

**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 8, 2007 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
Rose Bogardus
Ted Henry
Shirley Prater
Raynetta Speed

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Billy Bradshaw, Genesee County Road Commission
Jeff Wright, Genesee County Drain Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

APPOINTED MEMBERS

James Washington, Vice President
William Lucas, Secretary

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Bob Ranger, Jr., Designee
Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission

STAFF PRESENT

Amy M. McMillan, Director
Ronald Walker, Facilities Director
Leisa Gagne, Financial Affairs Officer
Roxy Moreno, Planning and Development Director
Nancy Edwards, Recreation Program Specialist
Robert Davis, Park Planner
Kimberly L. Cunningham, Secretary
Nicole Dunn, Recreation Program Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brian Barkey, Commission Legal Counsel
Elizabeth Shaw, *The Flint Journal*
Kaye Kreutzfeldt, Citizen
Rich Richardson, Citizen
Larry Stricker, Citizen

CALL TO ORDER

President Krapohl called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2007 REGULAR MEETING AND JANUARY 13, 2007 STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

President Krapohl requested any corrections and/or additions to the minutes. There were none.

Action Taken – Motion by Commissioner Bradshaw, supported by Commissioner Prater, to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2007 regular meeting and the January 13, 2007 Strategic Planning Retreat as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

President Krapohl asked if there was anyone from the public wishing to address the Commission. President Krapohl stated that per Commission rules speakers have three minutes to make their comments and should state their name and address for the record.

Larry Stricker of 3547 North Gale, Davison, stated the following:

Some of you perhaps are wondering when is he going to tire coming here. Look at it from a fisherman's point-of-view, he has stories to tell and a captive audience, what do you think? He has a cane pole with him as a symbol to keep him focused on what he is about. Many children start fishing with cane poles and that is the reason for his quest—to help families and children.

Mr. Stricker then explained his maps—everything orange is a parking lot—the red spots are excellent places for youngsters to catch fish from the shore. His suggestion is to put steel posts in to keep people from going into the floodplain that way cars could come in part of the way. It is easy to patrol. Second, boaters can get in with their boats and go further, but they are not taking their vehicles into dangerous areas. Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. McMillan stated she would first like to congratulate both Commissioners Bogardus and Bradshaw on their re-appointment to the Parks Commission. There are notices from both the Genesee County Board of Commissioners and the Genesee County Road Commission. This is very good news for the Parks Commission.

There is also correspondence regarding the Huckleberry Railroad maintenance garage. As you know, this has been a long-term project regarding an old fuel spill. The Parks is doing very well with that issue.

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There is also an article about Paul Dalleska, who in the article appears as the Parks' master mechanic, but as of March 1, 2007, will be appearing as the Parks' right-of-way supervisor. He has been promoted into the position that Marty Knox will be vacating upon his retirement at the end of this month. Everyone will get an opportunity to congratulate Mr. Knox personally on his retirement when he appears at the next Parks Commission meeting. As you will see in the packet, you will also have an opportunity to attend a retirement event in his honor being hosted by the Mid-Michigan Railway Historical Society of which many of the Parks' employees and volunteers at Crossroads Village are members. Ms. McMillan will be attending that event representing the Parks Commission.

Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs FY 2007 Mini-Grant Application --

Also included in the packet for the Parks Commission's approval is a grant application to MCACA that has been prepared by recreation program coordinator, Nicole Dunn. This is one of a series of grants that Nicole has prepared over the course of the last several weeks, totaling over \$10,000. The Parks was permitted to submit the grant application, but for MCACA to consider it, the Parks Commission must authorize the application as presented. She would like the Parks Commission to consider the application and to add its endorsement and authorization at today's meeting.

Action Taken – Motion by Commissioner Bogardus, supported by Commissioner Prater, to endorse the 2007 Mini-Grant Application to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0.

REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL

Attorney Barkey stated that he handed out today a Consent Judgment in the Tax Tribunal matter. As you may remember, the Parks Commission had a tax dispute with Oregon Township when they changed the Parks' tax assessments in 2004 for 2005. When they did that, Marathon Township followed suit. The Parks litigated the case with Oregon Township, and after the Parks won the case, they went to Marathon Township and suggested that they consider agreeing to the entry of an order identical to the one that was entered in the Oregon Township case and they did. Marathon Township entering into a Consent Judgment is a product of that agreement. It reverses Marathon Township's decision to assess the property as non-exempt for 2005 and subsequent years, and it provides not only for reversal of that, but it also provides for a refund of the taxes, the administrative fee, and interest. This effectively closes down all of the litigation with respect to the assessments in Lapeer County.

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Attorney Barkey stated that he sent the Parks Commissioners earlier in the week a copy of a decision in another Lapeer County case; this case involves fire run fees for Oregon Township. As he explained in previous meetings, if you own property in Oregon Township and there is a fire on your property and the fire department responds, you get a bill after that for various amounts of money depending on what year the fire occurred. In 2004, you would have been given a bill for \$1,800 for a full fire run. In 2005 and part of 2006, they raised it to \$2,000 and this year, it is currently \$2,500. Townships are allowed to charge a fee for service in proportionate to the cost of the service. If they charge any more than that, it is considered to be a tax and a tax has to follow certain procedures under the Headlee Amendments to the State Constitution. This is a very popular means by townships to raise revenue—to assess user fees like this—and so there has been recent litigation over what really constitutes a hidden tax, which needs to follow the Headlee procedures, and what's a proper user fee. When the Parks had two of these assessments come in for 2005 and received claims for this, the Parks declined to pay the claims and it resulted in litigation. This really boils down to whether this is a tax or a user fee as a legal question. People agree that the costs of these fire runs are something you can determine mathematically and these rules ought to apply depending on the reasonableness of the fee. To give an example of the actual costs of these fire runs, the Parks got a bill for \$2,000 for these fire runs for 2005. In the first one, the actual cost of the volunteer fire department fighting the fire is \$572—the Parks was charged \$2,000 (primarily that was because one of the trucks got stuck at the site of the fire). The second one was put out very promptly. The actual cost of that fire run was \$88 and the Parks got a bill for \$2,000. The legal question came up before Judge Barnard and the Parks lost. It is hard to find the basis for the judge's opinion although she did say that in her opinion the court finds no evidence that the charge here is unreasonable. No matter which way it was resolved, he thinks it was clear that one side or the other was going to appeal anyway. If the Parks won, he is sure Oregon Township would appeal and he is recommending that the Parks Commission appeal the decision. The appeal would take place in the Lapeer County Circuit Court. It would be a review of the material that has already been given Judge Barnard and request that the judge in Lapeer County Circuit Court reverse the decision and determine that this is actually a hidden tax and not a fee. Attorney Barkey would like to recommend that the Parks Commission authorize him to file an appeal of this decision.

Action Taken – Motion by Commissioner Bogardus, supported by Commissioner Bradshaw, to appeal the decision of the 71-A District Court in the matter of Oregon Township vs Genesee County Parks and Recreation.

Commissioner Bogardus stated that one of the citizens of Oregon Township is going to have a serious fire and is going to get a \$2,500 bill from their Township. They have to charge the citizens if they charge the Parks. She further stated that she thinks it would be a good move to have a letter placed in *The Flint Journal* that is distributed in the Lapeer area and in the local newspaper in Lapeer County that the Parks should notify

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the citizens of the level of charges for fire runs because they don't know it unless they have a fire. Those people are the least likely to be able to argue about it. She further stated that she thinks that the Parks should let the citizens of that township know what the charge is for fire and also the date of the hearing.

Commissioner Bradshaw stated that Lapeer charged him when his car caught fire on the expressway. He received an astronomical bill. It took them a half hour to get there and the car was burned up. When the fire department got there, the car was simmering, but they still charged him for the run and he had to pay it or he would lose his license.

Commissioner Henry asked if the insurance company would pick up the cost. President Krapohl stated that in meetings that he had attended at Oregon Township when they were considering a special assessment insurance companies will normally pick up to a certain level and you can pay to have your insurance company pick up the full amount if you are aware of the full amount. You could buy the extra coverage from your insurance company.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0.

DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT

Parks Status Report

Ms. McMillan stated that although Mr. Walker is appearing today she would present his report as he has laryngitis.

