
GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The semi-monthly meeting of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, March 11, 2010 in the Harris Auditorium at the Genesee County Administration Building, 1101 Beach Street, Flint, 48502.

MEMBERS PRESENT:, Archie Bailey, Mike Keeler, Cloyce Dickerson, Bob Ranger, Bill Lucas, Ted Henry, Patrick Gleason, Jeff Wright, Joe Krapohl, Jim Washington

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Madore, Richfield Township Supervisor; Brian Barkey, Legal Counsel

(1) **Call To Order**

President Krapohl called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

(2) **Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission**

President Krapohl asked if there was anyone who wished to address the Commission. According to Commission rules, there is a three minute time limit for anyone wishing to address the commission. No one from the public was present.

(3) **Consent Agenda**

Discussion: President Krapohl asked if any of the commissioners wished to remove any items from the consent agenda for further discussion. No items were removed from the consent agenda.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Lucas
Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support for approval of the consent agenda items.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Bailey, Dickerson, Gleason, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Lucas, Ranger, Washington, Wright.
Nays: None
Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED 10-0

(4) **REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL**

Mr. Barkey did not have any legal issues to report.

(5) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

A. Grant Application. Ms. McMillan asked that the board approve the Parks to submit an application for a Radio/Theatre Live! grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. Commissioner Wright asked if it is a matching grant. Ms. McMillan said it is not and that the grant application had actually already been submitted. Commission Ranger asked about the submission of the grant request prior to approval by our board. Ms. McMillan stated that the notification came between two scheduled parks commission meetings and it was left off the last agenda and she apologizes for that, and the submission deadline was February 10.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Wright
Supported by Commissioner Lucas

Motion and support for approval for director to submit application to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs for a grant for Radio/Theatre Live! program in the parks.

Ayes: All Ayes
Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

B. Mini-grant application. Ms. McMillan asked the board to approve the application for a Radio/Theatre Live! mini-grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Ranger
Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support for approval for director to submit application to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs for a mini-grant for Radio/Theatre Live! program in the parks.

Ayes: All Ayes
Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

C. Goose Round-Up. During the retreat on February 25 there was a quorum, and it is open to the public, so the changes in the goose round-up program was discussed and it was decided that a resolution would be brought to the next parks commission meeting for approval. This program has been successful in the past. Ms. McMillan said she was at Bluebell Beach on Sunday and there were many geese on the beach. We know that the geese contribute to e-coli on the beaches and in the water so we would like to continue the round up program.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Wright
Supported by Commissioner Ranger

Motion and support for approval for director to submit permit application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment for Canada Goose Nest Destruction program and Canada Goose Round up Program (Resolution #02-10).

Ayes: All Ayes
Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

D. Accommodations Tax. Ms. McMillan said that she would like the board to approve a resolution to present to the Genesee County Board of Commissioners to allow the Parks to continue to receive 25% of the accommodations tax. The previous copy provided in the information packet had incorrect numbers on it and you have been provided with a corrected version by email and at your seat today. The current Accommodation Tax Revenue Management Memorandum of Understanding expires on September 30, 2010. There are some amendments to the original document and those changes have been underlined. We would like to extend the understanding for a period to cover October 1, 2010 through September 30,

2013 with the option to extend the memorandum of understanding for one additional year after the expiration of its initial term. Commissioner Henry asked if there was an early termination clause. Mr. Barkey said there was no such provision.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Wright
Supported by Commissioner Ranger

Motion and support for Genesee County Parks to submit to the Genesee County Board of Commissioners for review and approval an amended Accommodation Tax Revenue Management Memorandum of Understanding to extend from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2013 (Resolution # 03-10)

Ayes: All Ayes

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

(6) OTHER BUSINESS

A. HIT Entertainment. Ms. McMillan said there is one more item for other business that came into our office this Tuesday. HIT Entertainment, the company that brings Day Out With Thomas to Crossroads Village, has sent their contract for our signature. This is a very, very long and quirky contract. Leisa Gagne should be commended for an extremely good job in complying with all the requirements associated with this contract. We are asking that the commission authorize the director to sign the contract with the approval of our legal counsel.

