

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

Members Absent:, Secretary Bill Lucas, Commissioner Jeff Wright,

Staff Present: Amy McMillan, Director; Barry June, Deputy Director; Matt Armentrout, Director of Facilities Management; Kevin Shanlian, Chief Ranger; Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer; Nancy Edwards, Program Specialist/Grants; Danielle Fulcher, Marketing Specialist; Deborah Wilkes, Administrative Secretary; Patrick Linihan, Administrative Intern;

Others Present: Paul Gibbs, 5514 E Mt. Morris Rd.

1) Call to Order. President Krapohl presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2) Opportunity for members of the public to address the commission. President Krapohl explained that this is the time of the meeting for the public to have an opportunity to address the commission. You must state your name and address for the record and per commission rules you have 3 minutes, with the understanding that this is your opportunity to address the commission and it is not designed as a two way discussion between the commission and the public. Your comments and questions, we will try to answer them during the director's report. If we can't we'll get back to you by email or some other means or you are more than welcome to contact the director during normal business hours.

Paul Gibbs, 5514 E Mt Morris Rd expressed concern about the horse stalls or horse stadium being built (at the E. A. Cummings Event Center). Seems like there could be more we could do for kids or community rather than build another horse stall, not every household has a horse. Maybe a crosswalk over here by the railroad.

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 C, as listed.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Absent: Secretary Bill Lucas, Commissioner Jeff Wright

MOTION CARRIED 8-0

4. Director's Report

A. 2016-17 Budgets. This item requires a roll call vote. We reviewed the draft at our last meeting and there have been no questions that have come forward from our commissioners so we would like to move forward. There have been no changes in the bottom line, but there was a small change based on some changes in our inter-governmental charges from the county. That

amount has been transferred from the contingency line item to the corresponding inter-governmental expense line. This is the first of two steps to having the budget adopted. The Commission approves the budget by fund today, and then it goes to the BOC to be adopted on or before October 1.

Discussion on Fund #208: None

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Nolden
Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support for approval of Resolution #009-16 for General Operating Fund 2016-17 budget Account #208 listing the revenues of \$7,089,658 and expenditures of \$6,369,706 with details listed in attachments.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Absent: Secretary Bill Lucas, Commissioner Jeff Wright

MOTION CARRIED 8-0

Discussion on Fund 209:

Madore: These are funds that were earned in a previous year and rather than allocate them to a certain fund this year, it will be in a catch-all called projects.

McMillan: This is a new fund for us. It is a direct outcome of the county's new software accounting system. In previous fiscal years, we had the opportunity to just move dollars in and out of our fund balance. In the new accounting system, that can't be done on an ongoing basis. It must be a separate action taken by the parks commission to move those funds. What we typically did before, money we have not spent at the end of the fiscal year, because a lot of our projects we wait until the end of the year to make sure our revenues meet our target; we wait to do the projects until the money is in the bank. We move it to the next fiscal year and do those projects. The new accounting software doesn't allow us to do that in the same fashion, so we are putting a little bit of that money into this account and really it is a like a liquid savings account, so if something breaks we can spend from that or if something becomes a pressing need we can spend from that. We'll account for it directly through that line item, rather than putting a dollars and cents in another line item.

Madore: His concern is that anything that happens, like a lawnmower breaks, or something on the railroad, or overtime it would come from this account?

McMillan: There are dollars in buildings and grounds for when reasonably anticipated things break and in other line items when we incur reasonable expenses. So it is not meant to be a daily spending line item.

Madore: In case of overages, something that is not foreseen? But rather than transfer money from fund balance into a particular fund to cover those, it is a middle ground where this is between fund balance and the account line item? And you pull out of here when you need it rather than allocate it up front to a specific line item. It is kind of like a slush fund between, to

save the cumbersomeness of having to go back and moving funds from fund balance into a particular fund to cover unforeseen expenses.

McMillan: She wouldn't say our budget has ever been able to accommodate a 'slush fund'. The little bit of cushion for those kinds of things that come up tends to be in the contingency line item, which is small. This is for if something big happens in a line item.

Madore: He thinks it is more proper to set money aside in contingencies into those cost centers for those types of things versus having this one item, that no matter what comes up, you'll just pull it from this cost center.

McMillan: Only if we exceed a line item would it come from this fund. She understands Mr. Madore's point, we've spent a lot of time thinking about this and she will stick with her recommendation but it is up to the commissioners to address that. It is something we will keep you up-to-date on through the fiscal year.