Mounds ORV Park – The Department of Natural Resources has approved a grant in the amount of \$65,000 for the Mounds ORV Park. Staff has been very successful in getting grants for the Mounds ORV Park each year. Bob Davis, park planner, and Ron Walker work very hard to put those together. The Parks also works with the Mounds Advisory Committee to talk about things that are most important and at the top of their list were replacing culverts and the design of a new rock crawl feature. A rock crawl is essentially a big pile of rocks. It is designed for slow movement. It is designed for trucks to go up, very slowly across, and down. The folks who are truck users at the Mounds have been lobbying very hard for this improvement. It is included in the Mounds ORV master plan and so staff is very excited to be able to do this. Staff has also had considerable offers of assistance from a couple of ORV groups that include engineers among their members, including one member of our ORV advisory board. She stated that everyone is looking forward to this amenity.

Deer Survey – On Friday, February 2, the Oakland County Parks folks came over and picked up Greg Parks in a helicopter and took him out to each of the areas. They

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completed a deer census and staff now has raw numbers, which they will plot according to square mileage to correspond with the figures of how many deer per square mileage you are supposed to have. There were a couple of things that were of interest to Oakland County—one is that the Oakland County park system as a whole has only 3,500 acres. In just three of Genesee County's facilities, they got to see more than that property when they were here last week. They were very impressed and envious of the Genesee County Parks. They were really astounded by the number of wild turkeys that are in Genesee County, particularly in the Hogbacks. Staff will be correlating and crunching those numbers and providing that information to the Hunting Committee and then forwarding it to the Parks Commission. President Krapohl will be talking a little bit more about that later in the agenda. Commissioner Bogardus asked what properties did they survey. Ms. McMillan stated For-Mar, the Cummings Center/Goldenrod/Richfield area, and then the Hogbacks. For-Mar, for example, is less than a square mile, but they expanded the area out to a square mile and they expanded each of the consensus areas to the nearest square mile. She further stated that Oakland County Parks is charging the Genesee County Parks by acre rather than per square mile and the Parks is being charged the whopping ransom amount of \$.75 per acre, plus a \$50 out-of-county convenience charge. This is a great professional courtesy that Oakland County has extended to the Genesee County Parks and staff really does appreciate their support. Commissioner Bogardus asked if a thank you letter could be sent to Oakland County. Ms. McMillan stated she would be happy to do that.

Ms. McMillan stated she is also appearing on behalf of Hilda McShane. Ms. McShane is on vacation. As everyone may be aware, in February there are two Mondays in a row that the County and its operations are closed. One is this coming Monday, February 12, which is Lincoln's birthday, and one is the following Monday, February 19, Washington's birthday. The end of February also pretty much marks the end of what staff tries to refer to as the relatively slow season. This will be for many people the last time they have the opportunity to take any real vacation time. Over the course of the next few weeks, Ms. McMillan will be taking days off, Ms. McShane is off until next week, Ms. Moreno has a vacation planned in March and so staff will be in and out of the office a little bit trying to take advantage of both the extra holidays and before staff jumps both feet into spring which begins with the hiring process very soon.

Ms. McMillan further stated that as you will note from Ms. McShane's report, one of the things she is very interested in sharing with you is the increase in the number of hits that the Parks has received from the state website where the Parks markets their facilities. Crossroads Village, alone, has 418% more hits this year than the previous year. This is a great return on the Parks' investment, and of course, that is free. Staff is doing a number of displays throughout the county. Today, Ms. McShane's assistant, Teneisha Calhoun, will be at the MARVAC camper show beginning this afternoon and throughout the weekend.

2007 Family Fun Guide – One of the Parks’ biggest projects, which is a collaborative project between the marketing division, the programming division, and Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad, is the 2007 Family Fun Guide. In 2006, the Family Fun Guide was 16 pages. In 2005, it was 12 pages. In 2000 and 2001, there was no Family Fun Guide because in 2000 there were no programs in the Parks. Last year, there were 200-ish low-cost and no-cost programs for Genesee County residents and their families and visitors in the county Parks between April and August. This year, there are 300 programs for Genesee County families and Genesee County visitors in the Parks. A large number of those programs are grant funded. This year, the Family Fun Guide is going to be 28 pages long and will include Crossroads Village information. Although Crossroads has its own separate pieces, staff wants to make certain that families are aware of the programs and special events that are there for their enjoyment and education this summer. It is a huge project and it is nearing completion. There are a couple of things that staff is waiting on before going to print. One of them, of course, is Thomas the Tank Engine and Bob the Builder.

