

**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, February 24, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. in the Harris Auditorium of the County Administration Building, 1101 Beach St., Flint, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Joe Krapohl, President
James Washington, Vice President
William Lucas, Secretary
Archie Bailey
Rose Bogardus
Shirley Prater
Raynetta Speed

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Jeff Wright, Genesee County Drain Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

APPOINTED MEMBERS

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Dave Miller/Bonita White, Genesee County Road
Commission
Bob Ranger, Jr., Designee
Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission

STAFF PRESENT

Amy M. McMillan, Director
Roxy Moreno, Planning & Development Director
Ron Walker, Facilities Management Director
Nancy Edwards, Recreation Program Specialist
Leisa Gagne, Financial Affairs Officer
Kimberly L. Cunningham, Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brian Barkey, Commission Legal Counsel
Bobbie McClain
BJ Walker
Larry Hackett
Lanny Valentine

CALL TO ORDER

President Krapohl called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. President Krapohl also welcomed the newest Parks Commission member, Board of Commission member Archie Bailey.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

Action Taken – Motion by Commissioner Lucas, supported by Commissioner Prater, to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2005 regular meeting as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Ms. McMillan stated that a presentation is scheduled for today under the section “Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission”. The Parks Commission would like to afford them the opportunity to make the presentation first. Ms. McMillan directed the speakers, members of the Burton Rotary Club, to come to the podium.

Vaughn Smith, president of the Burton Rotary, stated the following:

The Rotarians are having their 100-year anniversary of Rotary and each Rotary Club has been asked to do a community project. The Burton Rotary has chosen to build a pavilion, if you approve, at Davison Roadside Park. It would be rustic with no electricity or water. There are now sidewalks along Davison Road that people run and walk on and as a child, I sledded down the hill. He further stated we are trying to do something that would enhance the experience for people in the community. Mr. Smith further stated what was passed out to you is a partial site plan. The Rotary Club would be taking on all expenses and the City of Burton has agreed to waive the building permit fee. Basically, what we are doing is looking for your endorsement of the project.

Ms. McMillan stated that Mr. Smith has met with our staff over the course of several months. The questions that we originally had have been answered. It would be a very nice addition to Davison Roadside Park and a very generous gift to the Parks Commission, which will in no way interfere with sledding.

Commissioner Bogardus stated she has been by the park when it was under water. How high is the spot where you are going to build the pavilion? The architect stated there is a swale and some of you may recall that at one time there was a little ornamental bridge that went over the swale. The abutments are still in place and we are staying clear of that. I don't anticipate any flooding. Mr. Smith stated they have Gordon Mechanical helping them out and they have professional people in the Rotary Club that will be working with them.

Commissioner Wright stated he is assuming that once it is completed the maintenance, etc. is turned over to the County and ownership is turned over to the County. Mr. Smith stated yes. Mr. Smith stated they would like to have their Rotary emblem at the top to signify that the Rotary provided the pavilion. He stated they meet at Brookwood and are trying to have a symbol for the membership to see what they are doing this for with the raffles and other fundraising that we do. We want to show that there are reasons for all this.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to accept this offer and pursue it to finality. Commissioner Wright would like to also say that he has been at a couple of the Burton

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
February 24, 2005
Page 3

Rotary Club meetings and these individuals do a lot for the community. Commissioner Lucas supported the motion.

President Krapohl stated there has been a motion and support to accept the donation of a pavilion from the Rotary Club of Burton to be placed at Davison Roadside Park coordinating the activities with staff. President Krapohl asked if there were any questions on the motion.

Commissioner Lucas asked if there is any way that Commissioner Wright's office could take a look at Davison Roadside Park and see why it is flooding. Commissioner Wright stated that it is the Kearsley Creek Flood Plan in that area and the only thing that he would suggest to the Burton Rotary is that from what I can tell it will be slab construction, which if it were to go sometimes underwater, it is not a big problem. There is what they call a 100-year flood elevation in that area. They should try to put the base level of this pavilion at or above that 100-year flood plain level, which shouldn't be a problem. Commissioner Wright stated he would be glad to work with them or through the Board to set that elevation.

