



# GENESEE COUNTY PARKS

Get away. Right away.

COMMISSION MINUTES: April 25, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON:

President Joe Krapohl  
Secretary Anne Figueroa  
Commissioner Michelle Davis  
Commissioner Michael J. Keeler  
Commissioner Cathy Lane  
Commissioner Gloria Nealy

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice President James Washington, Commissioner James Avery, Commissioner Domonique Clemons, Commissioner Kevin Sylvester

STAFF PRESENT IN-PERSON:

Patrick Linihan, Parks Director; Melissa Gagne, Parks Operations Manager; Cassie Voelker, Director of Finance and Park Operations; Emily Stetson, Parks Program Manager; Rick Witham, Chief Park Ranger; Nancy Edwards, Recreation Programs and Grants Officer; Robin Hisaw, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Kehoe, 4304 E Stanley; Bentley Bingham, 8370 Teachout Rd

1. CALL TO ORDER. President Joe 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.

Public comment received.

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



GENESEE COUNTY  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
COMMISSION

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner Keeler  
Supported by Commissioner Lane

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

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Davis, Figueroa, Keeler, Krapohl, Lane, Nealy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Avery, Clemons, Washington, Sylvester

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-4

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Flint River Watershed Coalition Open House Invitation
- Partnering with FRWC for the Flint River clean up. All are invited to sign up.
- Phase I of the Iron Belle Trail – Atlas to Mancour - is expected to be complete by June. There will be a ribbon cutting event.
- Wolverine Campground is opening sites 1-200, April 26. The 50 new sites will be open Memorial Weekend. Memorial Weekend is fully booked.
- The boat launches are open.
- The Mounds brought in \$2,500 on Sunday, April 21, becoming a growing asset.

A. REQUEST TO APPROVE AMENDMENT – FLINT RIVER WATERSHED COALITION

Request to approve an amendment to the MOU with FRWC for Nancy Edwards to continue serving as the Executive Director of the FRWC through May 2025 with the position being fully grant funded by the C.S. Mott Foundation with no further continued salary support by Parks. NO USE OF PARKS FUND. NO USE OF COUNTY GENERAL FUND.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner Nealy  
Supported by Commissioner Lane

MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE AMENDMENT AND OBTAIN SIGNATURE FROM PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Davis, Figueroa, Keeler, Krapohl, Lane, Nealy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Avery, Clemons, Washington, Sylvester

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-4

B. REQUEST TO APPROVE AMENDMENT – CITY OF FLINT

Request to approve an amendment to the Partnership Agreement with the City of Flint to transfer funds granted by the C.S. Mott Foundation, in the amount of \$620,000.00, to GCPRC. Funds ensure continued maintenance of City of Flint parks.

Keeler: How long do these usually go for?

Linihan: The last agreement was for three years. They're already working on the documents.

Keeler: The Grand Traverse Trail, when do you think that's going to be written?

Linihan: We have some potential funding sources to start pre-engineering. Grand Traverse Greenway is going to be tackled in two different ways. Some of it will go through the state park, and the rest of it from the state park, south.

Lane: Compliments to the staff for helping Flint and appreciation of hard work.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner Nealy

Supported by Commissioner Lane

MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE AGREEMENT AND OBTAIN SIGNATURE FROM PRESIDENT.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Davis, Figueroa, Keeler, Krapohl, Lane, Nealy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Avery, Clemons, Washington, Sylvester

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-4

C. MEETING LOCATION CHANGE DISCUSSION – WOLVERINE RIBBON CUTTING

No change to meeting location. Wolverine ribbon cutting will be held Tuesday, May 21 at Wolverine Campground.

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS— NONE.

6. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Krapohl: Concerns addressed by Commissioners – 1. Open Meetings Act compliance, oversight of door posting, remedied immediately, no harm suffered to the public, no restrictions on anybody being able to make it to the meeting, it was already posted on the website. We fully comply to the best of knowledge with all terms, spirit intent, with the Open Meetings Act. Suggested training of the Open Meetings Act. Handbooks available. We are in full compliance with minutes, we are in full compliance in every other aspect. 2. Coal Ash – there was an inspection done around December/January 2024. According to the representative of EGLE, there was no evidence of recent dumping in the areas designated, there was material that was placed in a low area on an access road that is not open to the public, it was only for staff to use. The observations from the EGLE representative that material present is best described as boiler slag or bottom ash. It would take further testing and analysis to determine exactly what it is. EGLE does not wish to pursue further testing. "This is not considered a violation notice, but a compliance guidance. It is clear to me that no intentional violations have occurred. Genesee County Parks has the best intentions in mind when managing the coal ash that results from operating steam engines in the service of the public." I also checked with staff and to their knowledge, Genesee County Parks has not dumped any coal ash whatsoever during our ownership of the property. We do take it to a sanitary landfill. It is dumped according to EPA guidelines, Michigan Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act requirements. We have no way of determining what happened prior to Parks ownership.

Krapohl: The bike paths, they do allow E-bikes on the bike paths. I know they're non-motorized, but there is a certain level of bike that can be on it. It is very difficult to determine the bikes.

Linihan: The Act does allow the Commission to set what level bike, so if that's something the Commission wants to look at. One of the problems that you're seeing statewide, it's hard to tell the type of E-bike. We allow pedal-assist only on the bike trails. Once we get closer to Memorial Day, the Ranger division will have the patrols out on the bike trails. We should be able to do some education.

Keeler: We passed (on this board) what E-bikes would be allowed. I think it was Class I & II. Class III wasn't allowed. They all have computers on them. A Class III, you can go in and downgrade it to a Class II. A lot of the new bikes are Class III. We're going to have problems in the future because some of them go pretty fast.

Figueroa: Have had regular bikes almost force us off the trail. Enforcing the common courtesy and the rules of the trail whether you're on a regular bike or an E-bike.

Linihan: We can look at having some courtesy rules.

Witham: Speed limit is 25.

Linihan: We can have it posted.

Figueroa: It would help on social media to post those courtesy rules.

Linihan: I will look at the Trailways Act and see what is enforceable.

Krapohl: The open house for the Flint River Watershed Coalition. They do share the office with Keep Genesee County Beautiful staff.

Edwards: We will doing a ribbon cutting. The ceremony starts at 6pm.

Lane: Grand Blanc City put in for a grant to purchase and maintain the southern part of the golf course, The Jewel. That failed. Request for the Director to reach out to Grand Blanc to offer support.

Linihan: I can have a discussion with them.

Nealy: About the trails crossing in front of the high school, we have a crosswalk. A parent hit one of the subs and broke her leg. Whatever we can do to mitigate people disobeying the rules.

Figueroa: Thank you bringing up E-bikes. The Crim training program starts up May 7. We will be out and about in all the parks, so courtesy can be extended to everybody. Runners are trained courtesy. It would be nice to have something for the bikers.

7. ADJOURNMENT. Hearing no objections to adjournment, the meeting adjourned at 10:31 AM.

I, Melissa Gagne, Parks Operations Manager of Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission certify that the above is a true and correct transcript from the April 25, 2024, 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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Melissa Gagne, Parks Operations Manager  
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