Ms. McMillan asked Ms. Moreno for her report.

Ms. Moreno stated the following:

2007 Genesee Belle Brochure – Ms. Moreno handed out a draft of the 2007 Genesee Belle brochure. She stated that the format has been changed and on the inside what is new in 2007 is listed—upper deck dining and dinner cruises will be boarding at Crossroads Village this summer. This should be going to print next week.

New Volunteer Coordinator – She hired Cynthia Kimber to replace 30-year veteran Martha Langdon, who was the volunteer coordinator. Ms. Kimber began her new position on January 22, 2007. She has worked at the Village for a couple of years so she is very familiar, not only with the operations of the Village, but also with the current volunteers. She is well qualified and is very informed with what is going on in the Village. She is also going to be the editor of the volunteer newsletter that they are going to reinstate. The volunteer newsletter will be printed four times a year. It will be a comprehensive newsletter, which will include not only the volunteers at Crossroads Village, but also the volunteers at For-Mar and the Adopt-a-Park program. She will also assist with customer service training.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – The volunteer appreciation dinner is April 17.

Day Out With Thomas – Tickets will probably be going on sale this afternoon. There is one little issue that has to be taken care of. The ticket times, the train times, and the seatings on the train are all fine and staff is ready to go on-line. This will make Crossroads Village one week ahead of Greenfield Village. Greenfield Village’s tickets

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have gone on sale for members only and not to the public. Ms. McMillan stated that staff got their hands on the TicketWeb information about 4:00 p.m. yesterday. Staff is working out the details and as soon as those are done, we will go live with sales. The Parks will also be doing a major press release and announcement and e-mail blast to all of the Parks' customers so that they are aware as well.

Commissioner Bogardus asked how many years Thomas has been going to Greenfield Village. Ms. Moreno stated about since 1999. Commissioner Bogardus asked how long Crossroads could expect Thomas to be at the Parks. Ms. McMillan stated that Thomas has been on the air for approximately 20 years and just continues like Sesame Street. She further stated that one of the things that makes Crossroads different from Greenfield Village this year is that we are one of four sites in the entire country that have Bob the Builder coming. Even though it adds \$2.00 to the price of the Crossroads ticket, it is still essentially half of what it costs to see Thomas only at Greenfield Village. Crossroads' train ride is a 40-ish minute train ride and Greenfield Village's train ride is a 20-ish minute train ride.

Ms. McMillan then asked Nancy Edwards for her report.

Ms. Edwards stated as follows:

For-Mar Programming – The correct number of programs at For-Mar is 375 instead of 300 from April 1 to August 31. She has hired the two For-Mar On the Road staff. They will get started with the in-school portion of that grant-funded program soon.

Special Events Applications – Special events applications are still coming in and being processed. Right now, she is working on a partnership agreement for a kite day program at Flushing County Park.

Career Fair – Roxy Moreno and herself attended a career fair at Grand Blanc High School, which is the first foray that they have had into the Grand Blanc schools. They got a chance to talk to about 300 sophomores and juniors. It was very well attended.

Genesee County Agricultural Society Request

Ms. McMillan stated that the Parks Commission has a request from the Genesee County Agricultural Society, more commonly known as the Genesee County Fair Board, to allow a beer tent to operate during the Genesee County Fair. The Parks Commission approval is required and we would ask that you take action today.

Action Taken – Motion by Commissioner Wright, supported by Commissioner Prater, to allow the Genesee County Agricultural Society permission to sell beer at the Cummings Center during the time of the County Fair in the 2007 calendar year.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.

