

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Amy McMillan, Director; Barry June, Deputy Director; Kevin Shanlian, Chief Ranger; Deborah Wilkes, Administrative Secretary; Nancy Edwards, Programs and Grants; Danielle Fulcher, Communications, Event and Brand Manager

Others Present: Tom Kehoe 4304 Stanley Road, Genesee

1) Call to Order. President Krapohl presided and called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

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.

Comments from the public pertaining to several issues brought up and answered in previous meetings.

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 Lynch

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

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED 10-0

4) Director's Report

A. Set Public Input on MDNR Trust Fund Grants

We are in the process of developing grants for the Flint Riverfront Restoration Project. The granting source requires public input. We recommend the meeting on March 22 be set for public input. The information about the grants will be posted online for 30 days prior to submittal of the grant and available at the Parks administrative offices. The public is welcome to submit comments by phone, online or in person at the parks office or during commission meetings anytime during this 30-day period and there will be a formal time set at the March 22 meeting as well.

Back in February we requested authorization to apply for 6 grants: Playground Block, Amphitheater Block, Archimedes Screw Block, Stepping Stone Falls Access, Vietnam Veteran's

Park River Access, all for \$300,000.00 each and Richfield Iron Belle Trail \$250,000.00

Krapohl: It has been brought to our attention that the park commissioners will not be issued parking passes for the parking ramp. Does that make a difference in the location in which the parks commission meetings will be held regarding this grant issue in March?

The Board office will no longer validate parking either. Commissioner Nolden and Martin were unaware of the change in parking policy.

The decision was made to continue with the motion as made by Mr. Wright. If we change locations we will post according to the Open Meetings Act.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Wright
Supported by Commissioner Lynch

Motion and support to set the March 22, 2018 regular Parks Commission Meeting for public input on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grants as discussed.

Yeas: All ayes
Nays: None
Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED 10-0

B. Request to apply for grants.

Staff request authorization to apply for grants: **Michigan Department of Environmental Quality – Michigan Brownfield Redevelopment Program** – up to \$400,000.00 with no match required, for greening and restoration, trail and sidewalk work and capping on Parcel A of Chevy Commons;

National Recreation and Parks Association – up to \$40,000.00 with no match required for 10 minute Walk Planning Grant and Technical Assistance;

Fruit Tree Planting Foundation – value up to \$5,000.00 with no match required for fruit trees for ForMar and the materials and equipment to support creating an orchard.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Wright
Supported by Commissioner Lynch

Motion and support for the request to apply for the grants as listed in your agenda.

Roll Call

Yeas: Wright, Nealy, Krapohl, Dickerson, Washington, Lynch, Henry, Keeler, Martin, Nolden
Nays: None
Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED 10-0

C. Approval of Seasonal Positions and rates of pay.

When minimum wage was increased over a period of time in the State of MI the Parks Commission, with the approval of the Board of Commissioners, made a commitment to raise all seasonal rates of pay at the same time and by the same amount that minimum wage went up, as an issue of fairness and equity across the board. We've added or changed the name of some seasonal positions since that time and Human Resources has asked us to update the list with the rates of pay that correspond to the job descriptions and that it be adopted by the Board of Commissioners. The first step is to ask the Parks Commission. This is the last year the minimum wage was scheduled to be increased so these rates will remain in place for now and at least into the near future.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Nolden
Supported by Commissioner Wright

Motion and support for the request to adopt the seasonal positions and rates of pay.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED 10-0

D. First Try Triathlon Special Events Permit

This event has taken place for several years. As in the past they request to swim outside the designated swim area and launch motor boats from the beach. This requires Commissioner approval to allow activity that is against park rules.

Henry: How does restrictions in the water relate to this? Doesn't the state have a statute?

McMillan: Please don't ask her about Riparian Rights because she may say something wrong.

Wright: Just within the last two weeks the Supreme Court ruled that the property owners do not own into the water. It is public waters. It opens a can of worms. What you are going to ask the attorney is yet to be settled and resolved because the recent ruling has changed the mindset of what has been historical use. There will be changes and challenges.

Henry: How do we regulate the area for swimming then? We regulate that swimming area based on what?

