

Members Present: President Joe Krapohl, Vice President Jim Washington, Commissioners: Gloria Nealy, Mike Lynch, Joe Madore, Bryant Nolden, Cloyce Dickerson, Mike Keeler

Members Absent: Secretary Bill Lucas and Commissioner Jeff Wright

Staff Present: Amy McMillan, Director; Barry June, Deputy Director; Danielle Fulcher, Marketing Specialist; Nancy Edwards, Programming and Grants; Matt Armentrout, Facilities Director; Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer; Kevin Shanlian, Chief Ranger; Deborah Wilkes, Administrative Secretary; Janet Van De Winkle, Project Sustainability Director, Patrick Linihan, Project Coordinator

Others Present: Brian Barkey, Legal Counsel; Thomas Kehoe, Bonita Kehoe, Reg Tidball, Paul Gibbs

1) Call to Order. President Krapohl presided and called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. President Krapohl noted the re-organization of the room. This will facilitate the public and staff's ability to see each other better. Also note that in the Director's section of the agenda is the opportunity for the director to address public concerns. Each meeting she will write down the concerns and answer them (questions that have not been previously addressed) at the next meeting. This gives staff time to adequately research any questions to be accurate in the response.

2) Opportunity for members of the public to address the commission. Anyone wishing to address the commission must state their name and address and they have 3 minutes to speak. You can stand at the podium or stand at your seat.

Reg Tidball, 7132 Heath, Genesee, MI would like to install, at his cost, an electronic device that will play taps every night at sunset. You can check it out on You Tube at Tacoma Taps and you will see it. He's talked to the Veterans groups and hasn't had any opposition.

Tom Kehoe, 4304 E. Stanley Rd. Mr. Kehoe showed his banners with pictures of debris, maintenance and projects of which he has issues. He wants someone to make a motion to vote out the director, all the directors that are not highly responsible effective, by first of the year.

Bonita Kehoe, 4212 Gregor, Genesee, MI has lived here since she was six, Tom is her son. The parks should have a better feeling about what the public feels they are doing. She would appreciate if the commission would pay attention to the issues Tom is bringing to the board.

Paul Gibbs, 5514 Mt Morris Rd., Mt. Morris lives next to the fairgrounds, which he believes was a dump.

3) Consent Agenda. President Krapohl asked commissioners if there are any items they wish to remove from the consent agenda for discussion. No items were removed from the consent agenda.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Keeler

Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support for approval of consent agenda items A through D, as listed.

Roll Call

Yeas: Dickerson, Madore, Nealy, Washington, Keeler, Krapohl, Nolden

Nays: None

Absent: Secretary Bill Lucas and Commissioner Wright are absent.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0

4) Director's Report

A. Heavy Equipment Purchase. This equipment is needed for park operations. It was bid through the County's bid process. The state lets bids out for all types of equipment and we utilize that bid list that is approved by the County. We can utilize the bid list, which saves us a tremendous amount of time and effort.

Krapohl: Which budget fund account is this coming out of?

McMillan: The equipment (666) fund.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Nolden

Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support to purchase a new bull dozer for park maintenance from the state contract bid list for \$85,335.00 with a trade in of two pieces of equipment for \$25,000 each.

Yeas: Washington, Madore, Dickerson, Krapohl, Nealy, Nolden, Keeler

Nays: None

Absent: Secretary Bill Lucas and Commissioner Wright are absent.

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

B. Public Questions Addressed

Ms. McMillan will respond to the issue brought up at the last meeting regarding the Cummings Event Center. A memo addressing the concerns will be attached to the minutes of this meeting. The repeated assertion at several meetings that the Cummings Center is a landfill and/or a dump and that a recent construction of the outdoor arena, which is a key feature of the 2013 business plan, is prohibited by laws governing the operation of landfills and/or closed landfills: There is nothing in MDEQ files regarding the City dumping organization. The buildings and nearby woods in the Cummings Center have been visited by the DEQ. (See memo for the individuals from the DEQ involved in this investigation)

Since the purchase of the property in 1968, the property has been used for recreational property. The Commission has not operated a waste disposal area and has not permitted others to dump. When dumping is reported to us we remove it from the site and properly dispose of it. Event organizers are required to remove debris from the site after events. After a visit by the DEQ staff he "did not observe evidence of a dump".

The Parks Commission exercises due care by undertaking response activity necessary to mitigate unacceptable exposure to hazardous substances. When we did soil borings (to a depth of six feet) for the arena site we did find some evidence of some paper, some broken glass, some

utensils; and those things are consistent with our knowledge of how the site was used prior to our ownership. Some household waste was transported to the Sawtooth Building area and fed the hogs that were then used for food for humans.

The new outdoor arena is approximately 300 yards from the location where that building was demolished. (See memo for the details of the arena construction)

The Cummings Event Center is a 750 acre area that is used regularly for trail riding, school cross-country running events, sled dog training, and major events, including the Genesee County Fair. We have received no complaints or concerns from any of those user groups regarding trash in the wooded area of the property since the post-Genesee County Fair cleanup was complete. Any trash that was found during construction in the area was properly disposed of.

A thorough walk through of the area will be conducted at the conclusion of the bow-hunting program and any trash will be properly disposed.

For the record again: The "oil leak" that has been referenced repeatedly in public comment was thoroughly investigated by the DEQ and an investigation and report by Tetra-Tech, and there were no findings of residual oil at the site and that report was presented in the formal minutes of April 15, 2016 meeting and made available to the public.

