

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, August 14, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Parks Administrative Headquarters, 1101 Beach Street, Flint, Michigan.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**APPOINTED MEMBERS**

Joe Krapohl, President  
William Lucas, Secretary  
Rose Bogardus  
Shirley Prater  
Raynetta Speed

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Don Becker, Designee  
Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission  
Galen Jamison, Genesee County Road Commission  
Jeff Wright, Genesee County Drain Commissioner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**APPOINTED MEMBERS**

Fred Shaltz  
James Washington, Vice President

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

None

**STAFF PRESENT**

Amy M. McMillan, Director  
Roxy Moreno, Planning & Development Director  
Ron Walker, Facilities Management Director  
Ruth Whitehead, Financial Officer  
Hilda McShane, Marketing Specialist  
Charles Winfrey, Planned Giving Coordinator  
Teresa Blaine, Administrative Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Brian Barkey, Commission Legal Counsel  
David Graham, The Flint Journal  
Anthony Palladeno, Camper  
Stewart Glen, Camper

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Krapohl called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

President Krapohl requested any corrections and/or additions to the minutes.

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Becker, supported by Commissioner Jamison, to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2003, regular meeting as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **CANDY AND COAL BIDS**

Ms. McMillan requested that the candy and coal bids be moved up on the agenda because Mr. Walker needs to leave the meeting early.

**Award of Halloween Candy Bid** – Mr. Walker explained that each year, bid proposals are sent to a number of candy companies, and for the last several years, only one proposal has been submitted, the firm of Total Marketing. Mr. Walker said staff has been happy with the business. Ms. McMillan advised that the vendor is required to allow the return of non-perishable items that aren't used during the Halloween program.

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Becker, supported by Commissioner Wright, to accept the proposal from Total Marketing, Inc., in the amount of \$85,396.52 for 50,000 pieces of 19 varieties of candy.

Commissioner Jamison asked if the Commission broke even with the candy last year? Ms. McMillan replied that the program generally does well. If the weather is good, it comes out ahead, if the weather is bad, it comes out behind. Commissioner Bogardus stated that the price of the candy is included in the price of the ticket.

### ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Speed, Wright, Jamison, Becker, Bogardus, Prater, Lucas, Krapohl  
Nays: None  
Absent: Shaltz, Washington

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-0).

**Award of Coal Bid** – Mr. Walker advised that Tartan Energy has supplied the coal for the past several years and the quality of the coal meets the Commission's specifications. He explained that there is a certain ash quality that is needed for the Huckleberry Railroad.

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Jamison, supported by Commissioner Becker, to accept the proposal from Tartan Energy in the total amount of \$20,680 per year.

### ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Wright, Jamison, Becker, Bogardus, Prater, Lucas, Krapohl, Speed  
Nays: None  
Absent: Washington, Shaltz

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-0).

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

Mr. Anthony Palladeno addressed the Commission and distributed pictures of various restroom facilities at Wolverine Campground, which he said are in terrible condition. He advised that he has been camping at Wolverine during the summer for many years and the bathrooms have been in this condition for the entire time. Mr. Palladeno said that duct tape has been holding up a urinal for two years and the restrooms are not clean. He suggested that maintenance staff be trained on how to properly clean and care for the bathrooms and showers. He said that he would be willing to help improve the situation.

Mr. Stewart Glen stated that he is a long-term camper at Wolverine and his concern is the uncleanliness of the restroom and shower facilities, which is a health issue. He said he understands what rustic conditions are, but people shouldn't have to stand in urine while using the facilities. He said he and other long-term campers have talked to campground staff about the conditions and have been told that their complaints are logged in the campground logbook. He said the logbooks should reflect that campers have been bringing these issues to campground staff for years. Mr. Glen said that one attendant responded, "You come up here and complain every year." Mr. Glen said that campground rates have been raised, and yet no additional services are provided, and the lack of cleanliness and poor maintenance continues. He said that the long term campers look out for the campground and report situations if they are getting out of hand.