Item 6(c): Cummings Center Soil Sampling – Ms. McMillan stated that this is an item on which the Parks Commissioners may take action or not take action. At the last Parks Commission meeting and the Parks Commission meeting before that, there were several questions regarding the diesel fuel spill at the Cummings Center. Since the last Parks Commission meeting, staff has provided the Parks Commissioners with additional background. At the request of the Parks Commission, legal counsel has provided the Parks Commissioners a copy of his file as relates to this broader issue, and also as requested by the Parks Commission, Mr. Krapohl has communicated information directly to the members of the Genesee County Fair Board, individually, regarding this issue. In speaking with several Commissioners, staff wanted to provide them with additional information and if the Parks Commissioners have additional questions or want to reconsider or clarify the action that was taken at the last commission meeting, that is the Parks Commission's prerogative. If they choose to do so, staff then has some requests regarding that issue.

Commissioner Bradshaw stated that he thought they took care of that issue last week. Ms. McMillan stated that there were some questions from some Commissioners regarding whether the action was simply to approve expending up to the amount of money that was approved or whether it was specifically to award a contract to Insight Environmental to do that. The first motion that was in response to Attorney Barkey's request to authorize the expenditure and then that motion was later restated as authorizing the award to Insight Environmental. Staff just wanted to make certain that those who voted yes voted yes on the final clarified motion, and if they did not, if they wanted to revisit that action, they would have the opportunity to do that today. Commissioner Bradshaw stated that he voted against that motion for the simple reason that it was one bid and one bid only and that was his only reason for voting against it. President Krapohl stated that there was one motion made, but there was possibly some confusion on whether the motion stated to contract with Insight Environmental or the motion stated that the Parks Commission was authorizing up to a certain expenditure to remediate the problem. President Krapohl further stated that the minutes did say that the Parks Commission was authorizing to contract with Insight Environmental.

Irish Road Fishing Ponds – Ms. McMillan stated that at the last commission meeting the Parks Commission asked staff to begin a process of considering making changes to the vehicle entrance to the former Timberwolf Campground site and to the fishing ponds therein. Staff has provided the Parks Commission with three different options and to ask the Parks Commission if those three different options were the options you want staff to consider so they understand what the Parks Commission is looking for. Once that has occurred, staff will bring back to the Parks Commission estimates associated with those three options and then get bids for the work to be done. In the packet, there

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is a copy of an aerial map of the Timberwolf Campground area. Option 1 would install a gate 1,600 feet from Irish Road to limit vehicle access further down the road. Option 2 would install a gate 2,100 feet from Irish road to limit vehicle access further down the road. Option 3 would install a gate 4,500 feet from Irish Road to limit vehicle access further down the road. In each of those options, there are various levels of improvement that have been proposed.

Commissioner Henry asked if it would be possible to have a fourth option of just providing a gravel path from the existing parking lot (south of Goldenrod) and postponing the rest until staff can monitor this in the summer to see how many people actually use it. Ms. McMillan stated that a crushed limestone pathway of about 900 feet is included in each option, but that could be a separate option also. The 900-foot pathway would probably be under \$5,000.

Commissioner Bogardus asked why there weren't any prices listed. Ms. McMillan stated that before staff goes to vendors and ask them for price information they want to make sure that the options that they are asking for are what the Parks Commissioners want to consider. If the estimates staff receives are in excess of \$20,000, staff will have to go to a formal bid process through the Purchasing Department.

Commissioner Prater asked if there were four options now. Ms. McMillan stated yes that number four would be a crushed limestone pathway only from the Goldenrod parking area to the area just a little bit east of the first pond. President Krapohl stated that the fourth option is a line item in each of the other three options. Ms. McMillan stated that she would like to ask Commissioner Henry if he wanted to include signage in that fourth option as well. Commissioner Henry stated yes.

Action Taken – Motion by Commissioner Bogardus, supported by Commissioner Prater, to direct administration to bring back cost estimates for the four options that were discussed for the Irish Road former Timberwolf Campground fishing sites.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.

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

Action Taken – Motion by Commissioner Speed, supported by Commissioner Henry, to ratify payment of bills for the time period of January 19, 2007 through January 29, 2007.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Prater, Speed, Bradshaw, Wright, Henry, Bogardus, Krapohl
Nays: None
Absent: Lucas, Ranger, Washington

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.

Ratification of Commissioner Investments – Ms. McMillan recommended approval.

