

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

Members Absent: Commissioner Jeff Wright

Staff Present: Amy McMillan, Director; Barry June, Deputy Director; Nancy Edwards, Programming and Grants; Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer; Kevin Shanlian, Chief Ranger; Deborah Wilkes, Administrative Secretary; Janet Van De Winkle, Project Sustainability Director, Patrick Linihan, Project Coordinator; Nicole Ferguson, ForMar Park Naturalist; Thad Wasilewski, Facilities Intern

Others Present: Chelsea Fink and Elizabeth Buckel, Bentley Community Schools; Thomas Kehoe, 4304 E. Stanley Rd.

1) Call to Order. President Krapohl presided and called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. President Krapohl congratulated Jim Washington on his reappointment as a citizen representative. And, joining us from the Board of Commissioners Ted Henry.

2) Presentation: Nicole Ferguson, Chelsea Fink and Elizabeth Buckel from Bentley Schools explained the partnership between ForMar and Bentley Schools for the Begindergarten nature-centered program for 4 and 5 year olds. Ms. Fink stated that this partnership is truly amazing and successful and the school district thanked the Parks for having this program. ForMar also visits the higher grade levels in the elementary school Ms. McMillan thanked the schools for giving ForMar the opportunity to be a part of this program as well.

Washington: This is a great program.

Krapohl: Thanked Bentley Schools for thinking outside of the box. Commissioner Nealy and he are both school board members and they know the need for young students to have this type of activity.

3) Election of Officers. This is our annual organizational meeting and we will begin with election of officers for 2018. President Krapohl asked for nominations for the office of President of the Parks Commission.

Commissioner Washington nominated Joe Krapohl for the office of President of the Parks Commission. Commissioner Henry supported that nomination.

President Krapohl called for any other nominations three (3) times. With no other nominations, the nomination process is closed and a motion is made to close the nominations and elect the nominee by acclamation. With no further discussion, the following action is taken:

Motion and Support and accept the nomination of Joe Krapohl for office of President of the Parks Commission for the calendar year 2018.

Ayes: All Ayes

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Jeff Wright

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

President Krapohl asked for nominations for the office of Vice-President of the Parks Commission.

Commissioner Dickerson nominated James Washington for the office of Vice-President of the Parks Commission. Commissioner Lynch supported that nomination.

President Krapohl called for any other nominations three (3) times. With no other nominations, the nomination process is closed and a motion was made to close the nominations and elect the nominee by acclamation. With no further discussion, the following action is taken:

Motion and support to accept the nomination of James Washington for office of Vice-President of the Parks Commission for the calendar year 2018.

Ayes: All Ayes

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Jeff Wright

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

President Krapohl asked for nominations for the office of Secretary.

Commissioner Nolden nominated Mike Lynch for the office of Secretary of the Parks Commission. Commissioner Washington supported that nomination.

President Krapohl called for any other nominations three (3) times. With no other nominations, the nomination process is closed and a motion was made to close the nominations and elect the nominee by acclamation.

Motion and support to accept the nominations of Mike Lynch for the office of Secretary of the Parks Commission for the calendar year 2018.

Ayes: All Ayes

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Jeff Wright

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

Commissioner Nolden has served as the Board liaison and has agreed to continue to serve this year. Should he not be able to attend an executive meeting we will ask another of our board representatives to attend.

4) 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 addressed the commission about the lack of recycling in the parks. Proceeds from tree removal for Consumers easement work could be used to fix the dam.

5) 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 Nolden
Supported by Commissioner Washington

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

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Wright is absent.

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

5) Director's Report

Recycling: The Director clarified to the Commission that Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission does in fact recycle in each of its buildings in compliance with the Genesee County Recycling Policies. We also have cardboard recycling at each building. Our Keep Genesee County Beautiful (KGCB) program has an award winning recycling program throughout the community as part of the recovery process of the Flint Water Crisis. So it is entirely incorrect to state that the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission does not recycle or play a leadership role in recycling in Genesee County.

A. Christmas Attendance and Wolverine Opening Day Sales

Christmas at Crossroads attendance was up 3.7% over last year. Sullivan's served over 4,000 meals during the Christmas program. Wolverine opening day reservations for campsites are off to a great start. They are up over last year's opening day reservations. The majority are almost all web-based sales rather than phone calls or walk-in.