Commissioner Henry asked if the terms are the same. Mr. Barkey said there were very few changes. Are walk up tickets on sale? Ms. McMillan stated that advance tickets are on sale now, through TicketWeb (when the Village opens advance tickets may also be purchased at the ticket booths) as well as the weekend of the event for walk-ups.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Washington
Supported by Commissioner Keeler

Motion and support to authorize the director, by Resolution #04-10, to sign a contract with HIT Entertainment for Day Out With Thomas with the concurrence of legal counsel.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Henry, Krapohl, Ranger, Bailey, Dickerson, Gleason, Washington, Keeler, Lucas

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Wright was away from his seat and missed this vote.

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

B. Winter Sports in the Parks. Ms. McMillan stated there is no cross-country skiing or snowmobiling allowed in the parks at this time. There will be occasional closures of entrance roads to particular parks as the frost comes out of the ground and there is additional precipitation. All parks will be open for use, but vehicular traffic will not be allowed on the gravel and dirt roads. If you get any calls about why gates are closed it is because the parking lots and roads are soupy and if you can get into them, you may not be able to get out of them due to the mud.

C. President Krapohl reminded commissioners that they may have already received their invitation to the Volunteer Dinner on April 14th. Please put that on your calendar, it is a wonderful night. Commissioners may even be put to work serving in some capacity!

(7) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Henry noticed that there was a fee paid to Oakland County Parks for a deer count. Are those numbers available? Ms. McMillan stated that she will share those numbers with the commission once they are reviewed and the formula is applied to the number of deer counted to project the number of deer per acre. There are definite increases in numbers.

Commissioner Henry asked to have the trustee lunch program explained. Ms. McMillan said that the sheriff's department brings trustees to our parks to work at no cost to us and we are only responsible to feed them lunch. They either get pizza from Huckleberry Junction Pizza Parlor, hamburgers from Halo Burger, or subs from Big John Steak and Onion. They do a great job and we appreciate them. Commissioner Henry concurred and thanked the sheriff's department for letting us use the trustees.

Commissioner Henry also stated that with the present state of the economy he wondered if we are looking for any of the tremendous bargains when it comes to equipment purchases. Ms. McMillan stated that we picked up a Hi-Ranger in 2009 for a very reasonable price and we often compete for equipment using on-line bids. Our Facilities Director, Barry June, recently picked up a \$200 chain saw for \$80 that someone traded in at a local business; so, we are on top of that!

Commissioner Ranger thanked us for the information on the stone fly. He hasn't seen any. Ms. McMillan noted another new addition to our wildlife: a pair of swans appear to be nesting on the north side of Mott Lake. We've never seen swans on Mott Lake before, but they have been known to take up residence at Buell Lake. She hasn't seen any robins yet. Commissioner Ranger said swans will be good for reducing the goose population but not for anybody else who ventures near them. Ms. McMillan acknowledged swans can be vicious.

Commissioner Keeler said some robins are wintering over, he sees them in Holly Recreation Area during the winter.

Commissioner Wright said there are two eagles nested somewhere around the Goldenrod and Timberwolf area. It is quite a sight to see them soaring. They seem to be local to this area.

President Krapohl asked if anyone has seen any osprey. Commissioner Wright says he has seen one.

Commissioner Keeler said many parking lots and trails in the parks are still snow and ice covered because they are shaded. He also asked about the status of the closure of Branch Road. Ms. McMillan said there is no change in the status of this road. We receive occasional communication about helping to secure the closure because sometimes it is not particularly secure. There has been talk about re-routing it down Center Road as well. The next move is in the hands of the Road Commission. He said there is a lot of broken glass and the group he bikes with maintains it by sweeping away the glass.

(8) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Joe Madore asked about the Little League teams in Richfield Township possibly using some of the baseball fields in Richfield County Park for tournaments. The Little League group would even be interested in contributing some funds for new fencing or help to spruce it up out there. Ms. McMillan said he, or someone from the (Little League) organization can call her office anytime and talk to her about it.

(9) ADJOURNMENT

With no objections made, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m.