

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

Members Absent: Commissioner Jeff Wright, Mike Lynch,

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; Vicki Miller, Ranger Detective

Others Present: Brian Barkey, Legal Counsel; Thomas Kehoe, Paul Gibbs, Family of Bill Lucas

1) Call to Order. President Krapohl presided and called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. President Krapohl added Legal Counsel report after the Consent Agenda item and moved Items 6 and 7 on the agenda. There were no objections to the changes to the agenda.

President Krapohl announced that we have lost a member of our parks commission. Mr. Bill Lucas, who has been a member of this commission longer than anyone here, passed away. His seat is draped in black in his memory today. We have his family here today representing him and we will have a moment of silence.

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.

Tom Kehoe, 4304 E. Stanley Rd. Mr. Kehoe questioned the authority of the parks commission to replace the directors, the three minute rule for the public to speak, and the arena construction at the Cummings Center.

Paul Gibbs, 5514 Mt Morris Rd., Still concerned about the arena construction at the Cummings Center. Mr. Gibbs thinks the money spent on the dozer should go to something else like law enforcement training or a trailer to move a dozer from the Mounds to the Cummings Center.

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 Washington
Supported by Commissioner Nolden

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

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Wright and Lynch are absent.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

4) Legal Counsel. There is no legal report today and there are no questions for legal counsel today.

5) Director's Report

A. 2017 Meeting Schedule We will have two new members on the board next year so we are only asking that you approve the first two meetings of the year. The remainder of the 2017 schedule will be presented at a meeting in January once we have our new members installed.

Keeler: We have changed the meetings to downtown? Didn't we move a couple years ago that all the meetings are held at the Parks office?

Krapohl: That can be changed at the will of the commission. When we set up the schedule we can set locations.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Dickerson

Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support to accept the abbreviated schedule for 2017 January Parks Commission meetings.

Yeas: All Ayes

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Wright and Lynch are absent.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

B. Parks Hours and Fees –Information Only. Please take a look at the document, call Ms. McMillan between now and the next parks commission meeting to discuss any of your thoughts about the document. We will vote on it at the next meeting.

C. Grant Funding. Last year at this time of year we asked you to support our grant application for a purchase of land on Hegel Road in Atlas Township. We have received notification that the grant funds have been approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund. It should take a few months to work through the purchasing process. This is an exceptionally piece of property that is about half the size of ForMar. It will provide public access to the Kearsley Creek. It will provide a presence of Genesee County Parks to this part of the county.

Both of our grants for trail development projects were approved by the Trust Fund Board. The trail from the parks administration office to Vassar Rd and a trail that goes through the Chevy Commons area that connects to the Genesee Valley Trail.

Finally, the grant funds were approved for the Flint Riverfront Restoration Project.

This was a big win for the people of Genesee County. It has been a while since we've been able to have the matching funds to even apply for these types of grants. The passage of the millage put us in the position to apply for these grants.

Ms. McMillan thanked the many staff members who helped to put the grant work together. Debbie Wilkes, Patrick Linihan, Janet Van De Winkle, Danielle Fulcher for putting together

marketing information. There were many others that assisted with submitting the grant and will continue to track the grant funds once they come in (Leisa Gagne).

Krapohl: Mentioned that these grants total about 8 million dollars. Amy and her team have done excellent work to bring this kind of money to our county. It is something when you can say that it is recognized that you have the people and facilities and processes in place that the State of MI granted us that kind of money to make improvements in our community.

C. Christmas at Crossroads Opening night was very rainy, but we still had over 4,000 people, including Debbie Stabenow. If you are looking for a train ride for Christmas, trains are pretty much sold out, so call before you leave today. We are on track to meet or beat the attendance numbers from last year.

D. 2016 Our treehouse episode is scheduled to air on Friday, January 13. Animal Planet will provide a DVD for us to show all employees after the air date. Thank you to Nancy and her ForMar staff for the work they did over the summer with the treehouse project. We have over 27,000 visitors to the treehouse so far. Several staff will be participating in the Convention and Tourism Bureau Ambassador Program.

E. Mr. Lucas. On behalf of the staff, thank you (to the Lucas family) for being here today with us. Thank you for sharing Mr. Lucas with us for all those years. He was one of the original members of the hiring team that hired Ms. McMillan. He made a huge impact on her life and she is so very grateful for that.