B. DDA Lease for KGCB office space. Staff requests the commission authorize the Director to sign a lease for office space for our KGCB program. We have the entire second floor of the former Community Foundation Building with use of the basement for storage (and an offsite location) and use of the kitchen area, ample parking and utilities are included. It is located at 502 Church Street. KGCB was formerly housed in Woodside Church until Mott Community College purchased the church.

Henry: Do we know how many square feet? All utilities included?

McMillan: It is the entire second floor. Everything is included.

Nolden: Is there access to the offsite storage?

McMillan: We are storing stuff in the basement, but we have access to the warehouse too.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Nolden
Supported by Commissioner Dickerson

Motion and support to authorize staff to enter into a lease agreement with the City of Flint's Downtown Development Authority for general office space for Keep Genesee County Beautiful at 720.00 per month.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Wright is absent.

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

C. Create a Secretary Position.

It is Debbie's intention to retire in April. We budgeted for her administrative secretary salary through April and rather than filling the admin secretary position, we wish to create a secretary position, a slightly lower classification, to replace her. We want to have opportunity for advancement and we want to make sure we have the right person for the position.

Upon approval of our commission it will go to Finance Committee and Board of Commissioners for final approval.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Dickerson

Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support to approve the request to create a secretary position.

Roll Call

Ayes: Dickerson, Krapohl, Nealy, Nolden, Henry, Keeler, Lynch, Martin, Washington

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Wright is absent.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0

D. Park Commission Dates have been check for conflicts with holidays. The schedule will be posted according to the Open Meetings Act.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Lynch

Supported by Commissioner Nolden

Motion and support to approve the 2018 Genesee County Parks and Recreation meeting schedule.

Ayes: All ayes

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Wright is absent.

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

E. Authorization of Expenses over \$5,000

Upon approval this will move to Public Works Committee and then the Board for final approval.

Henry: What is the differentiation in the Stone and aggregate? You are buying the same product in different locations? Is there a breakdown of prices and what you are buying? Do we use much recycled concrete? Do we have a list of transportation providers to be cost effective?

June: This is not the same product. It is broken up based on product. There are about 10 products and not all those vendors can provide those products so it based on the product they can provide. It is more convenient, if you get on a job, if you need a few more yards, to get it from the closest supplier. And you have to plan ahead due to frost laws. When we lock these in, these vendors are committed to these prices for the year. We used to use recycled concrete until the price went up considerably, then it was more cost effective to use a limestone product.

McMillan: The way we determine our sand, gravel, limestone purchases is based on location as well as price. As you know the base price of such materials is done by the yard but there is a price for delivery. We try to set up purchase requisition in several areas of the county so that when projects require product, we are getting it from the closest vendor. These are blanket purchase orders, we may or may not spend that much from the vendors. The breakdown is provided.

The dam demolition project will create crushed concrete, which will be reused as fill.

Nolden: With this particular issue, when we buy the material, do we spread it throughout the county or certain areas? If we use it in one area do we buy it from an organization in that general area?

McMillan: When it is available yes, because then it reduces our cost of delivery. We can get you that bid sheet that shows providers.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Washington
Supported by Commissioner Dickerson

Motion and support to authorize expenditures in excess of 5,000.00

Ayes: Lynch, Martin, Nolden, Henry, Keeler, Dickerson, Krapohl, Nealy, Washington

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Wright is absent.

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

F. Grant Applications -

MI DNR Trust Fund We request authorization to apply for six grant applications not to exceed \$300,000 each for the Flint River Restoration Project to the MI DNR Trust Fund. Those applications are not due until April, and there are requirements to put notices out to the public for input. We will bring you more fully developed proposals later. We need authorization to begin that process. Public input will be set up in February prior to application submission

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Washington
Supported by Commissioner Dickerson

Motion and support to authorize staff to apply for six grants from the MI DNR Trust Fund not to exceed \$300,000.00 each with matching funds from a C. S. Mott Foundation

grant that has already been awarded to the Parks as part of the Flint Riverfront Restoration Project.

Ayes Dickerson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Lynch, Martin, Nealy, Nolden, Washington

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Wright is absent.

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

National Fish Wildlife Foundation: (voted on DNR grants and National Fish and Wildlife Grants together)

These grants are for work on the Flint Riverfront Restoration Project.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Washington

Supported by Commissioner Dickerson

Motion and support to authorize staff to apply for three grants from National Fish Wildlife Foundation in the amounts of \$400,000; \$50,000; and \$200,000.