Washington: I understand Joe's point; but his question is: how would you readily and accurately allocate dollars for something if you don't have a historical perspective, if you don't know what would happen. This is where, to him, from a financial standpoint it becomes very sticky and cumbersome, because now you are guessing.

McMillan: Our whole expense and revenue budget is based on that precedence, so if line item 001-02 was "x" number of dollars this year, and that is what we spent, that is the amount of dollars we will put in that line item in the budget, same is true with revenue. We base our entire budget on precedence because that is where we feel most confidence.

Madore: And to that point, you have years of historical to go back on. So rather than putting money into a contingency fund in equipment or cost center or line item, you kind of have this mid-ground for no matter where it goes. It can go to any account or fund, correct?

McMillan: It can go to any expenditure, yes. The reason we set it up separately is we didn't want to program it into our budget as something you could spend. If my budget for a line item is \$100,000, I'm going to spend \$100,000, even if \$20,000 is contingency. So it's just easier to keep our tight grip on those dollars if they are not part of our operating budget.

Madore: And the benefit to having this here now is you don't have to come back, we meet twice a month, if it wasn't there, you may, three quarters through the year, you run into a cost center overage, or something breaks, you'd have to come back to us and do a budget amendment. So basically the biggest reason for this is not to have to do budget amendments.

McMillan: Correct, that is exactly right.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Lynch
Supported by Commissioner Nolden

Motion and support for approval of Resolution #010-16 for Fund Balance for Equipment/ Projects, 2016-17 budget Account #209 listing the revenues of \$0.00 and expenditures of \$310,000 with details listed in attachments.

Roll Call

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

Nays: Madore

Absent: Secretary Bill Lucas, Commissioner Jeff Wright

MOTION PASSED 7-1

Discussion on Fund 508: None

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Nolden

Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support for approval of Resolution #011-16 for Railroad/Boat/Campground/Restoration Fund 2016-17 budget Account #508 listing the revenues of \$287,700 and expenditures of \$941,550 with details listed in attachments.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Absent: Secretary Bill Lucas, Commissioner Jeff Wright

MOTION PASSED 8-0

Discussion on Fund 211: None

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Nolden

Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support for approval of Resolution #012-16 for Crossroads Village Fund 2016-17 budget Account #211 listing the revenues of \$1,811,300 and expenditures of \$1,402,402 with details listed in attachments.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Absent: Secretary Bill Lucas, Commissioner Jeff Wright

MOTION PASSED 8-0

Discussion on Fund 666:

McMillan: There are very few numbers left in the County's system. We usually use new numbers for grants.

Madore: What are the revenues under equipment?

McMillan: We sell a bunch of stuff that we can no longer use at the end of the year.

Nolden: How do you sell it?

McMillan: We do it through auction, sometimes we trade stuff, sometimes we pick up stuff from the Drain Commission that they would normally sell. It isn't a private sale.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Dickerson
Supported by Commissioner Lynch

Motion and support for approval of Resolution #013-16 for Equipment Fund 2016-17 budget Account #666 listing the revenues of \$120,000 and expenditures of \$595,000 with details listed in attachments.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Absent: Secretary Bill Lucas, Commissioner Jeff Wright

MOTION PASSED 8-0**5) New Business**

To address questions from public comment. Ms. McMillan had a call from Genesee Township Supervisor, Steve Fuhr last week and he asked that we direct anyone who has questions about sidewalks or crossings at the railroad to the Genesee Township Supervisor and he will be happy to address that because that is not within the scope of the authority of the Parks Commission to address. You can give him a call at the Township Hall or go to one of the meetings of the Township Board and they will discuss that with you.

In terms of community projects, we always have a bunch of community projects ongoing. Soon, within the next couple weeks, for example, our major build on the universally accessible playground that the parks commission approved earlier.

Sometime this fall when things slow down, one of our other projects that was approved when we did a budget transfer in January or February, the off leash dog area in Flushing County Park will be built.

We had good news this morning, our TAP grant request from the Planning Commission has been approved for our next section of trail way. That was 1.2 million dollars. So there are a lot of projects that are going on around all over the parks that directly meet the priorities of Genesee County Parks residents as a whole.