Action Taken – Motion by Commissioner Speed, supported by Commissioner Prater, to ratify wired payments of investments for the time period of January 17, 2007 through January 29, 2007.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. McMillan stated she wanted to again remind everyone that Genesee County offices would be closed on Monday, February 12 and Monday, February 19.

Ms. McMillan stated that the Parks Commissioners could also RSVP to the Volunteer Recognition Dinner today.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

President Krapohl asked if any of the Parks Commissioners wanted to speak.

Commissioner Wright stated that the Drain Commissioner's Office has received approvals for the Kearsley Creek Watershed Management Plan, which is something that they have been working on for a few years. What this does is allows the Parks board and/or the Drain Commissioner's Office or the County Board, as a group or individually, to apply for grants. These grants specifically address erosion issues. The goal would be that when the grant money has been targeted, if we apply for grant money based on the watershed plan we put together that states there are issues with erosion at the Arboretum at For-Mar and that we are applying for this grant money to improve that situation so the Arboretum, itself, is not endangered. The first step of that was to get the approval for the watershed management plan, which has been approved. As the grant monies become available, he will talk to Amy and this body about that. He will try to get some money to fix the bank. Ms. McMillan stated that when the plan is ready she would suggest the Commission adopt it as an amendment to the Parks' plan so that also helps the Parks from a DNR perspective. The Parks has been socking away some matching funds for a while now to address that problem because if you go to the Visitor Center and you look out the window it is a pretty quick drop down into the creek. This news is outstanding.

Commissioner Wright asked where snowmobiles could ride in the Parks. Ms. McMillan stated that the areas in which snowmobiles are permitted are the Cummings Center,

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Timberwolf, Goldenrod, Richfield County Park, Linden County Park, Walleye Boat Launch, and Bluegill Boat Launch. Commissioner Wright asked where are snowmobiles not permitted and what is the speed limit for snowmobiles. Ms. McMillan stated that there are a couple of areas in the Parks where they have consistent problems with people snowmobiling where they are not permitted. In those areas, staff has specifically notified residents. Staff has sent out letters and copies of the rulebook letting them know. Staff knows that residents have received them because they have received several responses from neighbors who were happy to get the letter because they are not happy with their neighbors disturbing their peace. In those cases, whenever the park rangers have the opportunity to ticket someone where they are not supposed to be, the rangers do that. A couple of weeks ago, someone was pulling sleds with a rope behind a snowmobile at Toboggan Hill and that has been dealt with. Ms. McMillan further stated that up on Buell Lake folks like to take their motorcycles out on the ice and the State does permit this and does regulate it. There are various regulations associated with this. The park rangers are coordinating directly with the Department of Natural Resources and have been at Buell Lake and plan to be at Buell Lake in the future to make certain that the folks who are riding motorcycles are doing it within the boundaries of the law and not encroaching on the rights of people who are fishing there. President Krapohl stated that if a snowmobiler is on a public roadway that a snowmobile is permitted to be on they have to obey the posted speed limit. Otherwise, the state law says a safe and reasonable speed.

Commissioner Bogardus wanted to suggest that the Parks try to identify projects or identify a purpose and start setting the Day Out With Thomas money aside. Ms. McMillan stated that staff is in the process of developing a capital improvement plan to bring back to the Parks Commission. Commissioner Bogardus asked if it is with Day Out With Thomas revenue. Ms. McMillan stated not specifically with Day Out With Thomas. Commissioner Bogardus stated that the Parks Commission should identify something they would specifically like to do with that revenue; otherwise, it will just get folded in. She further stated if maintenance is the goal then they should say that is what it is going to be used for. Ms. McMillan stated that staff will be bringing that back to the Parks Commission in the future. Day Out With Thomas has really provided the Parks Commission with an opportunity to generate additional revenue each year. Assuming that that stream of revenue is consistent, that gives the Parks Commission a little bit more breathing room in its budget in terms of being able to, at the very least, look at funding grant matches for projects, if not projects outright. Ms. McMillan further stated Commissioner Wright spoke of the For-Mar project and there are a couple of other big things at For-Mar that are broken that need to be fixed. The County is close to completing the regional trailway plan and issuing calls for projects under that program so there are a lot of opportunities that are coming up for the Parks Commission to determine how they want to implement a capital improvement plan.

