



GENESEE COUNTY PARKS

Get away. Right away.

COMMISSION MINUTES: June 13, 2019

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Barry June, Director; Ron Walker, Deputy Director; Melissa Gagne, Secretary; Kevin Shanlian, Chief Park Ranger; Cassie Voelker, Financial Affairs Assistant; Nancy Edwards, Keep Genesee County Beautiful; Hollie Marlett, Marketing Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Kehoe, 4304 E Stanley, Genesee, MI

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** President Krapohl presided and called the meeting to order at 10:04AM.
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 Keeler
Supported by Commissioner Washington

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 10-0-0

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. APPROVE PROPOSED PARKS BUDGET 2019/2020

Proposed budget and comparison summary presented to Commissioners prior to the meeting for review.

a. MOTION AND SUPPORT TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #035-19 – FUND 208 – GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner Henry
Supported by Commissioner Washington

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Dickerson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Lynch, Martin, Nealy, Washington, Wright
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Nolden

MOTION CARRIED 9-0-1

b. MOTION AND SUPPORT TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #036-19 – FUND 209 – PROJECTS BUDGET

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner Lynch
Supported by Commissioner Dickerson

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Dickerson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Lynch, Martin, Nealy, Washington, Wright
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Nolden

MOTION CARRIED 9-0-1

c. MOTION AND SUPPORT TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #037-19 – FUND 508 – FOOD SERVICE/BOAT/RAILROAD BUDGET

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner Dickerson
Supported by Commissioner Washington

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Dickerson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Lynch, Martin, Nealy, Washington, Wright
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Nolden

MOTION CARRIED 9-0-1

d. MOTION AND SUPPORT TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #038-19 – FUND 666 – EQUIPMENT BUDGET

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner Washington
Supported by Commissioner Lynch

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Dickerson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Lynch, Martin, Nealy, Washington, Wright

NAYS: None
ABSENT: Nolden

MOTION CARRIED 9-0-1

e. MOTION AND SUPPORT TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #039-19 – FUND 895 – VARIOUS GRANTS BUDGET

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner Dickerson
Supported by Commissioner Washington

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Dickerson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Lynch, Martin, Nealy, Washington, Wright
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Nolden

MOTION CARRIED 9-0-1

f. MOTION AND SUPPORT TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #040-19 – FUND 898 – VARIOUS GRANTS (WITH KGCB) BUDGET

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner Dickerson
Supported by Commissioner Washington

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Dickerson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Lynch, Martin, Nealy, Nolden, Washington, Wright
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED 10-0-0

g. MOTION AND SUPPORT TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #041-19 – FUND 849 – VARIOUS GRANTS BUDGET

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner Lynch
Supported by Commissioner Washington

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Dickerson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Lynch, Martin, Nealy, Nolden, Washington, Wright
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED 10-0-0

h. MOTION AND SUPPORT TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #042-19 – FUND 210 – VARIOUS GRANTS BUDGET

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner Dickerson
Supported by Commissioner Washington

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Dickerson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Lynch, Martin, Nealy, Nolden, Washington, Wright
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED 10-0-0

i. MOTION AND SUPPORT TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #043-19 – FUND 507 – CS MOTT FOUNDATION GRANT BUDGET (FRRP)

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner Dickerson
Supported by Commissioner Washington

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Dickerson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Lynch, Martin, Nealy, Nolden, Washington, Wright
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED 10-0-0

B. APPROVE THREE (3) ADOPT-A-PARK AGREEMENTS

Motion and support to approve three Adopt-A-Park Agreements for Pierce Park, Whaley Park and Kearsley Park with Keep Genesee County Beautiful, and obtain signatures from President and Secretary.

Wright: Couple questions in a general sense, how long are these agreements?

June: One year.

Wright: They have to be re-upped every year?

Edwards: Yes.

Wright: On Kearsley Park, is this the first year?

Edwards: It's the first full season, yes. They started toward the end of last year.

Wright: Have they done any work out there?

Edwards: They've done a little bit of clean up and repaired a plank on a bridge and we've had a lot of conversations about what else they would like to do.

Wright: The reason why I bring up Kearsley Park is for the longest time the Ruth Mott Foundation funded the improvements. A couple of the assistants...