Madore: It was stated that any trash found during the construction of the arena was properly disposed of. Does that mean that any of the trash that is in these pictures has been disposed of? If you are made aware if trash in the perimeter of the construction area that would be addressed and taken care of as well?

McMillan: I can tell you that anything that came to the surface was properly disposed of at the construction site. We are not certain where exactly that trash (photographed) is located, Mr. Kehoe has not told us that, it looks like in the wooded areas.

Yes, of course that would be addressed.

Keeler: Could some of this be from farmers that would just throw bottles and cans behind their barns and didn't cover it? Farmers typically practiced that to dispose of their trash.

Krapohl: Diving in Otter Lake he found old bottles in the lake. The Village typically threw away bottles in the lake.

McMillan: So the point that is being made is this is household waste, not hazardous waste. Farmers typically buried trash on their site.

Keeler: It is a sight thing, when he is out enjoying nature he doesn't want to see trash.

Krapohl: We just need to know where it is.

5) New Business No new business.

6) Opportunity for Commissioners to address the Commission.

Washington: This was a great response to the concerns addressed by the public. It is very detailed with the appropriate information, that was very good and he appreciates that.

Madore: He communicated with Joe and Amy regarding the inspections and he was satisfied with some of those responses and there is more to talk about, but we are getting there. Thank you.

Nealy: A supervisor, Larry Green from Mt. Morris wanted to congratulate the Director on her presentation in East Lansing to the DNR. The director and board said that was the best presentation they had heard. Congratulations, they said it was wonderful.

McMillan: Thank you. She also recognized Janet Van De Winkle for her help with the presentation and the technical side as well.

Nolden: Thanked Amy and the Chief for their contributions to the Berston Halloween event. There were about 1300 kids attending. Next year we will have toothbrushes and toothpaste to hand out.

Dickerson: Commended Bryant on the job he did at the Berston event. A lot of kids were happy.

Keeler: Where are we at on bike trails? Is the engineering done, how far along are we and what will be started next year?

McMillan: A couple ongoing projects: Kettering acquired the Chevy Commons Rail Trail property and has provided for the Parks to control the site. If we get the grant for that development, we'll know in December if that is funded, along with TAP funding, could begin on that next year.

Barry June: The trail by the office to Vassar Rd. we have approximately \$900,000 in TAP funds and we have a grant request into the DNR. Engineering is done for the Vassar Rd portion and we have DEQ approval for the entire trail to Irish Rd. The Genesee to Vassar section, depending on the DNR grant application could allow bids to go out next summer for construction to start next year.

We had a pre-construction meeting last week for the Gale Rd trail. They will start cutting trees in December and the project will begin the day after school gets out in 2017 and should be done by the end of next summer.

McMillan: When we have TAP funding that we use for trust fund grant match, it changes the timeline because the state has a much greater role in the bidding and construction of the trail. The amount of dollars they send our way makes up for that though.

Another trail that we are working on with another municipality may or may not be one of our trails. The Linden, Argentine, Fenton and Fenton Township (LAFF) group is fundraising for trail construction and advocacy in southern Genesee County. They have asked the Southern Lakes Authority to oversee the scoping of the trail but the Southern Lakes Authority didn't think that was within their core strength, so they asked us to oversee the scoping. That project is being paid directly by the donor funds that LAFF put in the Community Foundation and is utilizing one of the engineers of the large scoping project we did two years ago. So we have our hands on, or around trails in all four corners of the county right now.

Keeler: Any word on the funding from the DNR for the property in Atlas Township (Hegel Rd)?

McMillan: We'll know in mid-December. Our preliminary score was pretty good and we had the opportunity to provide supplemental information to increase the score. It depends on all the other requests that came into the trust fund board for funding. Because so many good acquisition

requests come into the trust fund board will likely use some funds from their stabilization funds so more projects could be funded.

Keeler: Any closer to getting the Hamilton Dam down? Would we be able to guess when something would be done? There are a lot of people downtown that are very nervous about that site, especially if there are big rains in the spring.

McMillan: We are nearly finalized with our permit application. Janet is completing the Dam Management Grant application for \$3.1 million. Consumers is utilizing the work that they have done as in-kind matching funds for our application so there will be no cash that comes out of our pockets. Work would be started next June or July. The city has been trying to obtain dollars for that project for over a decade. We have to thank the state departments that are working with us to make sure funds are available in that grant program.

Krapohl: Welcomed legal counsel here today. He also reminded everyone that the next meeting will be held at the Mill Street Warehouse on December 8.

Madore: The property on Mt Morris Rd. that is to be sold, where does that stand? Will it go to auction? Will there be signage on the property?

McMillan: We will be bringing that to Public Works at their next meeting and then the Board to ask permission. It should be before the end of this year. It will be a closed bid process. There will be signage on the property, something on our website, legal notices, etc., whatever it takes to get the news out to folks interested in the property.

7) Opportunity for the public to address the commission Paul Gibbs stated he believes it is more than household waste. He has found batteries and oil containers out there.

Tom Kehoe is concerned about water pollution out there on his lake. They say the oil is cleaned up, he doesn't believe it. Heads up to you guys: you'll get the recognition you deserve.

Reg Tidball: Does he have a yea or nay on the taps thing (at the Veteran's Park)? Where does he get guidance?

Krapohl: Stay after the meeting and you'll meet with the Director.

Krapohl: For clarification from legal counsel: This commission does not have the authority to hire or fire the Parks Director; that is the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners, correct?

Barkey: That is correct.

Krapohl: Opening ceremonies at the Village are the day after Thanksgiving.

8) Adjournment. Hearing no objections to adjournment, the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 am.