

COMMISSION MINUTES: July 27, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON:

President Joe Krapohl   
Vice President James Washington

Secretary Anne Figueroa

Commissioner Domonique Clemons

Commissioner Michael J. Keeler

Commissioner Cathy Lane

Commissioner Gloria Nealy

Commissioner Kevin Sylvester

MEMBERS ABSENT:   
Commissioner James Avery  
Commissioner Michelle Davis

STAFF PRESENT IN-PERSON:

Barry June, Director; Patrick Linihan, Deputy Director; Melissa Gagne, Assistant Parks Operations Manager; Nancy Edwards, KGCB Director; Anthony Walter, Assistant Parks Operations Manager; Nicole Ferguson, Chief Naturalist; Courtney Prout, Park Naturalist; Jackie Domerese, Park Communications, Event and Brand Manager; Kari Koske, Administrative Assistant.

OTHERS PRESENT: Project SEARCH teachers and interns

1. CALL TO ORDER. President Krapohl presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT. Anyone wishing to address the commission must state their name and address and they have 3 minutes to speak.

No public comment.

1. CONSENT AGENDA. President Krapohl asked Commissioners if there were any items they wish to remove from the consent agenda for discussion. No items were removed.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner Keeler

Supported by Vice President Washington

MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE ITEMS A-C AS LISTED IN PACKET.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Clemons, Figueroa, Keeler, Krapohl, Lane, Nealy, Washington, Sylvester

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Avery, Davis

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-2

1. DIRECTOR’S REPORT
2. APPROVE AGREEMENT—PROJECT SEARCH

Request to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission and GISD for the creation of the Project SEARCH for interns with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This program will facilitate the acquisition of marketable skills that lead to competitive, integrated employment. NO USE OF COUNTY GENERAL FUND.

Lane: What kind of jobs would they most enjoy and be proficient at?

Nicole: Josh mentioned that we did a skills day where they came in and we did an assessment. There were other students that didn’t make it through that skills day. These guys all kind of showed skills that we would be looking for at the Parks. Secondary, he continually does assessments so we can figure out what is going to be the best fit, but also push them outside their comfort zones so that they’re trying new things. A lot of that also comes from knowing what you don’t like as well, as we all know, as well as knowing what we do like. I’m excited because they’re all going to have an opportunity to try all different types of skills and see what they’re best at too. They might not even know what they like until they do it.

Lane: Thank you so much for the information. Good luck everybody!

Clemons: How much time during the week are they working on the job sites? What’s their   
 hourly schedule?

Josh: Our students arrive at 9 AM. They’re supposed to be at the job site by 10 o’clock. And then they return back afterwards, so they return back around 2:30, 2:15, and then they depart at 3:15. They come back for about 40 minutes, half an hour so we can discuss how their day went and anything that I need to address during this. It’s about 5 hours ish that they’ll be on the job site.

Clemons: Couple other questions. This is part of their academic endeavors, so when they complete the program, is there some sort of credential or certification that they’re getting as part of that?

Josh: They’re getting a certification of completion. They don’t get a diploma for this.

Clemons: It’s not a diploma program, it doesn’t have any like college credit or anything?

Josh: No.

Clemons: Do we, or are we able to then provide some sort of pay or stipend for them, for their experience?

Nicole: While they’re part of this program, we are not able to, that’s part of the Project SEARCH part, this is like a classroom, instead of going to the Transition Center and doing their classes, this is their classroom space.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Vice President Washington

Supported by Commissioner Lane

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

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Clemons, Figueroa, Keeler, Krapohl, Lane, Nealy, Washington, Sylvester

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Avery, Davis

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-2

1. APPROVE EXPENSE – WEBUILDFUN, INC.

Request to approve expenses to Webuildfun, Inc. for playground parts in an amount not to exceed $61,583.94. NO USE OF COUNTY GENERAL FUND.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Vice President Washington

Supported by Commissioner Sylvester

MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE EXPENSE AND REFER TO BOC APPROVAL PROCESS.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Clemons, Figueroa, Keeler, Krapohl, Lane, Nealy, Washington, Sylvester

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Avery, Davis

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-2

1. PRESENTATION: PARKS PROJECTS UPDATE—PATRICK LINIHAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
2. OLD/NEW BUSINESS— NONE
3. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Keeler: At Pierce Park, Genesee County Parks took over mowing on the first of July, and it was a seamless transition. Couldn’t have been a better process, happy about that. Thank you!

Clemons: At the office of the Genesee County Clerk, we are starting a new program recognizing the need in our community where we will be providing vital records, specifically birth certificates and death certificates to low-income residents in Genesee County. We believe strongly that no resident in Genesee County should have to make the decision between getting birth certificates to send their kids to school and being able to pay for their prescription medication. Anyone that can prove they’re on any sort of public assistance, we are going to be offering birth and death certificates.

The other thing I wanted to share was that I have with me today the intern for our office, Jacob Pickett, who has been with us this summer doing a phenomenal job.

Nealy: What do they need to have when they come down and ask for the vital records?

Clemons: They can have any sort of proof that they are on any sort of public assistance or low income. They do, of course, still need to prove identity.

Lane: Are people able to come in anytime now to the Court House for services or are they still limited?

Clemons: The Court House is open Monday through Friday, and then our Vital Records office is located in the County Administration building. We are open to the public, no appointment needed, Monday through Friday, 8 AM- 4 PM.

1. ADJOURNMENT. Hearing no objections to adjournment, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM.

I, Kari Koske, Administrative Assistant of Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission certify that the above is a true and correct transcript from the July 27, 2023, Parks and Recreation Commission 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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Kari Koske, Administrative Assistant

Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

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