Commissioner Bogardus stated that we have already had one 100-year one this century so we should be good. Commissioner Bogardus stated that she would like them to notify the Parks Commission when they have a ribbon cutting ceremony or whatever so we can be present. Mr. Smith stated that they would notify the Parks Commission through Ms. McMillan. Commissioner Bogardus stated it is a great idea.

Action Taken – Motion by Commissioner Wright, supported by Commissioner Lucas, for the Parks Commission to accept the donation of a pavilion from the Rotary Club of Burton to be placed at Davison Roadside Park.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. McMillan stated that she would send the Rotary Club of Burton a letter confirming the Commission's action today so they can have that for their files.

President Krapohl stated that Paul Harvey did have the rest of the story about the Rotary Club beginning last night in case anybody didn't hear.

President Krapohl advised that anyone wishing to address the Commission should state their name and address for the record and that comments will be limited to three minutes.

Larry Hackett of 6489 E. Coldwater Rd., Flint, Michigan stated the following:

I just want to make one point that in the February 19, 2005 *Flint Journal* there was an article "Grant Aids Animals at Mott Hashbarger Farm". Baker College of Flint was awarded a \$5,000 grant from Bank One of Flint to help support the medical care of animals at Mott Hashbarger Children's Farm. Mr. Hackett stated that he guessed that this is a communication that they are definitely aboard.

B.J. Walker of 9012 N. Vassar Rd., Mt. Morris, Michigan stated the following:

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

February 24, 2005

Page 4

I am looking at the letter to Mr. Skip Harbin of the Flint Board of Education. I hope during the period where the Commissioners have a comment that they will address the meeting of Tuesday, February 22 so we can be advised as to the content of the meeting and any decisions that were made.

President Krapohl asked if anyone else would like to address the Commission. There were none.

He stated that if there are no objections from the Commissioners the Director has requested that we move the Director's Park Status Report up to this point in time. There are some activities later in the day that some of the staff would like to attend. There were no objections.

Ms. McMillan stated that today is the County's 7th Annual African American Heritage Program that begins at 11:00 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church. The Parks Commission staff represents us well so we will be dismissing them after they have made their reports today.

DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT

Ms. Moreno stated that in the February 18 *Flint Journal* there was an insert of the Calendar of Events. She brought extra copies with her in case anyone wanted one. Ms. Moreno stated that Nancy Edwards did an outstanding job putting together over 304 programs that are going to be in the Genesee County Parks from March until December. This is very colorful—it's jam packed with lots of information on programs that are at For-Mar, throughout all the parks, and at Bluebell Beach. It also gives information on dates to remember and where the parks are located. Ms. Moreno stated if you need any of these, let Nancy know or the office staff and we will be glad to get them out to you. Ms. Moreno stated she wanted to remind everyone that we are also distributing these through the GISD to 50,000 school children. There were 84,000 distributed in the February 18th *Flint Journal*.

Ms. Moreno stated we are going to be part of the exhibit at the horse show this weekend at Birch Run. This is our second year. We get a lot of interest in the Cummings Center from the show and it helps to make people aware of what we can offer them at the Cummings Center.

Ms. Moreno stated that this weekend we will also be going to an exhibit at the Heartland Group Tour in Grand Rapids and is in conjunction with the Flint Convention & Visitor Bureau. Also, March 4, 5, and 6, the Parks Commission will have a table at the Steelheaders Show, which will be held at the Birch Run Expo. This weekend on Sunday we will have a table at the Genesee Valley Bridal Exhibit.

Ms. Moreno stated that she wanted to remind the Parks Commission that on March 13 at the pancake breakfast at For-Mar, we will display the photographs from the photo contest. We had 15 people submit well over 50 photographs. The staff has been very kind to help judge the contest. It seems that people are showing a lot of interest this year and we have some outstanding photography that was submitted.

Commissioner Bogardus asked if Ms. Moreno could explain the event at For-Mar. Ms. Moreno stated that the East Flint Lions Club comes out to For-Mar every year around

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

February 24, 2005

Page 5

Sugar Bush time and they set up a tent and serve breakfast. It is \$5.00 per person and is from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Last year was our first annual photo exhibit which we did in conjunction with the breakfast so that people at For-Mar would be able to see the photos, have breakfast, and walk the trails. Ms. McMillan stated the pancakes are always excellent.