President Krapohl advised that the Commission's executive committee did discuss an issue regarding one of the concerns noted, and that will be addressed when the budget is discussed.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. McMillan said letters have been received regarding the limitations on muzzle loading ammunition, e-mail from the website includes both positive and not-so-positive communications, and the Affirmative Action Analysis for full-time Parks employees shows that the Commission is in compliance for minority employees and not in compliance for females, largely because all of the maintenance staff are male.

Commissioner Becker asked if state law prevents the muzzle loading ammunition? Ms. McMillan replied that to the best of her knowledge, the Commission has not significantly changed the policy this year, although the Village manager did send out reminder letters. She said that live ammunition is not allowed because of safety considerations and overall park rules, which prohibit weapons. Commissioner Wright asked if the live rounds have always been prohibited? Ms. McMillan replied they have been during her term here. Commissioner Bogardus said the executive committee discussed this issue, and if someone were to get injured, it would be the Commission's fault.

### **REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL**

Mr. Barkey advised he will defer to the first item under the Director's Report.

### **DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT**

**Capital Millage Issue** – Ms. McMillan advised that the Parks Commission at its last meeting asked the Board of Commissioners to place an issue on the ballot in November to provide funds for capital improvements to parks and to local communities for the purposes of improving their parks. She said Administration has heard additional comment from local officials of specific concerns regarding the manner in which local funds would be distributed, and also has had near unanimous support of the need to provide County parks with more funding. She said a number of concerns from local elected officials have been heard, as have a lot of support from people calling into her office and from other community groups. Ms. McMillan said she has been unable to come to a consensus between those two groups, and given the amount of time, she feels it is most appropriate that the Commission withdraw its request. Ms. McMillan requested that the Commission authorize Administration and the Commission to proceed with meeting with community groups and elected officials for information sessions to underscore the need for this program so that the issue could be passed in

2004. She said she would request action from the Commission in December or January to request such language be placed on the ballot. Ms. McMillan said that if a consensus is unable to be reached, she would recommend a request for a millage to improve county parks maintenance. Ms. McMillan stated that this been a very big learning process for her as county parks director, and stated she made her original request to the Commission based on good data and information that she heard consistently throughout the county, but stated that she did not do a good enough job in speaking to the matter and answering the questions of local elected officials. Ms. McMillan said that she believes this is the next best thing so the Commission can ultimately be successful to meet the needs of the county parks and local units in 2004.

Mr. Barkey advised that it would be proper to reconsider the motion taken at the last meeting regarding this issue.

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Speed, supported by Commissioner Wright, to reconsider the action taken at the July 24, 2003, Commission meeting requesting the Genesee County Board of Commissioners to place on the November ballot the issue of a capital improvement millage for County parks and local governmental units.

MOTION CARRIED.

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Speed, supported by Commissioner Wright, to concur with the director's recommendation to withdraw the Commission's request to the Genesee County Board of Commissioners to place on the ballot the issue of a capital improvement millage for County parks and local governmental units, and to direct Administration and the Commission to continue to meet in information sessions with community groups and local elected officials to determine the feasibility of proceeding with the original millage proposal which includes a provision to fund local projects, and to commit to a particular manner in which local funding would be distributed, and that the director report back to the Commission in December with a recommendation and a timeframe for that recommendation.

Commissioner Jamison stated that he would prefer the motion speak only to withdrawing the request to the Board.

President Krapohl asked if anyone from the public would like to speak regarding this issue. No one from the public desired to speak.

