
GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The semi-monthly meeting of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, February 26, 2009 in the Harris Auditorium of the Genesee County Administration Building, 1101 Beach St., Flint, 48502

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Pomeroy, Bill Lucas, Joe Krapohl, Patrick Gleason, Jeff Wright, Archie Bailey, Mike Keeler, James Washington, Ted Henry

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Ranger

STAFF PRESENT: Amy McMillan, Director; Ron Walker, Deputy Director; Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer; Deborah Wilkes, Secretary, Nancy Edwards, Recreation Program Specialist, Tyler Barto, Intern, Brian Barkey, Legal Counsel.

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Madore, Richfield Township Supervisor; Ed Fuller, Resident

(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 any members of the public wished to speak to the commission. Each person is allowed 3 minutes.

Ed Fuller of 5374 Stanley Rd. Columbiaville asked the board for an update on the wildlife management issue. He stated that his property borders the park property on two sides and he has four to 12 deer in his yard every night. He is concerned about tuberculosis and foresees something like that affecting the local herd one day soon. Have any meetings been scheduled?

Ms. McMillan said that we have only one report from September and an aerial deer count so far. We will make sure he has any updates about the issue. Commissioner Krapohl said that shortly after Easter (in April) we will hold public informational meetings. Notices will be put in the newspaper and information sent out to those in our data base as well. President Krapohl also said that he expects the sub-committee on wildlife management will meet in March.

(3) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion: There are no items to be removed from the consent agenda.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Lucas
Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support for approval of consent agenda items.

Roll Call:

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0

(5) REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL

There is no report from legal counsel.

(6) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Food Service Contract

Discussion: Ms. McMillan recommended the commission award the food service contract for Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad as well as Stepping Stone Falls to O.U. Village, Inc.

Mr. Charles Young, President and CEO of O. U. Village was present and said he is extremely excited about the contract in that he was raised in Genesee County area and loves the parks and fishing

and he thinks they can add a tremendous value to the whole process. O. U. Village has some creative ideas, that they call WOWs for the customer.

Ms. Lela McGee-Johnson, co-owner, thanked the commission for the opportunity to be here and is excited to be here and to grow with the parks and recreation and she doesn't look at this as business but more of a partnership. They are excited for the opportunity to reinforce, support and grow within the community.

President Krapohl said he was impressed with the bid proposal that was submitted by O.U. Village and their ideas and menu, and he is looking forward to the summer season.

Ms. McMillan added that parks staff was sent to The Village as secret shoppers a week or so ago and they all came back with outstanding comments with regard to their customers service experience, food quality and they even checked out the restrooms. We are delighted by this partnership and looking forward to working with them.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Henry

Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support to award a contract to provide food services at Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad and Stepping Stone Falls to O. U. Village, Inc.

Voted on by acclamation

Ayes: All ayes

Nays: None

Absent: Ranger

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0

B. We have completed the updates to the 5-year plan. The next step is to put the plan out for public review for the next 30 days prior to bringing it back to the parks commission for approval and then the plan will be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for final approval and adoption before it is forwarded to the DNR. The plan has new guidelines for 5-year plans and some of the restrictions of previous plans have been eased. You have been provided with an electronic version of the plan. The 5-year plan now incorporates all of our other master plans, our park user study, regional trail plan for the entire county, etc. This makes all of these projects eligible for funding should we seek funding on any of these projects. We will not be seeking funding during the April round of grants because we do not have matching funds at this time. We were working with the planning commission on several trail projects but those are going through a different process and have different funding sources. When we do have access to matching funds or are able to secure funds through other sources we will begin applying DNR grants, but we are approximately a year away from that. We will gather feedback from the public and press releases will be issued and the 5-year plan will be on our website. Copies will be available at our office as well.

Mike Keeler asked about the non-motorized park trails for 2009. Ms. McMillan said that Linden County Park trail is done with the exception of perhaps some seeding and raking. We are almost done with the design engineering for the next loop of the Mott Lake Trail from Stepping Stone Falls to Bluegill. We also will be sending more information about a grant we've received from Americorp NCCC program that is bringing teams to Genesee County to clear the trail so we can begin construction, assuming that this trail is funded by MDOT and the TIP funds are there to help with engineering and the matching funds will come from local foundations. This construction should begin around 2010 or 2011. The section along the trolley line (Genesee Twp, along Mt. Morris Road) is being considered under the stimulus package. The planning commission is working on that with MDOT. The preliminary engineering has not been completed on that program.

