



# GENESEE COUNTY PARKS

Get away. Right away.

**COMMISSION MINUTES:** April 23, 2026

**MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON:**

President Anne Figueroa  
Vice President Gary Goetzinger  
Secretary Mike Keeler  
Commissioner Ayana Allen  
Commissioner Bill Brandon  
Commissioner Domonique Clemons  
Commissioner Cathy Lane  
Commissioner Kevin Sylvester

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Commissioner James Avery  
Commissioner Travis Howell

**STAFF PRESENT IN-PERSON:**

Patrick Linihan, Parks Director; Melissa Gagne, Parks Operations Manager; Rick Witham, Chief of Park Police; Scott Burnett, Parks Operations Manager; Nicole Ferguson, Chief Park Naturalist; Emily Stetson, Park Program Manager; Cassie Voelker, Director of Finance and Park Operations; Jackie Domerese, Communications, Event and Brand Manager; Kathleen Gossett, Administrative Assistant

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Tom Kehoe, Genesee, MI

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** President Figueroa presided and called the meeting to order at 10:01 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 Figueroa 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 Commissioner Lane



**GENESEE COUNTY**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**COMMISSION**

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

**YEAS:** Allen, Brandon, Figueroa, Goetzinger, Keeler, Lane, Sylvester

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Avery, Clemons, Howell

**MOTION CARRIED 7-0-3**

**4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Partnered with DNR and Heart of the Lakes for the Trust Fund celebration in Flint Tour. Thank you to KGCB and FRWC for hosting. Figueroa and Goetzinger attended.
- For-Mar Day Camp is 1/3 full and still have scholarship funds available.
- Due to ice damage on the dock at Stanley Road Boat Launch, it is closed. It is being taken out for inspection and repair.
- Staff Training had almost 200 people.
- Gagne to send out link for training videos to commission. Thank you to Training Committee.
- Detroit Zoo asked For-Mar to participate in an event.
- For-Mar was asked to present a program to a class in New Jersey.
- Project SEARCH signing day is May 5 at 5:30pm at Crossroads Village.
- Working with the Planning Department on the Genesee Trails Program (legacy).
- Garage Sale event at Crossroads Village saw 550 people and we partnered with an organization to take any unwanted items after the event. Thank you to Scott Burnett, Parks Operations Manager.
- May 15 is Headstart Day at Crossroads Village.
- School Days are sold out. Thank you to Scott Burnett and team.
- May 20 is Senior Power Day at Crossroads Village.
- State Park construction fencing going up for work in the Marketstall Block.
- May 16-17 is the Back to the Bricks event at Crossroads Village.
- The Sloan Auto Fair is back at Crossroads Village this year.
- Memorial Weekend at Wolverine Campground is almost full. All holidays are filling up fast. We are ahead of last year's reservations.
- Thank you to Anthony Walter, Parks Operations Manager, for figuring out and setting up the QR code for entrance to the Mounds ORV. It has worked out.
- Park Rules updates we hope to have done by the end of spring for processing.

**A. REQUEST TO APPROVE EXPENSE – FLINT NEW HOLLAND**

Genesee County Parks and Recreation staff requests approval of an expense to Flint New Holland Inc. in the amount of \$76,718.93, for the purchase of 2 Kubota RTVs and 1 zero turn mower. NO USE OF COUNTY GENERAL FUND.

Keeler: How long does this equipment last?

Linihan: 5-7 years.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

Motion by Commissioner Goetzinger

Supported by Commissioner Sylvester

**MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE EXPENSE TO FLINT NEW HOLLAND AND REFER TO BOC APPROVAL PROCESS.**

**YEAS:** Allen, Brandon, Clemons, Figueroa, Goetzinger, Keeler, Lane, Sylvester

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Avery, Howell

**MOTION CARRIED 8-0-2**

**B. REQUEST TO APPROVE EXPENSE – CMP DISTRIBUTORS, INC.**

Genesee County Parks and Recreation staff requests approval of expenses to CMP Distributors, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00, for purchase of ammunition for training and operation of the Park Police Division. NO USE OF COUNTY GENERAL FUND.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

Motion by Commissioner Brandon  
Supported by Commissioner Lane

**MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE EXPENSE TO CMP DISTRIBUTORS AND REFER TO BOC APPROVAL PROCESS.**