Commissioner Becker stated that the millage is a problem for many people in his area, who have told him they are upset because of the way it is set up and because it is one mill. He said everything he has heard has been negative. Commissioner Becker said he has always been a parks supporter, but he does not like the way it is proposed to be set up. Commissioner Bogardus said she continues to support the proposal because it would provide local communities with a pool of money for local projects and would be beneficial to the entire county. She said she hopes the Commission can come up with a formula that is acceptable to the local elected officials. She suggested a committee be set up that includes local officials. Commissioner Lucas stated he concurs with both Commissioner Becker's and Commissioner Bogardus' comments. Commissioner Lucas said the original proposal doesn't seem to want to fall into place because a lot of greedy municipalities want all of their money. He suggested that at the very least, the Commission should go for a one-half mill capital improvement millage for its parks. Commissioner Lucas said the Commission cannot afford to maintain its parks and it needs to do something about it. Commissioner Becker said he believes it will be very hard to get a mill passed because there are a lot of other issues, such as road repair and drain issues, and people are getting tired of higher taxes. He said people tell him

there is no way they will vote for one mill. Commissioner Speed said that is only because people do not understand the entire plan because they have received only a very small picture of it from two articles in The Flint Journal. She said once they understand that the plan benefits the entire community, they will vote for it, and she is ready to move forward with it.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Adoption of Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Budget** – Ms. McMillan stated that the Parks Commission *approves* its budget and the Board of Commissioners *adopts* the Commission's budget. She reviewed in detail the memorandum included in the agenda packet relative to the proposed Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Commission budget. She highlighted the following items: bond payments (for Headquarters, Genesee Belle, and Mill Street facilities) will be approximately \$300,000 per year for this year, next year, and the following year; the budget includes a request to the Board of Commissioners to be allowed to use money from the land sale fund to supplement the Commission's general fund budget; budget includes a request to make no contribution to the Commission's legal defense fund, which currently has a balance of \$40,000, and which the Commission had been required to make a contribution of \$10,000 per year up until last year when that requirement was suspended; request to use up to \$120,000 of the land sale revenue, which had been slated to pay for the capital millage election proposed for this fall, to continue to adopt and maintain Max Brandon Park; and request to designate up to \$50,000 for campgrounds improvement and maintenance. She requested that the Commission approve the budget as submitted.

Commissioner Becker stated that he is not in favor of spending that much money on Max Brandon Park. He suggested that two separate motions be made. Ms. McMillan said that the expenditures for Max Brandon Park will be part of the Commission's budget as a whole, and approximately \$30,000 would be spent to purchase additional mowing equipment that would be dedicated for the use of maintaining Max Brandon Park in the equipment pool budget, number 666000, with the balance that would go to both Max Brandon Park and the campgrounds in budget 20800.

President Krapohl stated that the Commission approved a one-year adoption of Max Brandon Park, so if that program was to continue, it would have to be brought to the Commission for approval. Ms. McMillan said that when the Commission approves the budget, that action also approves certain expenditures within the budget, so the Commission would also be authorizing Administration to use the budget in that manner, and as part of the operating budget, that would include maintaining Max Brandon Park. Commissioner Bogardus said that she proposed the campground maintenance improvements because it is needed, but she said she also continues to support Max Brandon Park because the City of Flint is a very large geographic area and it does not have any county facilities. Commissioner Speed said the Commission must keep in mind its mission statement to provide recreational opportunities to all residents in Genesee County, and the Commission does not have a presence in the City of Flint. Commissioner Wright said he has a concern that dollars be expended on the Commission's own existing facilities that need improvement. He said when Max Brandon Park was first funded, it was his assumption that it was a one-time event to get it into a condition where the City could maintain it. He said he agrees that the Commission should have a presence everywhere, including the City of Flint, but it should be done on a more official arrangement. Commissioner Wright stated that if the Commission intends to maintain Max Brandon for the long-haul, the City should turn it over to the Commission or something along that order should be done.

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Ms. McMillan stated that the Commission currently has an official arrangement with the City for the adoption of Max Brandon Park. She said she believes it would be appropriate that the Commission direct Administration to pursue some sort of lease or license agreement with the City of Flint for Max Brandon Park. She advised it cannot be sold to the County without an election, and there are some land and water conservation funds from the federal government involved that would require a transfer to the Parks Commission. If desired by the voters, the Commission could petition the federal government to make that transfer from one local unit to another. Ms. McMillan said a long-term commitment would not be appropriate unless there is a millage increase.

