
GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The semi-monthly meeting of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, July 9, 2009 in the Conference Room of the Genesee County Parks Administration Building, 5045 Stanley Rd., Flint, 48506.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Krapohl, Ted Henry, Archie Bailey, Billy Bradshaw, Jim Washington, Bill Lucas, Bob Ranger

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Wright, Mike Keeler, Patrick Gleason

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

No one from the public addressed the Commission.

(3) **CONSENT AGENDA**

Discussion: No items were removed for discussion.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Lucas

Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support for approval of consent agenda items.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Bailey, Bradshaw, Henry, Krapohl, Lucas, Ranger, Washington

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioners Wright, Gleason and Keeler are absent.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

(4) **REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL**

Spencer Case: The judge has not yet ruled in the Spencer case. We expect a ruling anytime and you will all be notified by email as soon as he receives a decision.

The probate petition for the Merkley Trust has not been filed yet. It is almost final and he (Mr. Barkey) expects it should be filed this week. This board will be notified of the hearing date as soon as the date is set and all welcome to attend.

(5) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

A. Budget sub-committee will meet for about 20 minutes after this meeting. She hopes to have a report ready for the entire board by the next meeting or the first meeting in August. One thing that will have a great influence on the budget is whether the CS Mott Foundation is able to approve a grant proposal for 2010. We will keep you informed. We've had some very good conversations with the program officers from CS, but it is a long winding road to being funded.

We were sold out at Wolverine on the holiday weekend, the beaches were busy, the parks were full and people were very well behaved. Considering how busy we are, it says a lot for the residents of and visitors to Genesee County. We had to close Buttercup Beach on and off for a couple days because of high attendance. Clover Beach has been very busy and Bluebell has been busy as well. Picnics and grilling outdoors seem to be very popular and people are spending the whole day in the park. Our staff,

which is 30% smaller in numbers than last year, has really done a tremendous job of getting the parks ready for the holiday and keeping everybody safe and happy.

Filming has wrapped up at the Village & Huckleberry Railroad and we'll be sending you some really great feedback from the film producers about their experience there. We are in preliminary discussion with another producer right now who is looking at our site for a much larger production. As we have more information that we can share with you we will be happy to do that. We look at this as not just an opportunity to generate income for the Village, but to add to the overall Genesee County economy. This how we balance and review these projects and how we assign fees.

Tonight is the 6th Annual Huckleberry Trail Run. We have 136 pre-registered and more will show up tonight. Hilda and her staff have done a great job promoting this race. The race is a partnership with the Crim Fitness Foundation and participants can use a Crim voucher to participate at no cost to runners/walkers and the Crim reimburses us.

Nancy has lots of activities going on in the parks every night, check your Family Fun Guide or check the calendar online and enjoy some of these events with your family and friends. The Great American Camp Out was two weeks ago and it is growing in popularity. For many it is their first camping experience and our goal is to use this event to promote Wolverine Campground.

Commissioner Lucas asked about any overflow. Are we turning away many people? Ms. McMillan said on holiday weekends it is busy and we may turn some away. A lot depends on the weather forecast; on a non-holiday weekend our reservations will not be at capacity but if the weather is nice we often come close to capacity by Friday night with the drive-in customers. Our attendance and revenue is up over last year. We don't have sufficient numbers that we are turning away to warrant considering opening up Timberwolf. Elba is very well used.

Commissioner Bailey asked about the MTA bussing. Ms. McMillan said they are running regularly six days a week. We've not heard any complaints from Mr. Benning at MTA. President Krapohl asked if we could get some figures from the MTA offices about ridership to Bluebell Beach.

Commissioner Bailey also stated that there will be a 15 million dollar deficit in the County's budget in 2009-2010. The drop in property values will significantly affect the Parks millage revenue. Ms. McMillan said it is projected at \$536,000+. The Equalization and Controller's office have been very helpful in providing information.

(6) OTHER BUSINESS

Resolution 03-09 Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan 2009-2013.

Discussion: This is the resolution we are asking the Parks board to approve so the plan may be forwarded to the Genesee County Board of Commissioners for review and approval. Our current plan expires in December so if there are other more pressing issues in front of the Board of Commissioners and this doesn't make their next agenda we'll still have time to get it approved and submitted to the DNR before December.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Washington
Supported by Commissioner Bradshaw

Motion and support for approval of Resolution 03-09.

Yeas: All Ayes

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioners Wright, Gleason and Keeler are absent.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

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

Commissioner Ranger asked about water testing at the beaches? Ms. McMillan said our e-coli numbers have never been over 135 (once) and last weekend all numbers were in single digits. The DEQ is working with the Health Dept on a non-named creek that is downstream and consistently testing in the 3-4 thousand level of e-coli.

Commissioner Bradshaw asked about the film producers coming. Ms. McMillan said this group is from California.

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

There are no members of the public present.

(9) **ADJOURNMENT** With no objections made, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.