



# GENESEE COUNTY PARKS

## Get away. Right away.

**COMMISSION MINUTES:** May 23, 2019

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** President Joe Krapohl  
Commissioners: Cloyce Dickerson, Ted Henry, Mike Keeler, David Martin,  
Gloria Nealy, Bryant Nolden

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Secretary Mike Lynch, Vice President James Washington  
Commissioners: Jeff Wright

**STAFF PRESENT:** Barry June, Director; Ron Walker, Deputy Director; Kevin Shanlian, Chief Park  
Ranger; Cassie Voelker, Financial Affairs Assistant; Nancy Edwards, Keep Genesee  
County Beautiful

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tom Kehoe, 4304 E Stanley, Genesee, MI;  
Consumer Energy Representatives: Tom Hess, Chad Riehl, Dan Mondrella

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.** President Krapohl presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00AM.
- 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.

Public comment heard and received.

- 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.  
Motion and support to approve items A through C as listed.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

Motion by Commissioner Nolden  
Supported by Commissioner Keeler

**MOTION AND SUPPORT FOR APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A THROUGH C AS LISTED.**

**ROLL CALL**

**YEAS:** Dicerkson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Martin, Nealy, Nolden

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Lynch, Washington, Wright

**MOTION CARRIED 7-0-3**

#### 4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

##### A. ADOPT-A-PARK AGREEMENTS (2) KGCB

Motion and support to approve two (2) Adopt-a-Park agreements with Keep Genesee County Beautiful. The agreements are for Flint Skatepark and Martin Park.

Keeler: Are these the last two?

Edwards: No. I believe we might have three more that we're working on.

Krapohl: Flint Skatepark – is that the one by Swartz Creek?

Edwards: That is the current location. They are working on a plan for a new location.

Henry: Keep Genesee County Beautiful, how many Parks dollars go into that?

June: Roughly \$50,000.

Henry: I'd like to know, not right now because it will take some studies, but how much it actually costs the Genesee County Parks system to maintain these in the Adopt-A-Park program.

Nolden: Isn't most of this grant funded through the Ruth Mott grant?

June: About \$450,000 of it.

Henry: Not being disrespectful, but there is some and Commissioners will see why I am asking.

Nolden: One question, especially with Martin Park, will that mean that we will be cutting the park now or just maintain it?

Edwards: Adopters don't cut the grass. The City has it in contract to do that. It's picking up litter.

Nolden: Part of it is school property and the other half is City parks property.

##### **ACTION TAKEN:**

Motion by Commissioner Nolden

Supported by Commissioner Dickerson

##### **MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE ADOPT-A-PARK AGREEMENTS AND OBTAIN SIGNATURES FROM PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY.**

##### **ROLL CALL**

**YEAS:** Dicerkson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Martin, Nealy, Nolden

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Lynch, Washington, Wright

##### **MOTION CARRIED 7-0-3**

##### B. APPROVE TO ESTABLISH AND FILL RAILROAD POSITIONS

Motion and support to approve to establish and fill one Master Mechanic position and two Master Mechanic Apprentice positions at Huckleberry Railroad. No net increase in personnel line item required.

##### **ACTION TAKEN:**

Motion by Commissioner - Henry

Supported by Commissioner - Nolden

##### **MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE REQUEST FOR POSITIONS AND REFER TO BOC APPROVAL PROCESS.**

##### **ROLL CALL**

**YEAS:** Dicerkson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Martin, Nealy, Nolden

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Lynch, Washington, Wright

## MOTION CARRIED 7-0-3

### C. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – DISPUTE WITH LAPEER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Henry: Do we have any idea how many Lapeer County residents use our parks? I know we are bordering and in part of Lapeer County.

June: We don't have any way to measure who comes in and out of parks. We could tell from Crossroads Village from a zip code survey.

Henry: That's just for the Village though, isn't it?

June: Yes, and boat launches.

Henry: Do we do anything with the campground? How many out-of-county residents utilize it?

June: We have that as well.

Henry: That might be helpful, too. Trying to develop an argument with the Lapeer County Road Commission...

Martin: I do know a Lapeer County Commissioner, he told me that one of the things he would like to do is expand and do something with Lapeer County Parks because they all come to Wolverine. There must be a lot of Lapeer County residents that use our campground.

### D. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – 2019/2020 BUDGET PREPARATION

June: Because of added expenses with minimum wage and paid time off, we are going to have to bow out of taking care of the City parks. We are searching right now for some funding from the State or foundations to enable us to keep doing that, but at this point we're not going to bill it and we will do that in the next budget year. This will not involve any lay-offs. None of the Parks staff will be affected that way.

Henry: We still have a budget sub-committee from this Commission? Do we still do that?

Krapohl: We have but we didn't do it this year because the timeline changed so fast. Barry is going to get a copy of the proposed budget out to everybody before the next meeting.

Henry: Excellent.

Krapohl: Everybody will have a chance to review that. Everything Barry is talking about will be presented as a proposal, so nothing is definitive until the Commission adopts it and the Board of Commissioners approves that. If anybody does have any questions, you'll get a copy of it, go ahead and give Barry a call and ask him. We will take time at our next meeting to discuss it all.

Henry: I don't know if there's a lot of interest from the Parks board members, but maybe even make available a designated time where we stop in and have a discussion on it prior to the meeting. I understand we can't have a quorum unless we post a workshop or something. I'd be willing to but I don't know how everyone feels and I can't speak from everybody else.

Krapohl: What we could do, if the Commission wants to, we could forego the Executive Meeting at our next meeting and have a Budget Workshop at 9:00AM if that fits with everyone's schedule.

Henry: What's the date on that?

June: June 13<sup>th</sup>.