Another update: She will sit down with you after the meeting to go over the details about the releases necessary for the ForMar treehouse build. We have only talked about it in really small quiet ways because we were previously directed by Animal Planet, which is the television channel that is filming the episode that we were only allowed to speak about it in very broad terms. Our episode will not be aired until the end of this year or the beginning of next year. Animal Planet crew has recently placed signs at the site to confirm that we are building a treehouse so they have given us the opportunity to talk about it a little bit more. We still cannot post any pictures of the treehouse itself on social media. But if you find yourself wandering around ForMar, don't get in anybody's way, but you can take a peek at what is going on there. If you find yourself next to any of the crew or Pete Nelson himself, and the need for a selfie overcomes you, and you want to post it on your Facebook or Instagram, feel free. If you follow Pete, Judy or any of the crew on Nelson Treehouse & Supplies on Instagram and you want to repost their Instagram posts, you can do that as well. We are in the process to finalize the schedule for the reveal. Amy will talk to you about how that will proceed after the meeting today. Once the reveal is complete the treehouse will be open to the public. We will begin programming the next day at the treehouse. We are pretty excited about that. One thing that has been very gratifying is that

the whole crew, which is staying locally, (so they are contributing to the accommodation tax revenue that helps the parks commission as well as tourism in Genesee County overall) has had just a tremendous experience in Genesee County. They have spent dollars downtown in restaurants and watering holes. They have played disc golf at Goldenrod; they've been to Crossroads Village. They were our guests of honor at our mid-season staff meeting earlier this week, and they have been tremendously gracious with their time and are just loving Michigan. The thing they have told us that is most gratifying to them as an entire crew, both from the treehouse buildings side and the Animal Planet side, is that most of the time when they do a project they know how important it is to the family of 4 or 6 or 12 that is building the project, but what they love about this project is that when it is complete it will be available to the entire community. That brings a whole dimension to their work that they have not had the opportunity to experience before.

6) Opportunity for Commissioners to address the Commission.

Madore: Sorry he couldn't make the meeting but he had other things stacked up that evening.

Nolden: He enjoyed Tuesday and did get a couple pictures with Pete Nelson. He got a lot of likes when he posted it. He also put a picture up with Commissioner Dickerson with Pete and his wife.

Berston Field House playground will be built through Kaboom. He thanked Amy for allowing Patrick to help with questions about the playground. The build date will be on September 16. We will start at 8:30 in the morning it will be done by 2:30 pm. He is looking for volunteers; they need between 150-200. If anyone is interested in coming out that day, you don't necessarily have to have any skills, we would be greatly appreciative. You can help with the food or with the actual build. The address is 3300 N Saginaw Street, Flint.

McMillan: To remind everyone, we have been providing playground consulting services in many areas as part of our relationship with Keep Genesee County Beautiful to sites that are adopting parks and other areas through KGCB. It is a way to amplify the outcomes of that program. We have folks like Patrick, and Matt and some of his crew that are certified playground safety inspectors and she thinks that has been a tremendous benefit to the community.

Nolden: The person coordinating the volunteer effort is Jaquita Welch. She is from KGCB, so it is a collaboration and it comes right back to the Parks because of KGCB. He wanted to make sure to say thank you.

Keeler: The treehouse people - are they sourcing all of their lumber or are they buying locally?

McMillan: Some of each. Some pieces are pre-fabricated at their facility on the west coast. Then some of the materials were local sources, same is true for the decorations. One of the things that has been fascinating to us is the flooring that is going to be in the treehouse itself, they go all over the country and they look at opportunities to upcycle, or recycle old materials. So they have this gorgeous tongue and groove flooring that was saved from another location that they shipped to the site that will be part of our treehouse. Tory, the decorator tries to source a lot of things locally as well. They try to have as big an impact locally as they can.

Krapohl: He had an opportunity to visit with Pete and the crew and they are just fantastic people who have nothing but good things to say about the staff they are working with. They are very friendly, and they are very thankful for what they have been able to see in our county and it somewhat changes their perception of what they read in the media; knowing that there are an awful lot of good people in our county.

Congratulations to Bryant for what they are doing at Berston. Providing recreational opportunities for kids, whether it through the county or state, we are all in the same business, so it benefits all in the long run.

Madore: Is anybody renting the bikes yet?

McMillan: Yes, we've had a few rentals, employees and on Sunday she was riding from Stepping Stone Falls back to the office on her own bike and there were two people using them from our rental station.

7) Opportunity for the public to address the commission No addressed the commission.

8) Adjournment. Hearing no objections to adjournment, the meeting was adjourned at 10:31 am.