Edwards: That's actually a grant for Shakespeare in the Park with Kearsley Park Players. It wasn't really park improvement. It was more theater-based.

Wright: That ended when the water warriors came down and took it over. My final question on that is did we end up cleaning up the mess that the water warriors left there?

Edwards: Yes. The debris is gone. There's not much remnants of that campout anymore.

Henry: After this agreement, do we have the ability to police that if they come back and camp?

Shanlian: No, we don't. With these agreements, we don't police any of the parks through Keep Genesee County Beautiful.

Henry: I'm not saying we want to police them, but I think we should maybe retain some control if we're going to do this. Especially if we spend money to go back and clean it up afterwards.

June: Keep Genesee County Beautiful funds are a Ruth Mott Foundation grant and the people that do the work are volunteers. The Keep Genesee County Beautiful grant provides the garbage bags and that sort of thing. We really don't have any control over the parks, per se.

Wright: No financial obligation at all.

June: No, no financial obligation.

Wright: Maybe employee cost, healthcare cost, retirement costs...

June: Well, they're volunteers. There are no employees.

Wright: So nobody goes and supervises them now.

June: No.

Nolden: They supervise themselves.

Keeler: There are no Parks people with the City of Flint.

Wright: I know but I'm talking about County Parks.

Edwards: The staff that work for Keep Genesee County Beautiful are paid for through the grant.

Wright: So when you go down there to supervise, is your salary paid through the grant?

June: A portion comes from the Parks and from the grant, but she doesn't necessarily supervise people. We offer support, material support.

Wright: So who oversees the volunteers?

Edwards: My Program Coordinators work with the volunteers to support the work they are doing, but they don't go to all of the cleanups. The support that we give is talking with our volunteers to find out what they need and then providing those supplies, and helping them find what resources they need from the City and how to access those, like from the blight department.

Wright: So who mows them?

Edwards: The City of Flint has contracts to mow. We do not mow.

Wright: Does that mow money come out of the Parks?

Edwards: No, the City Park Millage pays for the mowing in City parks.

Nolden: Not all of them. I cut my own. With that, it's all volunteers. We have a park agreement for Berston's park behind the Berston Fieldhouse. We do it all ourselves and we have volunteers come in and help.

Wright: Nobody oversees the volunteers though?

Nolden: No. Nobody oversees the volunteers. They are out there doing it on their own dime.

Washington: Because they want to do it.

Nolden: We have the park agreement. It spells it out in there.

Henry: In the event there was a workers comp, do they qualify?

Nolden: No, because they're volunteers. When we sign that agreement.

Henry: Do they sign a waiver?

Edwards: We have a waiver from our Risk Manager and we have our volunteers sign that.

Krapohl: There is a no assumption of liability and a hold harmless clause in their agreement.

Henry: In the event that some event takes place, who would volunteers call for help?

Nolden: City police.

Wright: So what is our purpose then if we don't oversee it? We don't have any physical people there.

Henry: We are the fiduciary of the grant.

June: Right. We are the fiduciary of the grant. We provide garbage bags and any supplies they need to do the clean up.

Wright: And that comes out of the grant money?

June: Correct.

Henry: Do you ever get calls on something like that?

Shanlian: If they would call and the City didn't respond, we would respond. Occasionally we get calls, but they are mostly internal issues. Just like anywhere in the City or outside of the city, if an emergency goes out and someone's not responding and our guys are closer, we'll respond.

Henry: Does 911 dispatch you directly?

Shanlian: No, they only directly dispatch us to those parks that are ours. They can track us, if we are a half mile away from something in progress and our guys maybe... they would dispatch us then direct. They have a letter from me stating that anything our guys are close to, because we from Lapeer County all the way to Linden, so sometimes are guys are close. They will be direct dispatched for any emergencies.

June: Anywhere in the County.

Shanlian: Right. Anywhere in the County. There are so many small little subdivisions that are guys might not be familiar with the roads, but are the closest car. We have a letter of agreement that we've sent that states they can direct dispatch our cars in those emergencies.

Henry: Not to dwell on this, but would they run hot to this?