The Flint Township trolley project is not directly connecting to the parks, more the City of Flint. The planning commission has had some discussions with Flint Township. The Land has been acquired by MDOT and there are other issues connected to this project because it is a transportation corridor. We have a preliminary agreement to maintain it, but they have to figure out how to construct it first.

Commissioner Henry said that the old state police post will be turned into a car pool parking lot. The Corunna Road Bridge will be shut down around April. He hasn't heard that the non-motorized trail has been incorporated into the reconstruction. Ms. McMillan said the last word she heard from Heidi Phaneuf was that somehow the widening would accommodate some type of crossing for non-motorized vehicles. We could invite Heidi to a future meeting for an update of trail plans, or get clarification for you.

(7) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Discussion: TIP funds are administered through the planning commission and typically offset the cost of design engineering for trails. Staff recommends that the commission approve the resolution to support the use of these funds.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Lucas
Supported by Commissioner Gleason

Motion and support for adoption of Resolution 01-09 for 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program.

Voted on by acclamation

Ayes: Wright, Bailey, Washington, Lucas, Krapohl, Gleason, Henry, Keeler, Pomeroy

Nays: None

Absent: Ranger

B. President Krapohl asked the commission to further discuss reducing the number of meetings to reduce costs and staff time.

Commissioner Bailey said he would prefer to see everybody give up their per diem rather than reduce the amount of meetings. He believes that there should be somebody watching over programs and finances and the meetings themselves are more important than being paid to come. If we reduced the meetings to once a month, we should still have a finance committee meeting. President Krapohl clarified that he'd still like the executive committee to meet on the off weeks that the regular commission meeting would normally meet.

Commissioner Henry could see reducing meetings during slow times, but when the parks are open and active he'd like to see the meetings held twice a month just to hear and stay on top of what is going on in the parks.

Commissioner Wright stated that he would like to see the two meetings per month continue to allow public access to our meeting to voice their issues and concerns. He thinks that is important to maintain. To consider dropping the per diem payment is fine with him.

President Krapohl said that at this time we could keep our schedule as is.

(8) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Bailey asked about a letter from Holy Rosary Catholic School to the Genesee County Parks thanking the parks for supporting catholic schools. Ms. McMillan clarified that we did not provide a cash donation and further explained our donation program and said we uniformly apply it to any 501(c) 3 organization. She will forward a copy of the requirements to him. Commissioner Bailey asked legal counsel to check into a government entity supporting a religious organization.

Commissioner Wright would like the commission to schedule a public meeting for wildlife management. There are more issues than deer. He had a neighbor whose car was surrounded by 27 turkeys. They are quite large and very impressive when seen in the air and on the ground. They are frequently seen in For-Mar. Ms. McMillan explained that the DNR stocked Genesee County with turkeys about nine years ago because there was a deficit in the turkey population. The parks benefitted from the placement of turkeys and it has resulted in an increased in the turkey population. The restoration of the field area in For-Mar where there was recent construction has provided an attractive food source for the turkeys. Eventually when the fields are more mature it will become more attractive to pheasants. He thinks the turkeys should become part of the whole wildlife management program. President Krapohl will schedule a meeting with the sub-committee

in March to prepare for the public meetings in April. Commissioner Keeler said most turkeys are not too aggressive and will walk away from you.

Commissioner Wright met with the Fair Board about other issues and he told the Fair Board that it is necessary to get together with our Fair Sub-Committee before both the Parks and the Fair Board get into their busy seasons.

Commissioner Wright has recently seen two young eagles in the area of Timberwolf. They are young ones, but still very impressive and he's glad to see those nesting out there.

(9) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Joe Madore would like to see the bike-a-thons come back to Richfield Park. Those events used to attract thousands of people to the park. He'd like to see the gates open for that event as well. Ms. McMillan said that Nancy Edwards handles the special event applications and she can help him through any questions and special requests and accommodations he may have to hold the event.

(10) ADJOURNMENT

With no objections made, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.