

## GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The semi-monthly meeting of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, April 24, 2008 in the Harris Auditorium, Genesee County Administration Building, 1101 Beach Street, Flint, Michigan.

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joe Krapohl, President  
James Washington, Vice President  
Mike Keeler  
Rose Bogardus  
William Lucas, Secretary  
Jeff Wright, Ex-Officio  
Bob Ranger, Ex-Officio
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Raynetta Speed  
Ted Henry  
Dave Miller, Ex-Officio
- 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, Commission Legal Counsel  
Larry Stricker, Public  
Mark Stephens, Public

### (1) CALL TO ORDER

President Krapohl called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

Larry Stricker, 3547 N Gale Rd., Davison wanted the Commissioners to be aware of how incredibly clean the disc golf course is being kept. Forty plus people did some work and he walked the course and was only able to find one glass bottle.

He also said there was a comment (in a previous meeting) about fishermen not picking up after themselves and he stated he is making a conscientious effort to make sure things are picked up at Timberwolf fishing ponds.

Mark Stephens, 3208 Comanche Ave., Flint, President of the Flint Town Flyers Disc Golf Club wanted to come on behalf of his club and disc golfers at the Goldenrod Disc Golf facility to commend and thank the Commission and parks personnel for supporting disc golf. In the few short years the course has been out there, use has been tremendously growing and he thinks it is a great thing to have inexpensive, outdoor, recreational activities for the residents of Genesee County. He thanked the board and park personnel again for making that possible.

### (3) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

**Motion to approve the items on the consent agenda.**

**Action Taken:** Motion by Commissioner Lucas  
Supported by Commissioner Ranger

**Roll Call:** Yeas: Bogardus, Keeler, Krapohl, Lucas, Ranger, Washington, Wright  
Nays: None  
Absent: Henry, Miller, Speed

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0**

**(4) REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL**

There has been a RAP filed by Richfield Landfill to develop two new cells at their current site. We have learned that it will be brought up for consideration at a public meeting on May 7, 2008 at Siple Elementary at 7:00 p.m. The materials are available for inspection and review at the Richfield Township Hall. We do have access to the materials for review, they are about 937 pages. Legal counsel is studying the RAP and comparing it to previous editions of the RAP and we are meeting with environmental lawyers and engineers, coordinating our efforts with the lake association and we intend to appear at the public meeting.

The rule amendments that were adopted by the Parks Commission last month have been approved by the Board of Commissioners in Genesee County and Lapeer County. They will be published for two weeks and be effective right after the publication and posting.

**(5) DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**A. Bicycle Week Resolution**

**Discussion:** Ms. McMillan stated that the staff is asking that the board approve a resolution supporting bicycle week: Smart Commute Flint. The Planning Commission is also very involved in this activity.

**Motion to support the Bicycle Week Resolution.**

**Action Taken:** Motion by Commissioner Washington  
Supported by Commissioner Ranger

Ayes: All Ayes  
Nays: None  
Absent: Henry, Miller, Speed

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0**

**(6) OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Community Foundation of Greater Flint Grant Awarded to Parks**

Nancy Edwards told the Commission that the Parks were awarded a grant in the amount of \$5,000 from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint to fund a program called Gene-SEE Us Outdoors. The funds will pay for swimming lessons and staff to teach those swimming lessons at three of our beaches. We are piloting a program to work with kids 3-6 yrs old and 7-12 yrs old to offer free swimming lessons at Bluebell, Clover and Buttercup Beaches. The unique part of this program is that while the kids are learning to swim the parents will be trained and certified in CPR, First Aid and Water Safety. When the kids are done with their swimming lessons the parents will have their Red Cross certification. We know that we will be very busy at the beaches this year and we want to make sure that we have many more people equipped to deal with potential emergencies so we think that is a good tie-in. We have at least one person signed up for swimming lessons and the Family Fun Guide hasn't even been distributed yet.

We are also using part of the grant money to buy supplies for our special needs programs. There is a flyer at your seats that gives you an idea some of the different programs we will be offering

to folks with special needs. We are committed to making everything accessible and we have lots of opportunities to folks who are differently abled. Tennis rackets, tennis balls, yoga mats and those types of things will be purchased so people will have the equipment to participate in these programs.

Nancy had the opportunity to talk about the special needs program on Channel 12 News at Noon.

Commissioner Bogardus asked if the children had to be enrolled in the swimming classes in order for the parent to go through the Red Cross certification. Ms. Edwards confirmed that it was tied together specifically for parent and child. While the parents are waiting for the children to during swimming lessons, they will be trained.

The Family Fun Guide will be ready around May 1, but information is actually on the web site now.

#### **B. Pure Michigan Flint/Genesee County Commercial**

Hilda McShane played the CD of the Pure Michigan Flint/Genesee County. President Krapohl stated that there was a good turnout at the Flint Institute of Arts last week for the roll out of the radio commercial. Commissioner Ranger stated that he has heard the commercial several times and never tires of listening to it. He emailed the commercial to someone out of state and they enjoyed it too. Ms. McShane has copies of the commercial on CD for all of you. Ms McMillan said that in the next few weeks she would have information available to update you on the website that features our partnership as well as billboard information and other activities.

#### **C. Security Contract Update**

Ms. McMillan said there would be no action item today on the security contract. We received multiple bids and we have identified two finalists, background checks have been completed, and we will be interviewing those two companies next week and will bring back a recommendation to the board at the May 8<sup>th</sup> commission meeting. A reminder: that meeting will be held at the Administration Building of Genesee County Parks & Recreation.

If you have not made your reservation for the Volunteer Award Dinner, please do so today. We have over 200 people coming to the awards dinner, which is a record. If you can and want to be there please let us know.

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

Commissioner Keeler asked if there was any information available about how long Branch Rd would be closed. Ms. McMillan stated that she emailed that information to all commissioners yesterday and it explained that the Road Commission said it is likely to be closed at least ten months. Engineering studies must be done to determine exactly why it is failing and how it can be repaired, and where the funds will come from to make the repairs.

The Road Commission would not consider closing it permanently at this time. We requested that consideration a year ago and our request was declined. Commissioner Bogardus stated that there may be a difference in cost between repairing the road for vehicle use vs using it as a bike path. Ms. McMillan said she believes there are serious problems causing the road to fail due to the way the road is constructed, which must be addressed. When the engineering surveys are done, the Road Commission will know more and the problem will have to be fixed whether it be used as a bike path or for vehicular traffic.

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

No members of the public addressed the commission.

#### **(9) ADJOURNMENT**

With no objections made, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Deborah Wilkes, Secretary  
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