Shanlian: Yes.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner - Henry

Supported by Commissioner - Nolden

MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE AGREEMENTS AND OBTAIN SIGNATURES FROM PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED 10-0-0

C. EXPENSE OVER 10,000 – COAL FOR LOCOMOTIVES (HRR)

Motion and support to approve an expense in the amount of \$17,000 for the purchase of Virginia Nut Coal from Castle Rock Carbon and Coal to fuel Huckleberry Railroad Locomotives, and refer to the BOC approval process.

Keeler: We need some offsets, as usual. Carbon offsets. Been saying it, nothing happens.

Henry: Same vendor?

June: We use a broker and it's the same mine. We finally found a place that provides the coal that will work for us.

Keeler: Is there any place we could get with scouts in the spring to where we could actually plant some trees, like small seedlings, on some park land if we wanted to build these up as some type of way to have some type of offset for the coal we are burning?

June: We don't have a lot of places to plant trees because have trees everywhere as it is.

Keeler: You get scouts in, volunteers in, plant a couple acres of white pine or red pine or something. You know, down the road...

June: We try to plant a few trees at Bluebell Beach but they really don't have any place to plant trees.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner - Henry

Supported by Commissioner - Washington

MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE EXPENSE OVER 10,000 AND REFER TO BOC APPROVAL PROCESS.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED 10-0-0

D. REQUEST TO ESTABLISH POSITION – SEASONAL RAILROAD SHOP MACHINIST

Motion and support to establish a new seasonal position for Seasonal Railroad Shop Machinist at Huckleberry Railroad.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner - Washington
Supported by Commissioner - Dickerson

MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE REQUEST TO ESTABLISH POSITION AND REFER TO BOC APPROVAL PROCESS.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Dickerson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Martin, Nealy, Nolden, Washington, Wright
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Lynch

MOTION CARRIED 9-0-1

E. REQUEST TO ESTABLISH POSITION – SEASONAL PARKS OPERATIONS CONSULTANT

Motion and support to establish a new seasonal position for Seasonal Parks Operations Consultant.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner Nolden
Supported by Commissioner Henry

MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE REQUEST TO ESTABLISH POSITION AND REFER TO BOC APPROVAL PROCESS.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Dickerson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Martin, Nealy, Nolden, Washington, Wright
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Lynch

MOTION CARRIED 9-0-1

F. REQUEST TO ESTABLISH POSITION – DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Motion and support to establish a new full-time position for a Director of Planning and Project Management.

Henry: What criteria do you require for that position?

Krapohl: Looks like they almost have to walk on water.

June: We're looking for someone with some experience in the trades to give us some background. The job description is attached. We are looking for someone with at least ten years of experience or has been a journeyman to kind of help us with some of these projects we have and continue to have. Ron Walker will also be available to assist us with the historical aspects of the Parks to give us added support in that area.

Henry: Is it job specific all the time or general of the whole system. Like you're saying you're going to have the barn reroofed, you have this person to monitor?

June: Right. Someone with experience.

Henry: So it's really like a Village Superintendent?

June: Almost, but a little higher position than that even. To really give guidance to our staff, our current maintenance staff. They have a basic knowledge of things, so we are going to bring a person on that has a broad base of experience like you or Mike Lynch.

Henry: So you could put responsibility of creating a 5-year infrastructure plan or maintenance plan. So we can see something coming at us instead of a surprise.

June: Absolutely. That's our plan.

Nolden: Do we have someone we are looking at?

June: We don't have anybody in mind. We are going to open it up and see what we get. We may not find anyone. Job market's pretty tough right now, especially for these kind of people with the experience. Maybe a superintendent at a construction firm that maybe wants to scale back and not be on a construction jobs all the time and have a regular job.

Henry: It could be a guy that doesn't bend over as easy as he used to...

June: Maybe a mason...

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner - Henry

Supported by Commissioner - Nolden

MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE REQUEST TO ESTABLISH POSITION AND REFER TO BOC APPROVAL PROCESS.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED 10-0-0

G. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – ECO-COUNTER DEVICE FOR COUNTY PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICLE TRAFFIC TO ADDRESS REQUESTS TO TRACK PARK VISITORS

Nolden: Is it wireless?