Henry: I could do it.

Krapohl: I will call that as a Special Meeting for budget sub-committee. It will be posted and we will have to have it as an open meeting if we have a quorum.

Henry: It would be kind of nice to go through it.

Krapohl: I agree with that.

June: I will have the changes in the budget.

Henry: Red line it.

Krapohl: If that's acceptable with everybody, then we will do that.

**E. CONSUMERS POWER HYDRO TEST PERMIT AUTHORIZATION – PRESENTATION INCLUDED**

Motion and support to authorize permit with Consumers Energy to discharge and dispose of hydrostatic test water onto the surface of County property. The permit expires on December 31, 2019.

Martin: The signage idea makes a little bit of sense.

Consumers: I think are some spots maybe we should put some signs up where they play Frisbee and unload horses.

Martin: Goldenrod

Consumers: Yes, that area.

Henry: I just want to thank Consumers Energy for the massive expansion program on the gas line throughout the County that you guys have done. That has helped a lot of people, including myself.

Consumers: It's definitely going to enhance our reliability and our safety for years to come.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

Motion by Commissioner Nolden

Supported by Commissioner Henry

**MOTION AND SUPPORT TO AUTHORIZE PERMIT WITH CONSUMERS ENERGY AND OBTAIN SIGNATURES.**

**ROLL CALL**

**YEAS:** Dicerkson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Martin, Nealy, Nolden

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Lynch, Washington, Wright

**MOTION CARRIED 7-0-3**

**5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS – NONE.**

**6. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION.**

Henry: My first item is – do we know offhand how much general fund park money it takes to subsidize Crossroads Village annually?

June: Village fund?

Henry: Yes.

June: It all depends on how you define support. It supports itself other than maintenance. We spend quite a bit of maintenance over there.

Henry: But it does require millage dollars to keep it functioning?

June: Yes.

Henry: Okay, thank you. Secondly, there's been a group meeting and I want the Parks board to know so you don't get surprised by this. There's a group on the West side of the County, Swartz Creek City, Flint Township, Clayton Township, Gaines Township working on developing a park at the old Pirate's Park. Commissioner Courts and I had a meeting with Barry. They're not necessarily asking for funding help but some in-kind help with operations and possibly with some consulting the Parks have used in various items to try to get this in place and I think it would be a great asset to the County in that location.

Nealy: What do they want to turn it into? They want to turn it into a park?

Henry: A park. They got a large grant...

June: From the Trust Fund to purchase the property.

Henry: To purchase the park. Over a million dollars, I think.

Keeler: How big is the property? It runs between that and 69.

Henry: It's actually a lot bigger than you'd think. I want to say somewhere around 40 acres.

Nealy: So what happened to the guy that was supposed to be doing some development over there?

Henry: They backed out and walked away from it.

Keeler: What's in there right now?

Henry: There is other property that they're looking at trying to acquire that's back off that road by Red Roof Inn and Starbucks. There's a bridge there over to Swartz Creek.

Keeler: So it'll just be a park for hiking and picnicking? Swings?

Henry: They would even like something like soccer fields, drawing tourists being close to 75 and 69. I think there's a lot of potential. There's a lot of work ahead to do it, but I just wanted the Parks Commission to know what's going on.

Nealy: Don't they have a homeless population behind the Red Roof Inn?

Henry: Depends how you define homeless... some of our homeless live in those motels.

Nealy: I'm not sure about the motels, but I'm just thinking the area behind the motels.

Henry: It's monitored quite a bit now. I don't think that problem exists anymore, but summer is here and you never know. My other item is - how are we doing with the Thomas the Tank project?

June: We don't make as much as we have in the past, but it's positive for the Village in the summer.

Henry: Some of that monies is used to fund stuff for the railroad?

June: Yes.

Henry: I want to wish everyone a happy holiday weekend.

Martin: Enjoyed Senior Power Day yesterday, at Crossroads Village. Even with the first two hours of rain. But the park handled the rain pretty well. It looked good for the visitors and it was very well attended even with the 50 degrees and rain. I was surprised, so nice job out there.

Keeler: So has the rain kept us from the mowing the lawn at all?

June: Well, there are spots we can't get to, but we have them posted. Other than that, we've kept up pretty good. They were mowing yesterday in the rain.

Keeler: Is it pretty much a typical spring or is the cold weather keeping the grass down a little bit?

June: It's not growing as fast as it has in the past.

Martin: But the roots are there though.

Henry: It's growing.

Keeler: So when are we seeing starting on the portion of the bike trail, Vassar to Irish?

June: We had a coordination meeting between Consumers Energy and our contractor because it's going right through that area where they're putting in that pipeline. They're not going to get going on our trail probably until July when it dries up.

Keeler: Okay. Any of this going to require bridges or something to get through wetlands?

June: We've purchased wetland credits. We were going to disturb one third of an acre through there and we are going to put in a box culvert in.

Keeler: Is this a nice area?

June: Oh yeah, it'll be beautiful.

Krapohl: Quick response to questions specifically addressed to me during public comment. That question has been asked and answered numerous times. I'm not going to spend any more time on it. If Commissioners have questions, they're more than welcome to contact me.

**7. ADJOURNMENT.** Hearing no objections to adjournment, the meeting adjourned at 10:36AM.

I, Melissa Gagne, secretary of Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission certify that the above is a true and correct transcript from the May 23, 2019 Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting that was duly called and held in all respects in accordance with the laws of the State of MI and the by-laws of the company and that a quorum was present.

I further certify that the votes and resolutions of the commissioners of Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission at the meeting are operative and in full force and effect and have not been annulled or modified by any vote or resolution passed or adopted by the board since that meeting.

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Melissa Gagne, Secretary  
Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission  
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