Ayes Dickerson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Lynch, Martin, Nealy, Nolden, Washington

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Wright is absent.

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

G. Accept Grants

These are grants received for ForMar Nature Preserve and Arboretum. E-Car Michigan Realtors Association in the amount of \$2500 for a classroom place making project and MI DNR Urban and Community Forestry grant in the amount of 7620.00 for grounds at ForMar Arboretum.

We'd like to ask that at the time the Board approves the grant that they also authorize us to expend the grants. The Urban and Community Forestry grant is very time sensitive in that we need to order supplies now.

Henry: What are we buying?

Edwards: Forestry grant is an educational grant allowing us to create a ForMar on the Road Urban Superhero trail that we will take into urban parks and teach kids urban forestry. The E-Car grant will be used at ForMar.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Washington

Supported by Commissioner Dickerson

Motion and support to accept the terms of the grants from E-Car Michigan Realtors Association for \$2500.00 and MI DNR Urban and Community Forestry for \$7620.00 and authorize expenditures.

Ayes Krapohl, Nealy, Washington, Dickerson, Lynch, Martin, Nolden, Keeler, Henry

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Wright is absent.

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

H. Board/Committee Schedules and Parks Meetings It has always been difficult to line up Board and Committee schedules with Parks schedules and getting information into the parks commission and to the board making it difficult to make things happen in a timely manner. It has become more challenging than ever particularly as it pertains to grants. Nobody wants to leave any money lying on the table anywhere. We like to squeeze every dollar we can out of every grant source that we can. There are grants that pop up on our radar and it is very difficult to get in line through the approval process. You could easily be talking about a four week process to get approval for grants, and sometimes up to eight weeks.

We'd like to explore and bring back a recommendation to the commission to request from the board of commissioners is if there are any opportunities to condense some of the grant process so that if, for example, if we ask for authorization of a grant, does that in affect, allow us to accept the grant without going through a long process. Or, if we are authorized to accept a grant, can we in a timely manner be authorized to get expenses against that grant because that has a whole life of its own as well.

Ms. McMillan would like to work with the staff over the course of the next couple weeks, as well as other departments who write a lot of grants, to see if there are some pressure points that we all experience that we could come together to make some recommendations to the board for some amendments to those policies. Before we put forth the time and effort on those recommendations she would like at least have the support to look at that.

Henry: Probably the most critical part and maybe a way to condense it or spread it out would be the cash issue. Where is the cash coming from, is it coming from the county? Matching funds...the commissioners are concerned about expenditures of tax monies collected and how they are used. If it is a true free grant with no matching funds, that would make a difference. That would be the place to start.

McMillan: It will never come from the County's general fund. We would never be so bold as come to the County and ask for money.

That would be tremendously helpful for our smaller grants that require no match. That will be where we could start.

Krapohl: Amy is looking for a consensus to bring something back to us.

Martin: He sees the board willing to do these things by roll call vote to get things moving. Meetings are on Mondays, if the holidays disrupts how often we have a meeting, we could agree to have a special meeting we can call one.

McMillan: This is where, when you get down to the meetings and the process, is we thought that a roll call vote of the Public Works committee, which we always appreciate, that we can then go forward and start activating that grant. But we cannot. The process requires, even with a unanimous roll call vote, it requires a resolution from the board of commissioners so it's great that you make the roll call vote, but we have to wait at least two weeks to get that resolution.

So the intent is to allow everybody to go on with their lives, but the reality is it does not work that way.

Henry: It is all about communications. We could schedule board meetings the same way.

Martin: At least two or three meetings we've had to call special meetings.

McMillan: On that thought, because there are some grants, for example, KGCB, which is funded entirely by the Ruth Mott Foundation; our current grant essentially ends one day and the new grant begins the next. There is sometimes a very short time period between the time we are notified of the award of the new grant. If we have to go back to the Board and wait for that board vote and resolution, essentially that means we have to suspend the program because we can't start charging against a grant.

Henry: Sometimes we get grants from other departments that are six months after the starting date.

I. Disney Play Spaces grant.

This is an in-kind grant in the amount of \$30,000 that requires no Parks cash or general county funds changing hands.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Washington

Supported by Commissioner Nolden

Motion and support to authorize grant submission of Disney Play Spaces: Meet Me at the Park – Transforming Parks and Improving Access to Play Spaces, and forward the request to Finance and the Board of Commissioners.

