



GENESEE COUNTY PARKS

Get away. Right away.

COMMISSION MINUTES: August 28, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON:

President Joe Krapohl
Vice President James Washington
Secretary Anne Figueroa
Commissioner Domonique Clemons
Commissioner Gary Goetzinger
Commissioner Cathy Lane
Commissioner Michael J. Keeler
Commissioner Kevin Sylvester

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner James Avery
Commissioner Bill Brandon

STAFF PRESENT IN-PERSON:

Patrick Linihan, Parks Director; Jeff Johns, Deputy Director; Kari Koske, Administrative Assistant; Rick Witham, Chief Park Ranger; Cassie Voelker, Director of Finance and Park Operations; Anthony Walter, Parks Operations Manager; Emily Stetson, Parks Program Manager; Nicole Ferguson, Chief Park Naturalist; Courtney Prout, Park Naturalist; Jackie Domerese, Park Communications, Event and Brand Manager; Kassie Hyde, Marketing Assistant; Allyson Voelker, Marketing Assistant; Beth Schrader, Crossroads Village Event Coordinator; Scott Burnett, Crossroads Village Assistant Manager.

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Kehoe, 4304 E Stanley, Genesee

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: Clemons, Figueroa, Goetzinger, Keeler, Krapohl, Lane, Sylvester, Washington

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Avery, Brandon

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-2

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Thank you to Commissioners Figueroa and Clemons for attending Friends of For-Mar fundraiser - Wine Walk. Tickets sold out, raised \$7,000 towards the new dock at For-Mar.
- Almost done with pavilion at DeWaters at For-Mar, opening next year for Day Camp and other programming.
- Renewed partnership with Bentley schools for nature pre-school at For-Mar.
- Great success with Mott Foundation picnic, hosted at CRV.
- Save the Date for the volunteer dinner at Crossroads.
- 150 Sturgeon released at Mott Park. More releases in September. Partnership with FRWC.
- Notified that we received the rest of the NOAA funding for dam removal.
- Staff going through CTA training.
- Going out to bid on Genesee Belle.
- Mott Lake Trail Run 5k—September 6th.
- Regarding the dam—we have a contractor and a purchase order ready, just waiting on their schedule.

A. APPROVE AGREEMENT – GISD ELMER KNOPF LEARNING CENTER

Genesee County Parks and Recreation staff requests the approval an agreement with GISD for For-Mar education staff to provide seven (7) adaptive recreation programming visits at the Elmer Knopf Learning Center. The term of this agreement is through April 22, 2026. NO USE OF COUNTY GENERAL FUND. NO USE OF PARKS FUND

Lane: I really appreciate you participating with Elmer Knopf—it's a really unique facility in Genesee County for kids of special needs. I thank you.

Krapohl: I think you are seeing more and more of For-Mar reaching out to the schools to help out there. It's a good partnership—has been for quite a while.

Linihan: For-Mar reaches every school district in Genesee County. While we may not have a park everywhere, we are providing value to every stretch of the county, and even some outside of the county as well.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner Washington

Supported by Commissioner Lane

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

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Avery, Brandon

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-2

B. REQUEST TO WAIVE PARK RULE – LIGHT UP THE LAKE EVENT

Genesee County Parks and Recreation staff requests the approval to submit a Special Event Liquor License Application to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission to allow liquor sales at the Light Up the Lake event, held at McKinley Park/Thread Lake, scheduled to end at 9:00pm

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion by Commissioner Washington

Supported by Commissioner Lane

Krapohl: Is this the first event at Thread Lake for this group?

Stetson: Yes.

Krapohl: It's nice to note that we keep expanding our reach with our partnerships with different community groups to access our recreational opportunities. Kudos.

MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE WAIVER OF PARK RULES FOR SPECIAL EVENT.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Avery, Brandon

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-2

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS—

None.

6. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Keeler: I see we have 5 Million dollars coming from the federal government.

Linihan: This is for the OLRP grant that we have been talking about for the past 6 months.

Congresswoman Rivet's office did a press release on it, so it is gaining traction again. We have been working through the process of getting the grant agreement for a while now.

Keeler: It said it is for Riverbank Park?

Linihan: Yes

Keeler: It's not for the whole State Park?

Linihan: No, it's specifically tied. Your OLRP grants—Outdoor Legacy Program that is specifically for urban parks. This fits right in with being able to renovate Riverbank so it's one of the pieces of the puzzle to get that through.

Lane: Did our staff write that grant?

Linihan: No, not that one. We helped, but we were not the lead on it, Mott foundation was.

Goetzinger: As you all know, we moved. Our County offices are downtown a little farther. I encourage you all to come look, it's a fabulous spot. It's going to be a real nice showpiece for the County. If you haven't been there, stop in.

Clemons: The new building is wonderful. It's still work in progress, there's some improvements made, and I think, because of the move, I have found my first couple of grey hairs.

Sylvester: Not a comment, a question—I know at the last meeting in the Public Comment, it was mentioned about potentially us doing recycling receptacles at the Parks. I know Patrick, I spoke to you shortly after. Any movement on that? I know you were going to get a hold of our trash provider to see if they could help in that regard.

Linihan: I've had some conversations with Planning because they're putting in that new Recycling Education Center. We're looking into some options with that. Haven't heard anything back from Priority yet on it, but when we get some prices we will take a look at it.

Lane: I saw our Director on TV last night and he did a wonderful job.

7. ADJOURNMENT. Hearing no objections to adjournment, the meeting adjourned at 10:21 AM.

I, Kari Koske, Administrative Assistant, certify that the above is a true and correct transcript from the July 24th, 2025, 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.

Kari Koske, Administrative Assistant
Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission
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