close to where we should be, down in some areas, like Wolverine and boat ramps, but it may be too early in the summer to tell if they will rebound.

Ms McMillan stated that she does not feel confident at this time in making the balance of the capital expenditures. She would like to freeze these expenditures until the first of September until we know where we are at with regard to revenues and expenditures. Then, if we want to make the expenditures we can move forward with that. The bids are solicited; they will be good for 90 days. We will contact the bidders to ask them to hold the price.

She believes that caution and discretion is better at this time, even as much as she would like to get these improvements done. She is recommending to the commission that the funds be held until around the first of September and decisions can be made at that time. We can discuss it with the budget sub-committee during the course of the next couple months.

Motion of support to freeze the Capital Improvement expenditure plan until the end of August.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Wright
Supported by Commissioner Ranger

Yeas: All Ayes
Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 10-0

(6) **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. McMillan asked Nancy Edwards to show the commissioners the signs that will be installed throughout the For-Mar trail system. Friends of For-Mar donated the funds for this project. Several commissioners commented that these signs are a great idea.

With regard to Mr. Richardson's questions about hunting: Ms. McMillan said that our goal is to bring back a recommendation to the commission in August. Staff has attended a number of information training sessions that include other county park systems, and Department of Natural Resources regional park systems. We have met with the DNR Wildlife Management Division, they have also come here to meet with us and we have policies and procedures from other parks that are performing this type of activity and right now we are working on the costing of the program. We have not yet scheduled a public meeting. There is significantly more cost associated with the program than we had originally anticipated. The average cost per deer taken in each of the facilities that provide a managed hunt is about \$300 per deer. We know that is not a reasonable amount of money to expect someone to pay to participate in a managed hunt. That is the side of the issue we are working on. Three hundred dollars is on the low side of estimates. We know it is sooner, rather than later, that we will have to undertake a wildlife management program. That is what we are working toward. We have a lot of budgetary issues we are looking at this year and we have to balance all of those things out. She does not believe it will be five years down the road, it will be much sooner than that.

President Krapohl said that the Director would bring back recommendations to the commission and the commission will look at all aspects of the budget to decide if we have the money to go through with it.

Commission Bogardus stated she is very concerned about the damage being done and does not want to see it put off much longer. Perhaps Sierra Club could be involved for funding.

President Krapohl said that the Traveling Wall display was picture perfect and the arrival was quite impressive. He congratulates Ron, Matt, Barry, and anybody else that had anything to do with the set up of the Wall. He heard many good comments. Ms. McMillan said that it was disassembled, loaded and on the road in record time. There was a tremendous volunteer and staff effort. The wall first came 20 years ago and the comments we received about the progress Bluebell Beach has made as a park during that course of time were very gratifying to us and deeply appreciated by the people who attended the events.

President Krapohl appointed Commissioners Washington, Bogardus, Wright, Krapohl and Lucas to the budget sub-committee.

(7) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Henry was out at the Traveling Wall on Sunday and was surprised and impressed with the steady flow of people coming and going. Commissioner Speed said she experienced the same on Saturday.

(8) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Rich Richardson said he thinks the commission is being over-protective on the issue of hunting in the parks. The longer we let it go the more expensive it will get. He said the public parks belong to the public and there are a lot of volunteers that will help manage and administrate the program if you ask. He goes through lotteries every year for deer permits and doesn't see how it would cost \$300 per deer. He has paid as much as \$322 in a lottery for a non-resident permit.

(9) REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL

Discussion: Mr. Barkey noted that the Commission had received a memo from him, a privileged communication regarding Richfield Landfill and the DEQ approval of the Corrective Action Plan. He would like to discuss alternative actions to be taken, in light of

this correspondence, and under these circumstances he would like to recommend a motion to enter into closed session.

He stated that in his opinion, public discussion of specific pending litigation would have a detrimental financial impact on our posture in the case of 08-88715-CH.

Motion of support to enter into closed session to discuss an issue pertaining to attorney/client privileged communications

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Washington
Supported by Commissioner Bradshaw

Roll Call:

Yeas: Washington, Lucas, Bogardus, Keeler, Henry, Krapohl, Speed, Ranger, Bradshaw, Wright

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 10-0

Motion of support to enter into closed session to discuss specific pending litigation Case number 08-88715-CH.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Wright
Supported by Commissioner Henry

Roll Call:

Yeas: Washington, Wright, Henry, Krapohl, Lucas, Bogardus, Bradshaw, Ranger, Speed, Keeler

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 10-0

Commissioners entered into closed session until 11:29 a.m.

Open session resumed at 11:30 a.m.

Motion of support to authorize legal counsel to intervene in the lawsuit regarding Edwin and Tammy Spencer vs Kurtz Gravel Company 08-88715-CH.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Henry
Supported by Commissioner Washington

Yeas: All Ayes

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Wright left the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0

(10) ADJOURNMENT

With no objections made, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.