President Krapohl suggested placing the \$30,000 (proposed to be designated for equipment for use at Max Brandon Park) into the maintenance budget without specifying that it is going to Max Brandon Park, and then if another adopt-a-park arrangement is approved, it could be designated for that later. Commissioner Becker stated that \$120,000 could put on approximately three maintenance staff. Ms. McMillan said that amount would only fund two maintenance positions. Ms. McMillan advised that the budget also includes filling a full-time ranger position that had been created three years ago, but never filled, and reducing the seasonal ranger funds by the appropriate amount and transferring into the full-time ranger salary.

Brief discussion ensued regarding procedure. President Krapohl said that the \$120,000 that was going to be used to pay for a fall millage election can be designated with \$30,000 in the equipment pool budget for non-specific use and \$90,000 in the maintenance budget for non-specific use. The procedure would be to increase fund 20800 by \$120,000, for a total revenue of \$6,391,660, and then \$30,000 would be transferred out of fund 20800 and placed into the equipment pool fund 66600. Commissioner Jamison asked what is the grand total? Ms. Whitehead explained that the land sale line item in the revenue budget will increase by \$120,000 and expenditures will increase by \$120,000 with \$30,000 to go into the equipment pool and \$90,000 to go into the contingency fund until the Commission determines how it will be spent.

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Becker, supported by Commissioner Prater, to approve the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission Budget Fund 20800 in the total amount of \$6,391,660.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Jamison, Becker, Bogardus, Prater, Lucas, Krapohl, Speed, Wright  
Nays: None  
Absent: Shaltz, Washington

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-0).

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Becker, supported by Commissioner Krapohl, to approve the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission Budget Fund 50810 in the total amount of \$1,211,250.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Becker, Bogardus, Prater, Lucas, Krapohl, Speed, Wright, Jamison  
Nays: None  
Absent: Washington, Shaltz

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-0).

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Becker, supported by Commissioner Wright, to approve the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission Budget Fund 66600 in the total amount of \$355,000.

President Krapohl clarified that the total includes the \$30,000, which is not designated for a specific use.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Bogardus, Prater, Lucas, Krapohl, Speed, Wright, Jamison, Becker  
Nays: None  
Absent: Shaltz, Washington

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-0).

**Recommendations from Crossroads Village Advisory Committee** – Ms. McMillan recommended approval.

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Lucas, supported by Commissioner Prater, to accept the list of donations as submitted by the Crossroads Village Advisory Committee.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Parks Status Report**

**Crossroads Carnival Days** – Ms. Moreno reported that on Sunday the Genesee District Library (GDL) will reward participants in its young readers program with a trip to Crossroads Village. She said approximately 6,000 children are expected. Ms. Moreno stated that the GDL loves working with the Parks, and the feeling is mutual.

**Labor Day Celebration at Crossroads Village** – Ms. Moreno advised that this year's theme honors the Sit Down Strikers, and the program will begin with a breakfast at the UAW Region 1-C Office at 8 a.m., a dedication of the new monument at 9 a.m., and then a motorcade escort to Crossroads Village for food and activities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., which will include a dunk tank, parade, and bingo.

**Sponsorship of Crim Festival of Races** – Ms. Moreno advised that the Parks Commission is sponsoring the pep rally next Friday at 7 p.m. and 90,000 Parks brochures will be distributed at the event.

**Harry Potter Event** – Ms. Moreno advised that the Genesee District Library (GDL) will be partnering with the Parks Commission in November for the program, Harry's Huckleberry Express, and people are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite Harry Potter character.

**Buell Lake County Park Improvements** – Ms. McMillan reported that the project was re-bid with a mandatory pre-bid meeting because there were no responsive bids to the first solicitation.

**Flushing County Park** – Ms. McMillan reported that the playscape has been completed and is open to the public.

**Genesee County Fair** – Ms. McMillan advised that the Fair continues at the Cummings Center through this weekend.

**Crossroads Village Maintenance** – Ms. McMillan advised that staff is replacing some original boardwalk in order to make it wider to accommodate wheelchairs.