**YEAS:** Allen, Brandon, Clemons, Figueroa, Goetzinger, Keeler, Lane, Sylvester

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Avery, Howell

**MOTION CARRIED 8-0-2**

**C. REQUEST TO ACCEPT GRANT - SYI**

Genesee County Parks and Recreation staff requests approval to accept a grant from the Genesee Area Focus Fund (GAFF) and Genesee Chamber Foundation (GCF), in the amount of \$41,462.00, for the Summer Youth Initiative (SYI) program, employing up to 19 teens during the 2026 summer season. No match. NO USE OF COUNTY GENERAL FUND.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

Motion by Commissioner Brandon  
Supported by Commissioner Lane

**MOTION AND SUPPORT TO ACCEPT A GRANT FOR THE SYI PROGRAM AND REFER TO BOC APPROVAL PROCESS.**

**YEAS:** Allen, Brandon, Clemons, Figueroa, Goetzinger, Keeler, Lane, Sylvester

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Avery, Howell

**MOTION CARRIED 8-0-2**

**D. REQUEST TO APPROVE ADOPT A PARK AGREEMENTS (KGCB)**

Genesee County Parks and Recreation staff requests approval of Adopt A Park Agreements for City of Flint parks and spaces, through Keep Genesee County Beautiful.

Brandon: Do we get money from the City of Flint millage?

Linihan: KGCB is funded by Ruth Mott Foundation grant as well as other funding sources. We have a Partnership Agreement with the City of Flint and receive funding from the Millage to mow.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

Motion by Commissioner Lane  
Supported by Commissioner Goetzinger

**MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE ADOPT A PARK AGREEMENTS AND OBTAIN SIGNATURES FROM THE COMMISSION.**

**YEAS:** Allen, Brandon, Clemons, Figueroa, Goetzinger, Keeler, Lane, Sylvester

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Avery, Howell

**MOTION CARRIED 8-0-2**

**E. REQUEST TO APPROVE AMENDMENT – ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY**

Genesee County Parks and Recreation staff requests approval of an amendment to the contract with ROWE Professional Services Company, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$985,533.00, for construction engineering services of Phase 2 of the Iron Belle Trail – Atlas Connector Project. NO USE OF COUNTY GENERAL FUND.

Keeler: Which portion goes to Oakland County?

Brandon: Nearest big trail is Oxford.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

Motion by Commissioner Keeler

Supported by Commissioner Lane

**MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE AMENDMENT AND REFER TO BOC APPROVAL PROCESS.**

**YEAS:** Allen, Brandon, Clemons, Figueroa, Goetzinger, Keeler, Lane, Sylvester

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Avery, Howell

**MOTION CARRIED 8-0-2**

**F. REQUEST TO APPROVE AGREEMENT – REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

Genesee County Parks and Recreation staff requests approval of an agreement with the Regents of the University of Michigan to allow For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum to present three live animal programs at the UM-Flint campus, on Friday, May 1, 2026. NO USE OF PARKS FUND. NO USE OF COUNTY GENERAL FUND.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

Motion by Commissioner Lane

Supported by Commissioner Keeler

**MOTION AND SUPPORT TO APPROVE AGREEMENT AND OBTAIN SIGNATURES FROM THE COMMISSION.**

**YEAS:** Allen, Brandon, Clemons, Figueroa, Goetzinger, Keeler, Lane, Sylvester

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Avery, Howell

**MOTION CARRIED 8-0-2**

**5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS – None.**

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

Clemons: Tuesday's the state filing deadline for August elections. There are some elections in May, and all conclude in November elections.

Goetzinger: Attended the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund event. Nice tour and well worth attending.

Keeler: Pierce Park update – part of the Board and non-profit. There are 69 acres permitted through EGLE, 6 acres of wetlands, 19 acres of pollinator meadow, and over 3 miles of trails. 1200 trees have been planted in a year and half by volunteers.

Brandon: Recognized Nicole Ferguson, Chief Park Naturalist, for help with bat houses.  
Linihan: Recognized Brandon and the Holloway Lake Association for working together.

Figuroa: Attended the staff training – did a great job of making it fun and came with enthusiasm.

Linihan: Thank you to Melissa Gagne, Parks Operations Manager, for recent grant work.

**7. ADJOURNMENT.** Hearing no objections to adjournment, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.

I, Melissa Gagne, Parks Operations Manager, certify that the above is a true and correct transcript from the April 23, 2026, 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  
Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission  
810.736.7100  
[mgagne@gcparks.org](mailto:mgagne@gcparks.org)