McMillan: We have a park rule that does not allow swimming outside of the designated area. But we also, at each beach, we set up that swimming area that is sufficient size to accommodate swimming; that are also within an area that we have a clear understanding of things like the depth and the rate of drop off. Everyone has access to the lake, but the uses within any given lake can be regulated, i.e. Buell Lake and Mott Lake are no-wake lakes. The state can also designate a no-wake area. On the legal side she can ask the attorney.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Wright
Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support to approve the 2018 First Try Triathlon special event application submit to final site approval by the Parks Commission Director and upon compliance with all other Genesee County Parks and Recreation Special Event permit requirements.

Yeas: All Ayes

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED 10-0

E. Community Foundation Grant for Playground Program.

The County Board requires authorization to apply for grants by each department. Grantors and funders do not ever operate on anyone's schedule other than their own and he who holds the gold should make the rules about distributing it, so we don't complain about that. An opportunity came to our attention just a couple days ago. The Community Foundation became aware that our summer programming schedule is greatly reduced due to financial issues within our budget. One of those programs eliminated was the summer playground program which included sites within the city parks that are operated by the GCP under our partnership with the City of Flint. The Foundation has offered us the opportunity to apply for funds somewhere in the area of \$25,000, might be a bit more or less; and it may ultimately also include a second application a little bit later for the purposes of conducting a playground program which includes lunch at Berston Community Center this summer. We've had a conversation with the Friends of Berston and their representatives are amenable to hosting such a program. The Community Foundation was specific in its intent to provide funding for a program at that site.

We'd like to request permission today to apply for those funds and forward that request to the BOC. We will be asking Commissioner Henry to waive something through to allow us to put something on your agenda late, or to simply waive it through to the BOC.

Henry: He knows that out where he is at the school districts are involved with some playground programs. Do the schools do anything like this? He doesn't want to have any conflict with schools.

McMillan: No, we don't want to be redundant either. The Crim Fitness Foundation does offer some programs at some schools through its community education program throughout the year. Our perspective, not just speaking for the County Parks, but for all of our partners, collectively, believe that the more locations that we have for these programs the broader need that we can support. So it is not a duplication of services it is an expansion of services that are available. We are not competing.

Nolden: He will not vote because he doesn't want it to seem like a conflict, but he had a conversation with the Community Foundation and they actually approached the Berston group about doing it. That is why he contacted Amy, he thought it was a win-win because we had that program at Max Brandon Park and because of the cuts there won't be that program this summer. It makes sense because some of those students participating at Max Brandon, they can transition to Berston.

Henry: If you get five children involved it is a plus plus. We could ask the commission whether Commissioner Nolden could vote or not because that is an option we could take. He has no problem with him voting.

Krapohl: He also has no problem with Nolden voting. President Krapohl understands Commissioner Nolden's position, and he respects his position, but there is no direct financial gain to him personally and it is a benefit to the community so it is not anything that he will gain by.

McMillan: We still have a quorum if he chooses not to vote.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Washington

Supported by Commissioner Lynch

Motion and support to authorize staff to submit an application to the Community Foundation for a Summer Playground Program at Berston Field House.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Wright left the meeting and missed this vote.

Abstaining from vote: Commissioner Nolden

MOTION CARRIED 8-0

5) New/Old Business

McMillan: We do not have a final schedule for the demolition of the Hamilton Dam. We had hoped to have a schedule by today but it rained and until the water levels have dropped, they cannot get into the river. The engineers are working on a new schedule and when it is available it will first be shared with the Parks Commission and Board of Commissioners, then posted online and with the press. This project has had many starts and stops over the years and it is incredibly important in the public trust to be as accurate in expectations as we can.

The graphic distributed today shows the areas that will be demolished. Cranes were delivered and all the equipment necessary for the demolition is onsite, power, fencing, utility work is ready, and the service drive is in place. The next phase is building a launch pad into the river to get the crane in there. The velocity and depth of the water is causing the calculations of when the work will begin to be a bit of a challenge. The superstructure of the Hamilton Dam is the largest part of the demolition that will take place- the part that is out over the water, where you can see the gates. Other areas that will be modified are the Archimedes Screw side, the fish ladder side, and near the UM campus are also marked. Those sections that are near the Universities property are owned by the City also and because we have to have access over UM property to do this work, we have an access agreement with the university that addresses those issues. We can assure you the fish passage ladder is working and if the fish are strong swimmers they are able to pass through. Usually this feature is dry and not operational, but high water has helped.