June: It's wireless, so we can place it on a post at the beginning of an entrance to a park over a certain period of time. We will have two of them, so we can put them at two separate entrances to kind of get an idea of traffic we're getting at different parks.

Henry: Is it a camera?

June: It's kind of like it. It's a counter.

Krapohl: A sensor.

June: Yes.

Martin: They have one we can move around the bike trails. Move around to different trails to get a count.

Krapohl: We're not going to take pictures of big bucks walking the trail.

June: It would count a deer if it did walk past.

Nolden: Well we'll be tracking them... we need the numbers!

Krapohl: They would be considered a visitor, too.

Henry: So does this feed information back to a computer somewhere else offsite? Or do you have to... I've never seen one before.

June: We'd leave it out there for a period of time, a week or two, and then we'd go retrieve it.

Nolden: Download it.

June: Download the information from it.

Henry: It's like a trail cam.

Wright: Don't ride your bike by it twenty times.

Keeler: We can make that happen.

Krapohl: Similar to a trail cam, only it doesn't take pictures. It senses motion and triggers a counter, if I understand the technology correct.

June: So just for your information, we are trying to get a more accurate count of who uses what park. Flushing is one of the place we've had that request from.

H. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – 2018 PARKS ANNUAL REPORT

Henry: On the lake portion, why isn't Byram Lake listed?

June: We don't have control of the lake, so we don't really list it. That lake has public access, publicly owned lake. We only own a portion of the frontage. We could put it in there.

Nolden: Do we have a boat launch there?

June: No.

Henry: But you can launch a kayak there, right?

June: No. Fish on the edges.

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS – NONE.

6. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION.

Keeler: The closing of the beach, that got to do with all the rains?

June: We did have it closed one day for E. coli. I think that had a lot to do with all the rain. And it was closed one day because it washed out from the heavy rain. We had to get a road grater to pull the sand back up to the edges.

Keeler: We've done good with the goose roundup and directly equating to lack of beach poachers over the years.

June: Correct. And we are still doing the goose roundup.

Keeler: So you think it was just the heavy rains that flooded? Maybe some farms downstream and it washed through?

June: I attribute it to the deer from upstream.

Krapohl: We have an expert that may be able to answer that question.

Wright: Defend the farms. They may have something to do with it. With the heavy rain, animal wildlife feces is washing into the river and lake.

Nealy: Director June did a nice job on his statement on the back of the annual report. Second thing as we talk about relationships and how we relate to one another. I'm on the Carman Ainsworth school board. We have three different graduations. We have our May commencement, we have one for Alternative Education and we also have one for Career Academy for students who choose to take a different route which is in partnership with Baker College. So, Ms. Edwards came to our Career Academy graduation. She has a relationship with one of the students. They had 36,500 applicants for the Gates scholarship. One of our students, out of 36,000, was chosen. One of our students was awarded the Gates scholarship, DeEsmond Lewis. He will be going for four weeks to the Dallas Summer Institute and while he was at Baker Career Academy as a high school student, he achieved 54 Baker College credits, has a 3.9 GPA, he's going to Stanford to become a physician. Nancy was there. He asked her to attend. We're crossing these lines and establishing these relationships, Nancy Edwards came at his request. She was there to congratulate him on becoming a Gates scholarship award recipient. I think that was very nice she came and supported him. He was glad to see her. That's what we need to do more of in crossing these lines and working with each other. Thank you to Nancy.

Washington: I trained him in TeenQuest. I sat through his senior exit presentation. Very bright young man. Exceptionally bright young man. I had a few questions for him. I drilled down on him. Very articulate, knows what he wants and he's going to get it. In fact, once a month through the Chamber, Youth Quest, we feature certain groups, certain activities, and for this latest one his picture was on the cover of that publication. I told him I'm extremely proud. Very sharp. He knows what he wants to do and he's going to go get it.

Krapohl: If you get a chance to read over that packet that Homer Dowdy put together, it's a very interesting read.

7. ADJOURNMENT. Hearing no objections to adjournment, the meeting adjourned at 10:39AM.

I, Melissa Gagne, secretary of Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission certify that the above is a true and correct transcript from the June 13, 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.

Melissa Gagne, Secretary
Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission
810-249-3812
mgagne@gcparks.org