

## GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The semi-monthly meeting of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, September 25, 2008, in the Conference Room of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Administration Building, 5045 Stanley Rd., Flint, Michigan.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Ranger, Ex-Officio  
Joe Krapohl, President  
Jim Pomeroy, Ex-Officio  
James Washington, Vice President  
Jeff Wright, Ex-Officio  
Raynetta Speed, Commissioner  
Ted Henry, Commissioner  
Rose Bogardus, Commissioner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bill Lucas, Secretary  
Mike Keeler, Citizen Representative

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

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

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

President Krapohl called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. President Krapohl asked those in attendance to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of David Munhall and his contributions to the Parks as a former administrator of Genesee County Parks & Recreation.

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

President Krapohl told the audience that they may address the commission at this time. Please stand, state your name and address for the record, and as per commission rules you will have three minutes to make your comments.

Bill Vollmar of 5050 Berneda, Flint, asked the commission if there are any plans to develop a marina at Holloway Reservoir. He has a boat slip in Caseville but cannot justify the expense of driving up there and could see himself using a local boat slip if the price was right.

Dave Minto of 11348 Lippincott Blvd., Davison addressed the commission regarding deer hunting in the parks. He thinks hunting in the parks is a great opportunity to put on something for the residents of this county. He understands the different circumstances between For-Mar and the Hogbacks and the different avenues that must be taken depending on the population of people in the area. He has heard favorable comments about the waterfowl hunt that is held in the parks. He participated in a Metro Park hunt and it was nothing but taking deer, not a hunt. They had designated people to bait, shoot, track, field dress and someone to take tissue and blood samples. He participated but would never do something like that again. He asked for a copy of the minutes and a copy of the deer study. He asked about the dates and locations of the public meetings. He wanted to stress that because the Hogback area is a low traffic area it would be the ideal place to put on a quality deer management program in there.

(3) **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Discussion:** Commissioner Bogardus requested that the bills be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion.

**Motion and support to approve the items on the consent agenda with the bills removed.**

**Action Taken:**

Motion by Commissioner Washington  
Supported by Commissioner Ranger

**Roll Call:**

Yeas: Speed, Washington, Wright, Bogardus, Henry, Krapohl, Pomeroy, Ranger  
Nays: None  
Absent: Commissioners Lucas and Keeler are absent.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0**

(4) **REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL**

There is no legal counsel report. President Krapohl noted that legal counsel asked that the Genesee Pride signage request be tabled while legal counsel has time to review some issues.

(5) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- a. Ms. McMillan reminded the commissioners that the parks commission meetings will move to the downtown location (Administration Building, 1101 Beach St. Harris Auditorium) beginning on October 9, 2008.
- b. Ms. McMillan showed the presentation that she made at the Michigan Association of County Officers conference held in Frankenmuth. The presentation detailed the economic impact of parks and recreation property on a community. A print copy of the report was distributed as well. If you know of any organizations that would like to see this presentation, let us know.

(6) **OTHER BUSINESS**

a. **Ratification of Bills**

**Discussion:** Commissioner Bogardus asked about the car washes on the bills. Ms. McMillan said there are a couple locations in the area that staff is able to take county cars for car washes, it is a running tab.

**Motion to approve for ratification of commission bills.**

**Action Taken:**

Motion by Commissioner Bogardus  
Supported by Commissioner Ranger

**Roll Call:**

Yeas: Krapohl, Pomeroy, Ranger, Speed, Washington, Wright, Bogardus, Henry  
Nays: None  
Absent: Commissioners Lucas and Keeler are absent.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0**

Ms. McMillan said she will be on vacation for the next week until October 4. She is available by cell phone or you may contact Ron Walker, Deputy Director.

Ms. McMillan said there are no current plans for a marina. We have no capital improvement

items in our newly adopted budget this year. It is a very tight budget this year. Last year we did a survey of park users and focus groups and mostly people were looking for enhanced picnic areas near existing boat launches, a new marina was not something that came up on the lists. We would have to do a feasibility study. We have heard from our boat launch customers say they are not bringing out their boats quite so often due to the cost of fuel. We could do a feasibility study to examine the interest in the community, what people would be willing to pay, and match that with the costs that would be associated with a marina. We operate our boat launches with the goal of breaking even, considering the costs of toll booth, maintenance, and ranger staff. Commissioner Bogardus added that the last time this issue (about 10-12 yrs ago) was presented it was met with precipitous objection from the local township officials. She thinks it could generate some income during this economy. She would like to see something like a marina considered in the long-term plans. Ms. McMillan said that it is something that could be discussed at the annual retreat. President Krapohl clarified that the docks in Columbiaville belong to the Village of Columbiaville.

President Krapohl told Mr. Minto that the minutes to the last meeting will be posted online after today's approval. Public meetings have not been scheduled yet. After our organizational meeting in January the dates of the public meetings will be decided. We have a copy of the Michigan Natural Features Inventory report that we will send. Committee members are Mr. Wright, Ranger, Bogardus, Krapohl, Henry.

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

Commissioner Ranger said that a recent contact from the public told him she is all in favor of hunting at For-Mar. She lives in that area and at least once a week she has a close encounter with a deer in the road on her way to work. She is not a hunter, but believes something should be done. He commended the staff of the Parks for doing a great job on this issue to consider all aspects of the wildlife management. When we are done, hopefully it will be one of the best programs in the state.

Commissioner Bogardus would like the long-range plans for the parks to consider water features, possibly swimming pools. Possibly in partnership with schools that don't have pools.

Commissioner Bogardus also stated that the deer are so domesticated. She was recently on the golf course and there were deer just watching, while the group was hitting golf balls. Also we have to look at the health issue of deer ticks carrying lyme disease. She asked about the chronic wasting disease found in Kent County. Ms. McMillan said it appeared to be an isolated incident on a farm and the farm has been cleared because it appeared the deer was probably imported. There have been various deer and environmental issues going on in the state.

Commissioner Pomeroy asked if Mr. Daly from the road commission has answered any questions regarding the closed road issue. He also said the road commission was looking at paving Center Rodd as one of the options to the Branch Rd problem. Either this week or next week the Irish Rd. bridge will be opening.

Commissioner Henry said that he saw about 20-25 deer at For-Mar feeding.

Commissioner Wright said that he has pictures of about 14-17 deer in his front yard *every day*. They go from house to house because of the smorgasbord of flowers through there. He doesn't particularly care because he can replant flowers and there is about a 60-40 percent split in his neighborhood with 60% of the people who want something done about the deer to the other 40% who feed the deer. We are moving forward, perhaps not quickly enough according to some people, but we want to do it right and the way that benefits the environment and the people in this community.

President Krapohl said unfortunately everybody won't get everything they want, but we

are we are trying to balance the needs of the entire county park and its users. We can't open the gates to let everybody have what they want.

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

Mr. Minto understands that there is give and take and is glad to hear that the board wants to do it right. He said there is no other public land open for hunting for people who do not have access to private lands. Lapeer has some areas but that is quite a drive. There are thousands of hunters in the community that would like to take advantage of this opportunity. It might be advantageous to put someone from each side of the issue on your committee to listen to what is going on.

**(8) ADJOURNMENT**

With no objections made, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.