6) New Business President Krapohl attended an award program at the FIA for business awards. The Parks were given an award for Professional Excellence from the Flint and Genesee Chamber of Commerce. Tying that back into the grant funds, this also reflects the organization we have here. We don't do things for recognition, but it is nice to be recognized and we think you do a great job. Amy was also nominated for an individual award, and he may be biased, but thinks she deserved it. He was impressed with the number of people working in our community to make this community better. The evening was very refreshing amid the negative headlines about Flint.

7) Opportunity for the public to address the commission

Tom Kehoe stated that the electrical outlets and pilings have been covered, and removed, at Stepping Stone Falls. Maybe it was because of his comments, but he didn't get any recognition or thanks for bringing that to the board's attention. He reiterated his concern about the arena work at the Cummings Center and the oil spill by his house.

8) Opportunity for Commissioners to address the Commission.

Madore: Hours and Fees Changes. Will we be looking to vote on that next month? All the changes on the draft for Parks Hours and Fees are in red?

McMillan: Yes. *(Note: minor changes of dates of seasonal operations may not be listed in red, but pertinent changes in facility hours, and fees are in red)*

Krapohl: It will be on the agenda for next month. Take the time to review it and if you have specific questions reach out to Amy before the next meeting. It will be discussed fully at the next meeting and modifications may be made depending on the discussions between now and then.

Madore: Congratulations to staff on the grants. He knows how hard it can be to pare down what you want to say within the limits allowed.

He spoke to a person in Lapeer County that asked if a person has to be a resident of Genesee County to be on the Parks Board.

Legal Counsel: Yes, you must be a resident of Genesee County.

Madore: Remind me of the purchase price of the Hegel Road property?

McMillan: Around 600,000. We will have funds from the grant, and the Poulos family that were added to help increase the grant scoring, and the proceeds from the property sale of the Mt. Morris Road parcels to go toward the purchase.

Keeler: Is it possible to arrange a visit out to the property after we close on that? Before the bugs come out! How much work to install a parking lot?

Krapohl: Perhaps a ribbon cutting ceremony?

McMillan: Once we close on it, as part of the grant agreement we must be open to the public within 30-45 days. There is a small parking lot near the front of the property, a pavilion near the parking area, foot paths, a two-track trail that goes through it along a utilities easement. It is already very accessible.

Krapohl: Thank you staff for the gifts today. He looks forward to the airing of the episode on January 13. It was fantastic to work with those people.

Dickerson: Congrats to Amy and the staff on the grants, he appreciates the work they do. He appreciates the work of this committee and being part of it. Amy does a great job because she cares about this community; his experience with her is that her heart and interest are in this community.

Krapohl: Presented and read a resolution from the Parks Commission commending Mr. William C. Lucas II for his contributions and service on the Genesee County Parks Commission to the Lucas family in attendance today. We will be naming the conference room in the Parks Administration office in his honor.

Bill had nothing but praise for the work that Amy has done here, even though he was not originally in favor of hiring her. He did admit he was wrong about that! He thanked Mr. Lucas' family for sharing Bill with us all these years.

Nolden: Bill is the reason he is a county commissioner. When he ran for office Bill was president of the retiree's chapter and he (Mr. Nolden) was relatively unknown and Bill said he could use his name in his election materials. Mr. Nolden promised Bill would not disappoint him. He was a wonderful man.

Keeler: He also has a similar experience. He worked with Bill when Shirley Prater passed away and Bill encouraged him to apply for a position on this board. He appreciates everything Bill did for the retirees and his heart goes out to the family. He was a great guy.

Krapohl: Bill was quiet during the meetings, but when he spoke, people listened. He was a mentor to everyone here.

Dickerson: Sorry he was not in town during the funeral. Bill was a great member of this board. He cannot think of anyone that could say a bad word about him. He had a big heart.

Krapohl: He knows Bill was very proud of his children and grandchildren. The family is invited to stay for the meal following this meeting.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Krapohl
Supported by Commissioner Nolden

Motion and support of a resolution, dated December 8, 2016 recognizing William C. Lucas II for his contribution to the Genesee County Parks.

Yeas: All Ayes

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Wright and Lynch are absent.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0

9) Adjournment. Hearing no objections to adjournment, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.