**Dunk Tank** – Ms. McMillan advised that she will be spending a half hour at the dunk tank on Carnival Days.

**Purchasing Presentation** – Ms. McMillan advised that Mr. Eric Hopson, County Purchasing Director, will make a presentation regarding the manner in which the Purchasing Department and the Parks Commission work together to put things out to bid.

President Krapohl asked if the patio tables and chairs had been installed at Bluebell Beach splash pad? Ms. McMillan replied they are on back order. She advised that students, some of which had physical impairments, from the Genesee Intermediate School District visited the splash pad last week, which worked very well as a barrier-free facility for them.

**Ratification of Payment of Bills** – Ms. McMillan recommended approval.

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Jamison, supported by Commissioner Wright, to ratify payment of bills for the time period of July 21, 2003, through August 4, 2003, for checks numbered 4026246 through 4026514 in the amount of \$345,226.98..

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Prater, Lucas, Krapohl, Speed, Bogardus, Wright, Jamison, Becker  
Nays: None  
Absent: Shaltz, Washington

MOTION CARRIED (8-0).

**Ratification of Commissioner Investments** – Ms. McMillan recommended approval.

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Wright, supported by Commissioner Lucas, to ratify wired payments of investments for the time period of July 21, 2003, in the amount of \$218,000.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Bogardus asked when the Commission would look at the Max Brandon program? Ms. McMillan replied that she will contact the City of Flint and bring something back as soon as possible. Commissioner Bogardus said she would not want to vote on a long-term arrangement before the Commission knows if it will have revenue available through a millage. Ms. McMillan said that the Commission provides all Genesee County residents with opportunities to fish, boat, and swim, in addition to the County parks and For-Mar. She said that because there are no County Parks facilities located within the City of Flint, the benefits to City of Flint residents are more generic than specific.

Commissioner Jamison stated that the issue of cleaning up the restrooms at the campgrounds has been brought to the Commission's attention, but it is not addressed in the budget until next year. Ms. McMillan apologized to the campers that the Commission has not met their expectations, and she said staff will continue to address the issues raised. Commissioner Jamison requested that at the next meeting, the director report what will be done about the restrooms at the campgrounds. He stated that he feels it is a health issue. Ms. McMillan replied that she didn't know if she could provide anything to the Commission at the next meeting because the campgrounds close in two weeks. Commissioner Wright requested that an estimate of what it would cost to repair the restroom/shower facilities to acceptable standards be provided. Ms. McMillan replied that staff will get contractors out to the campgrounds to get some quotes.

Regarding Max Brandon Park, Commissioner Wright stated that it can be said about many communities in Genesee County that they do not have a Genesee County Parks facility located within their boundaries, but they also pay the millage; however, he said that in the long-term, he would like to see some sort of Parks presence in the City of Flint. Commissioner Wright encouraged Ms. McMillan to continue to communicate and try hard to get the local communities on board (relative to a county-wide capital improvements millage). Commissioner Bogardus volunteered to sit on the committee that Ms. McMillan would like set up to promote the millage proposal to community leaders. Brief discussion ensued regarding the purpose of millages. Ms. McMillan stated that millages were originally meant to supplement general fund support, but over the years, both the City of Flint and Genesee County general funds have been unable to contribute much to either parks system, so now the millages are needed for operating, as opposed to enhancing the parks system.

Commissioner Bogardus stated that she would like to see increased maintenance at Wolverine Campground for the last two weeks of the season.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

Mr. Palladeno thanked the Commission for taking the time to deal with the (campgrounds bathrooms/shower) issue and designating additional money for next year. He suggested the Commission consider adding a host campsite to help watch over the campgrounds. He said that the long-term campers are willing to help however they can. Mr. Palladeno also stated that the two handicap facilities have been destroyed for three years. Mr. Glen echoed Mr. Palladeno's comments.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no objections, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 11:26 p.m.

Recorded by:

Teresa M. Blaine  
Administrative Secretary

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