
GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The semi-monthly meeting of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, July 24, 2008, in the Conference Room of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Administration Building, 5045 Stanley Rd., Flint, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Krapohl, President
James Washington, Vice President
William Lucas, Secretary
Ted Henry, Commissioner
Raynetta Speed, Commissioner
James Pomeroy, Ex-Officio
Bob Ranger, Ex-Officio
Jeff Wright, Ex-Officio
Mike Keeler, Citizen Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rose Bogardus, Commissioner

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

OTHERS PRESENT: 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 members of the public are present to address the commission.

(3) **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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

Motion and support to approve the items on the consent agenda.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Henry
Supported by Commissioner Washington

Roll Call:

Yeas: Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Lucas, Pomeroy, Ranger, Speed, Washington

Nays: Bogardus

Absent: Commissioner Wright arrived at 10:08 and missed this vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0

(4) **REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL**

Regarding the Spencer lawsuit, Mr. Barkey said that some investigation found that a deed between Kurtz Gravel and the County could not be located. We worked with Kurtz Gravel to rectify this situation and this week we received the deed and it was presented to the Register

of Deeds office for recording and the County will be intervening in that lawsuit. This is informational only and no action is required.

Mr. Barkey noted that our "park archivists" found not only the original land contract from 20 years ago, but they also tracked down the last check from 1984 that paid off the contract.

(5) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Both the Wildlife Management and Budget sub-committees will meet following this meeting.

We have been informed that the Disability Network is presenting the Parks and Recreation Commission with an award on Friday, July 25, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. in Kearsley Park Pavilion, for accessible recreation. They are recognizing our efforts at improving accessibility at all levels, from programming, our web site, and our physical facilities. All commissioners are welcome to attend. The event begins at 11 a.m.

Day Out With Thomas ticket sales are still a little behind last year. We announced this week that tickets may now be purchased locally at the Crossroads Village ticket booths and patrons will not have to pay the \$3.50 per ticket service fee that Ticketweb charges. Tickets will be on sale during Village hours and must be purchased at the ticket booth; we cannot sell them at our reservation window at the main office. We are awaiting the arrival of DOWT retail merchandise so staff can begin pricing and setting it up.

Our last installment of the season of the Huckleberry Radio Hour is Saturday, July 26 at 7:00 p.m. If you are going to be in town, plan to attend, it is so much fun to be part of the audience and participate in this event. The entertainment is phenomenal. We are beginning to work on plans for two more installments of the Huckleberry Radio Hour to open the Halloween program and the Christmas program.

The Kitchen Cabinet group is also working on the Fall Family Fun Guide with the marketing team.

(6) OTHER BUSINESS

There is no other business.

(7) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Speed heard part of the new Parks commercial. Ms. McMillan said it is our new branding commercial and is patterned after the Pure Michigan commercials. Ms. McMillan added that Hilda McShane, along with our Kitchen Cabinet group and Olmsted & Associates, worked to put that commercial together using all parks footage. The commercial does a beautiful job of demonstrating what is available here in the county parks. It runs on channel 12 and some cable stations. We are getting a positive response from the commercial. We are also using new footage that was shot last year to put together a new commercial for Halloween and Christmas this season. It has been several years since we have been able to do that.

Commissioner Keeler asked about any progress on the road closure situation and also the Rail-Trail project that the Ruth Mott Foundation is helping to fund. Ms. McMillan stated that the project is the Flint Township/Genesee Valley Trail. The preliminary design engineering is underway right now using a Ruth Mott Foundation grant. It is being overseen by the Planning Commission. When the design engineering is complete they must apply for enhancement fund money to construct it. The project is at least a year away from the construction phase. M-DOTs construction around the Corunna Rd. bridge and exit will be incorporated into the next segment of the trail that attaches to this trail (Corunna to Ballenger, then Ballenger to downtown).

With regard to the closed road, Ms. McMillan reiterated that the study about the structural inadequacies of the road, and what needs to be done to fix the road, will not be completed until around December. There is no point in talking about it until the study is complete.

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Until then, the road commission still has control of that road and we should not, under any circumstances, consider taking over something that will potentially fall in the lake that we would have to repair. Commissioner Keeler said from what he hears from people, maybe it would be best if the road collapsed and let nature take its course, then once it is on solid ground, put the bike path on that. Commissioner Washington said his concern would be for safety.

Commissioner Keeler asked if the road commission study is holding off this body's decision on where the bike trail will go. Ms. McMillan stated that it does not. However, Ms. McMillan said our budget will be extremely tight for the next couple fiscal years even with regard to matching funds for projects. We may not even have matching funds for that section of the proposed bike trail.

Commissioner Henry asked if staff have noticed any problems to our vegetation and trees from Japanese beetles. Ms. McMillan said that our staff notices all kinds of problems from all kinds of predators at all times. We haven't specifically discussed the Japanese beetle; right now our focus has been on Emerald Ash Borers, oak wilt, birch wilt and a couple other diseases out there. She said she would check with the horticulturist staff and get back with the commission at the next meeting. Commissioner Henry and Keeler have both noticed problems in their own yards from these beetles.

Ms. McMillan told the commission that on Wednesday we had our bi-annual visit, by the Michigan State University department, which oversees our compliance with the Merkely Trust. They had great things to say about all the things that are going on at For-Mar. Mr. Rasmussen shared a compliment with Ms. McMillan; he said that the atmosphere between staff and administration and staff and visitors at For-Mar has dramatically lightened and he said he felt like he was spending time with a family when he was there. Ms. McMillan considers that to be a really great compliment.

President Krapohl and Commissioner Washington had the opportunity to attend the press conference to announce the Crim Fitness Foundation partnership with the Genesee County Parks. It was very well received and met with enthusiasm and will be a plus for both agencies.

(8) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

No members of the public were present to address the commission.

(10) ADJOURNMENT

With no objections made, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.