To clarify, the Genesee County does not own the Hamilton Dam. The City of Flint owns it and our role in this project is as a partner with the City of Flint to demolish the dam, as part of the larger partnership in the City of Flint. Neither the County or the County Parks own the Holloway Dam, it is also owned by the City and regulated by the DEQ and various agencies. The County, through the County Parks, does own the Mott Lake Dam by Stepping Stone Falls. As discussed last year, the Parks Commission is in compliance with DEQs requirements as relates the operation of the Dam at Stepping Stone Falls. We've had a lot of conversations and provided documentation on that. She has personally followed up with Luke Trumbull at Dam Management. So while there may be thoughts or comments made to the contrary, it is accurate to say that we are in compliance.

The DEQ issued the permit for restoration for the outfalls starting upstream of Robert T Longway, going up to Carpenter Road. Those became exposed when the DEQ ordered the lowering of the river several years ago due to the condition of the Hamilton Dam. The funds for that work on the outfalls was issued by a Dam Management Grant. We were also awarded the permit for the next phase of construction at Chevy Commons, which is part of the overall greening of the site. We are moving along in the permitting process.

Martin: He sees all the planning for the Riverbank Park areas. You've mentioned CPTED designs. Are there plans to incorporate police call boxes through the downtown parks?

McMillan: We haven't talked about that level of detail of design yet. We do have a partnership with the University and Kettering that is part of a golf cart patrol that will also patrol the area. We will not have final design until we have the in-river design complete and that requires some public hearings.

The latest edition of the ForMar Nature Preservers comic book has been provided today.

The awards that we were given at the Mpark Conference were awards that we competed with agencies from across the entire state.

The Begindergarten program (ForMar and Bentley Schools partnership) just won a big award as well.

Ms. McMillan passed her Certified Tourism Ambassador exam. We are going to work with the Chamber of Commerce to do some onsite training for some of our broader staff, particularly at Crossroads and the Campground.

President Krapohl asked if the commissioners wanted to consider whether to leave the two meetings in March here at the County building as scheduled.

Henry: The County had an assessment done on the ramp. The ramp is somewhere between 2-3 million dollar maintenance repair. They reevaluated the parking because they don't want to be in the same dilemma 10 years from now. The whole parking situation is being reevaluated, not just this ramp. You receive, not just the parks commission but any committee member, receives a stipend and that should pay for parking. There will be a certain amount of passes issued based upon requests from departments. We will be switching over to an electronic system in the near future and instead of getting a cardboard pass you'll get a card, which the county can regulate.

Krapohl: If we want to leave it as it is, that is fine too.

6) Opportunity for the public to address the commission

Comments from the public concerning the dam operation and other issues; issues that have been brought to the attention of the commission in previous meetings.

7) Opportunity for Commissioners to address the Commission.

Keeler: He has received emails about staff moving. When were you planning on telling the board?

McMillan: That is a staff assignment, so it is not a parks commission approved issue. Nancy Edwards will be taking over KGCB when Karen West retires at the end of March. We talked about that in some of our budgetary discussions when talking about where we would be able to sustain

funding and where we would not. That reassignment is also dependent on the Ruth Mott Foundation grant being approved in March as well.

Keeler: Will we be looking for new staff then? The phone calls that he got said she will do a great job and he congratulates Nancy on that.

McMillan: We will not. We do not have the funding to sustain another position. This is about maintaining as much capacity as we can and providing as many services as we can. We cannot speak about any personnel issues in a public meeting but when we took over the KGCB grant two years ago Karen West made it clear to us that she was willing to give two more years to the program prior to retirement. We feel very confident that Nancy can fill those shoes.

Krapohl: He congratulated staff on the awards won at the Mparks conference. He's been to some of those ceremonies and he isn't sure how many county parks receive three awards in one year; not likely that many, so it shows a great level of leadership and responsibility on the part of our director and our staff in being able to accomplish this kind of recognition from the state association. Nancy was also nominated for a Priority Children award, it's always nice to be nominated and we recognize how valuable she is to the organization even though she didn't win the trophy. We know the work she does for the healthy children in this community. Thank you to the ForMar staff as well.

8) Adjournment. Hearing no objections to adjournment, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 am.