Parks Status Report

Mr. Walker stated:

Crossroads Village – Crossroads Village staff met with the representatives of the Painters Union to see if we can come up some procedures to reduce our costs for painting and seeing if we can get a little better quality paint.

Genesee Lions Club -- At Genesee and Stanley Roads, the Genesee Lions Club flagpole that was approved a couple of months ago has been installed. It looks great.

Ingram Property Land Sale – Regarding our land sale, we got the perk test back from Lapeer County and it is fine. The survey has been completed and information will be delivered to Purchasing to look over for the sale.

Genesee County Auction -- The County auction is May 7. We are getting together all of the used and worn out equipment at the parks that is no longer useful.

Restoration -- Car No. 100 is in for refurbishing right now. The seats are going in starting today. They have been recovered. The old seat covers lasted 29 years. Next, it will be painted and re-floored.

Ms. McMillan stated that at Crossroads Village Mr. Gosnell, who is our artist who takes care of the train cars, is also working with us to develop and design a float to be part of the Flint Sesquicentennial parade. The Parks and Recreation Commission will be well represented in that event. Ms. McMillan stated she attended a meeting last night and a gentleman that was there said at the City's 100th anniversary over 200,000 people were downtown to celebrate. This is a really good opportunity for us to highlight the parks as well.

Ms. McMillan stated that she would be meeting in two weeks with the new race director for the Crim Festival of Races to talk about our partnership this year. The Commission approved a \$5,000 level sponsorship again this year because it has been such a productive relationship in bringing people into the parks and highlighting the County Parks over the course of the last two years. We are looking forward to meeting her.

Ms. McMillan also stated that Mr. Younger would here next week to meet with staff and commissioners on Monday afternoon, all day Tuesday, and part of the day Wednesday. If the commissioners are able to be a part of those meetings and part of the discussion, we would certainly welcome you being there.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. McMillan stated we have our usual large number of thank you letters for contributing to fundraising events. We use this to promote Crossroads outside of our

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

February 24, 2005

Page 6

borders. We also have some communication from the Genesee County Historical Society. The Historical Society sent a letter to our consultant in December, 2004. In response to that communication, they have requested that I schedule a meeting for the Historical Society to meet individually with the consultant regarding the plan or provide them with the opportunity to review the plan prior to its presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission and to the Board of Commissioners. The purpose of this study is that it is a business study. It is not a master plan like we do for our parks in which we not only permit public input but also, encourage it. Because we are not able to accommodate all requests to meet individually with the consultant and because we are focusing on business rather than changes to the physical environment, we are notable to approve that request. I have, however, offered to meet with them as the director and listen to any questions or concerns that they have.

Ms. McMillan stated there is communication from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. As you know, we have a number of funds on deposit there and this is our quarterly report. A number of these monies are specifically for Crossroads Village and for specific buildings at Crossroads Village. We make certain that we always use those monies for those purposes and that they don't end up in the general fund, supporting the overall Parks Commission. They are used directly at Crossroads Village as intended by the trusts.

Ms. McMillan stated that we have a request from Sharon Black, who is the treasurer of the Friends of Crossroads Village Carousel. This is a very active group and they have offered to assist us in making some repairs to the exterior of the building this year. They also shared over \$5,500 with us to pay for the cost of windows in the carousel building this year. If you see the members around, please be certain to thank them again for all of the hard work that they do on our behalf.

Ms. McMillan stated that there is also a letter to Mr. Ron Campbell of THA. THA is an architect and engineering firm in the City of Flint. They have worked with the Parks Commission for a long time at Crossroads Village and they designed our pavilion at Clover Beach. They are the sponsors of this year's fireworks at opening night of Christmas at Crossroads. The sponsorship was acquired through the diligent efforts of Garry Pringle, our Village manager. It is a good first step to a more active sponsorship program to underwrite the costs of Crossroads Village.

Ms. McMillan stated that each year at this time we provide to the Commission a report from the affirmative action officer, Ms. Coney Mays. It is a report about the diversity of our department. As you can see, the Parks and Recreation Department consistently falls within the goals established by the County with the very ironic exception of the number of females that we employ. This is largely because our seasonal maintenance workforce is overwhelmingly male, as is our full-time workforce, which is entirely male.