Ayes Dickerson, Martin, Nolden, Washington, Nealy, Keeler, Henry, Krapohl, Lynch

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Wright is absent.

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

J. Introduction of our new intern.

Patrick Linihan introduced Thaddeus Wasilewski, our new facilities intern from Central Michigan. Thad will be with us until August.

Wasilewski: He is also an infantryman with the Army National Guard. He is from Genesee County, growing up in Linden and is excited to learn and help give back to the community he grew up in. He's glad to be here.

President Krapohl and the commissioners welcome Thad and are sure he will learn quite a bit and it is a great group of people to work with.

5)New/Old Business REMINDER: tomorrow is a furlough day and offices will be closed; and Monday we will be closed for the M.L. King holiday.

President Krapohl stated that he has been approached by Chris Miller from the Fair Board. They are looking at some type of extension to the current contract we have with them. The current contract has been very successful. Chris has commitments from his vendors into the future for

the event and they would like to look at an extension to the current contract. Perhaps an automatic extension as long as all the terms are being met.

President Krapohl is looking for a consensus among the commissioners that we could back and look something. We would bring it back to the full commission if we have any changes in our current agreement.

Henry: What are the terms of the current lease? He would volunteer himself and Commission Nolden to help with that.

Krapohl: It is a five year lease and it expires in 2019 or 2020. The last contract had drop dead dates for obligations they had to meet, and they have done that. It has been a good partnership with them. We have been working well with them. We want them to be successful because it is good for the county. He can work with Chris for something that gives them a little bit of stability and gives us some options to keep them there until the time they may decide to develop the property on Mt. Morris Road. They have no desire to run the fair, and we want them to be successful if they are using our property.

7) Opportunity for the public to address the commission

Issues: no recycling bins in the parks for the public to use; did anyone look at historical aerials; are wells on the property tested. (*Note: all drinking wells are tested by the Genesee County Health Department*); other items brought up have been previously addressed by the parks commission.

8) Opportunity for Commissioners to address the Commission.

Henry: Happy to be here. As the world changes, we have to change. Whether we admit it or not, there seem to be a lot more people in the lower class and we have to offer affordable programs to expose people to the parks.

Martin: pleased to hear about the number of people using the parks. With finishing projects like the Flint Riverfront Project and Iron Belle Trails, there is no reason why corporations wouldn't want to come here; we have everything from schools and recreation, jobs and health care right here.

Keeler: Where are we at with the Dam? The Utah Dam also catches a lot of litter.

McMillan: We are expecting a final permit will be issued when one of the final issues – the City of Flint's decision on the primary back up water supply (*note: permit for the dam removal arrived Friday, January 12*) A pre-construction is scheduled with the contractor, we will notify the university of the start date as part of the requirement of our access agreement with UM-Flint and we will notify each of you when the first day of demolition is scheduled to occur. It is incredibly exciting to us; this is a project that this community has been focused on for well over a decade. This is not a blow and go dam removal, no great implosion; it will be bite by bite demolition. The Fabri-Dam will also be removed. When we have a final schedule it will be shared with you. We have worked with one of our vendors, Olmsted Associates, to set up a Dam Cam so we can have video of the entire process to memorialize the event. We'll have an end of demolition celebration. Consumers has finished their project with the exception of some of restoration, which will be completed along the banks in the spring. All the pieces are coming together. We also applied for a Dam Management grant to remove the Utah Dam. That grant, if funded, will allow for a pedestrian bridge crossing. If the six grants that we apply for from the DNR (that we talked about today) one of the things we have talked about with the City (who will also have to sign off on those grant applications) is possibly putting in a Recreation Passport grant that would

do some improvements on the Flint River Trail that runs through Vietnam Veteran's Park. A local corporation is also interested in doing some pilot programs for a kayak/canoe livery on the river starting on Parks property. We are lining up as many sources of funding as possible to build the project layer by layer.

The Utah Dam was meant to do that (catch litter) it's really more of a gate than a dam.

Washington: Welcome back Ted Henry to our commission.

Lynch: Welcome Commissioner Henry.

Henry: On the dam, before the deconstruction started, he suggests we take a video, even way downstream because we're going to get complaints.

McMillan: As part of the process we had a public hearing back in August. The only question we got was about flooding. When the dam is removed it will lessen the chance of flooding because there is a wider channel for water to go through rather than only two gates that are currently open. If there were a flood, all that water would press all the way through only two gates.

9) Adjournment. Hearing no objections to adjournment, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.