Ms. McMillan stated also included is a report from the Richfield Landfill, Inc. At a previous Commission meeting, the Commission granted permission to install three monitoring wells in Richfield County Park to track the manner in which some runoff was traveling from a local landfill. This is a report that provides update on that progress. As you can see, this is not all good news for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Ms. McMillan stated that last month the Parks Commission requested certain information from the Flint Community Schools. We made that request in the form of a

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
February 24, 2005
Page 7

Freedom of Information Act request presented by Mr. Barkey to the Flint Community Schools. We have included for you a considerable amount of the response to that request. It does not include spreadsheets that identified specific bills that have been paid for services because we didn't want your packet to be too thick. This is a very good overview of the response. If you would like copies of the entire response, we will be happy to provide them to you.

Ms. McMillan stated that there is a letter to Mr. Harbin, who is the new president of the Flint Community School Board, also informing him that the Commission wanted to meet with him. That meeting has taken place.

Ms. McMillan stated that, finally, we have a letter to update you that at the last Commission meeting the Commission approved the request from the Genesee County Agricultural Society, better known as the County Fair Board, to permit a beer tent at the County Fair this year.

Ms. McMillan asked if there were any questions. There were none.

REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL

Attorney Barkey stated there was no report this meeting.

DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT CONTINUED

Ms. McMillan stated having completed the Parks Status Report the next item on the agenda is an action item. I am going to ask Commissioner Wright to do a brief presentation. I'm sure that he will want to excuse himself from his role as Parks Commissioner and put on his Drain Commissioner hat that will not be a problem since we have a quorum to support any action regardless of whether he is excused as a parks commissioner for that process. Ms. McMillan stated without going into the technical details, you know that the Drain Commissioner's office is in the process of expanding our sewer system countywide in order to provide better and safer sanitary facilities for county residents. They are beginning to work on the northeast part of that project, which essentially is the area around Brookwood Golf Course and For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum. Over the course of four years, Mr. Wright has been meeting with members of our staff, with members of the Friends of For-Mar, and with members of the For-Mar Foundation to identify a route through For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum that would allow this project to move forward in an efficient and effective manner without disturbing the environment in a way that would have long-term negative impact. Mr. Wright is going to present to you an overview of that project which we are recommending that the Commission give preliminary approval for the easement. After the Commission does that, we then need to take the request for the easement to the Department of Natural Resources for their review and possible approval. For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum was largely developed, at least the Visitor's Center, with a grant called a Life Recreation Bond Grant. The grounds are within the project's scope, which means any significant alternation of the land, needs to be approved by the DNR. Essentially, what we would be doing is giving rights for an easement that is not a recreational use. That is why the DNR will need to at least look at it and tell us whether they need to approve it or not. Once the DNR has taken their action, we will come back to the Parks Commission and ask you to make a recommendation to the County Board to approve the easement. In the meantime, we will be negotiating with Mr. Wright and

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
February 24, 2005
Page 8

his staff within the manner in which the Commission will be compensated for any such easements.

Drain Commissioner Wright stated that Ms. McMillan talked about the generalities for For-Mar, but he would like to talk about the northeast sewer and much bigger things. This is a project that has been looked at since 1996 because of on-going wastewater spills into the Kearsley Creek, the Gilkey Creek, etc. The Kearsley Creek, itself, runs through the heart of For-Mar Nature Preserve. There are two pump stations up-stream from For-Mar that in the last three years haven't spilled any, but historically have dumped a lot of raw waste into Kearsley just up-stream at For-Mar. One thing that this project will do is eliminate the environmental potential hazards from that happening by taking the flows away from that overloaded system. The northeasterly sewer, itself, will be close to 40 miles long when completed. This is just one very small portion of it, but a very critical portion. When you place the sanitary sewers in the ground, and that's a good point to make, I don't know if Amy made it or not. This is to be an underground pipe, almost 22 feet underground. Once it is installed, no one will even know its there, except for a couple of access planks that are 24 inches in diameter covered with steel cover. The County historically, at least through part of the 1990's, has had problems with the overflow of the system. We have addressed those concerns and this is one of the final areas that we are trying to address. The state has been involved from a standpoint of agreeing with what we are trying to do. As a matter of fact, we have even received federal grants to do some of this work. I would encourage the Board to consider this. As Amy said, this is a long process. This is just the first step. There will be many more opportunities to discuss things in particular detail. Mr. Wright asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Lucas moved to recommend the action and was supported by Commissioner Prater, to adopt staff recommendation for the request for an easement through For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum subject to the three bulleted items in your memo. President Krapohl asked if there were any questions or comments.

Commissioner Bogardus stated that she would like to commend Commissioner Wright for finding a way to take out the fewest trees. Commissioner Wright thanked Commissioner Bogardus. Commissioner Wright stated that they did spend quite a bit of time in the field with For-Mar staff, with Parks Commission staff. Where it was initially laid out there were some concerns, so I and others from my office, actually, went out and made sure that the least amount of trees would be taken out and that the brush and weeds would grow back. There was a real, real effort to try to avoid anything that could have any long-term affect on it.

Action Taken – Motion by Commissioner Lucas, supported by Commissioner Prater, to adopt staff recommendation for the request for an easement through For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum subject to the three bulleted items in your memo.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Bogardus, Bailey, Speed, Wright, Washington, Krapohl, Lucas, Prater
Nays:
Absent: Miller/White, Ranger

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
February 24, 2005
Page 9

Mr. Wright stated he talked to Corporation Counsel and they said he could vote if he wanted to, which he did.

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

Action Taken – Motion by Commissioner Wright, supported by Commissioner Washington, to ratify payment of bills for the time period of February 3, 2005 through February 14, 2005.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Speed, Wright, Washington, Krapohl, Lucas, Prater, Bogardus, Bailey
Nays:
Absent: Miller/White, Ranger

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ratification of Commissioner Investments – Ms. McMillan recommended approval.

Action Taken – Motion by Commissioner Lucas, supported by Commissioner Washington, to ratify wired payments of investments for the time period of February 3, 2005 through February 10, 2005.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OTHER BUSINESS

President Krapohl stated that Mr. Walker had asked a question about the meeting that we had with the Flint School Board representatives on Tuesday. President Krapohl stated we did meet with them in a committee meeting on Tuesday. According to the Flint Community Schools, they have no intentions of asking us to rescind our motion and we are working in a cooperative effort on the closure plan and are going to continue with that avenue. They also will be contacting the farm association to set up a meeting with the Flint Community School Board to explain their position and to inform them of what the plans will be for the future. They tentatively have a meeting on March 1st at 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. at the Sarvis Center. They will be contacting the farm association to confirm that time and date. If that does not work for the farm association, it will be between the school board and your association.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Bogardus stated that she does plan to attend the school meeting if it is on Tuesday. Commissioner Bogardus stated she wanted to thank the people from the Mott Farm Association for their dedication to the community. She is sorry that this hasn't worked out, but she does thank the farm association for their contributions.

Commissioner Bailey stated that those who know him know he is just a behind the scenes low-key guy. He does welcome the opportunity to serve on this board. He stated his late wife served on this board and it was at a meeting like this where they trying to get some activity going in the winter at Crossroads Village and it was her expression "Christmas at Crossroads" that started the entire program that we have

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
February 24, 2005
Page 10

there today at Christmas time. Commissioner Bailey said he would try and carry on that tradition. Commissioner Bailey asked about the January 31, 2005 letter from Richfield Landfill. How was that resolved or how is that being dealt with? Commissioner Bailey stated this sends up a million red flags to him and he is curious as to where we are. Ms. McMillan stated Insight Environmental would be addressing those issues directly with us on our behalf.

President Krapohl stated that he also had those concerns and was going to ask the Director if we had someone who could look at that report that could understand it more than he does.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Mr. Hackett stated he would like to thank the Commission for listening to them for several meetings. He stated we have tried to provide the Commission with information. From the beginning, we have said we were not here to be confrontational. We were here to be informative and we appreciate it. Thank you.

President Krapohl asked if any other members of the public wished to comment. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objections, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Recorded and transcribed by:
Kimberly L. Cunningham
Secretary