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Commissioner Bradshaw stated that he is glad to hear Any state staff would be seeking bids for the Irish Road trail at the fishing ponds. He says that due to the fact that the minutes reflect that there was public comment made last week that inferred that the Parks Commission was not carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities and that offended him. He further stated that each member of this commission has an obligation if they feel that questions were not answered adequately and he thinks that is what some of the Commissioners did. Even though they asked the questions the first time, if they weren't clear in what they were supposed to do or how they were to analyze that information, they asked the question a second time. The only concern that he has is that whenever something is to go out staff should get at least two bids. If not two bids, then three bids so then the Parks Commissioners can intelligently evaluate whether or not they want to vote for one or the other based upon what is going to be good for the Parks and Recreation. He stated that he supports the director and the staff, and he feels that the other members of the commission will do the same thing as long as they have an opportunity to look at it and analyze it and he thinks that is what the Commissioners are doing.

Commissioner Henry stated that he supports what Commissioner Bradshaw said, but he also wants to commend the administration on the advance packets that the Parks Commissioners get. A lot of the committees that he is on he doesn't get that much time to study the packet. He further stated that due to the weather situation the Parks Commissioners have been condemned a little about not investigating certain things, but his intentions are to get around and make sure he is aware of everything that is going on.

President Krapohl stated that on the agenda there is a hunting committee progress summary. He further stated that he has a letter to send out to the people that were at the Parks Commission meeting in January 2006. The letter will go out today. He further stated that as soon as the data with the deer herd is compiled a hunting committee meeting will be scheduled. We may try to do it after the next commission meeting, but he's not sure at this time. Commissioner Bogardus asked who is on the hunting committee. President Krapohl stated Commissioners Ranger, Washington, Bogardus, Bradshaw, and Krapohl. Commissioner Bogardus stated that she has never hunted in her life and wondered if it would be more appropriate for Mr. Henry to replace her on the committee and also that she is going to be busy in the next month so she will have a hard time making it to the meeting. President Krapohl stated that they are trying to get a good balance on the committee and that they can bring in another person if needed.

Commissioner Henry asked how the report on the deer census would be done. Ms. McMillan stated that it is a physical head count. The people counting the deer hang out the side of the helicopter and count deer. It is not like an infrared or digital high-sensory sort of thing, but it is something that Oakland County does every year with a great

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degree of success. The report will state there were an "X" number of deer at For-Mar and out to the nearest square mile, etc.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

President Krapohl asked if there was anyone from the public wishing to address the Commission.

Larry Stricker of 3547 North Gale, Richfield stated as follows:

Safety is very important to parents and grandparents. We want them to experience a lot of fun things in life, but also we fasten their seatbelts. We make sure if they are going on a coaster ride or anything of that sort that it is within legal limits. We are consistently looking out for their safety. We definitely want to make sure that as children fish they are also safe and a vehicle plays a part in this. If there's a thunderstorm, we want to get the children into a vehicle fast. If there's an emergency, we want to get out of there fast. He doesn't want children exposed. Yes, he is a zealot and doesn't apologize for that, but he doesn't want people hurt. We have to think things through too. He favors Option 1—it won't break the bank and will provide safety because it will provide limited vehicle traffic for parents, grandparents, and children. Thank you.

Rich Richardson of 2226 Ridgemoor Court, Burton, Michigan stated as follows:

He would like to thank the board members for the activity on the deer issue that they are talking about. Secondly, Liz Shaw has an article that will be in the Outdoor section of the newspaper this afternoon in regards to his chapter of the Safari Club. He encourages the board to read the article because they are a lot more than a hunting organization and the board would learn a little more about them.

In regards to some of his comments that he made at the last meeting, he knows that some of the board members do the footwork, but he encourages each of the board members to do it. This issue is one where the board members should look at the area and be familiar with it when they have to make the decisions. He doesn't want them to go out there when it's a minus 20-degree chill index. He wouldn't want secondhand information when you're trying to do this. He has taken his children out there fishing when they were little. He personally thinks it is restrictive. It is off limits to him even accessing that because of the gate being there. That area looks like it is off limits to him and that he can't even use that site even though there may be another parking lot down the street. He wants to encourage the board that when they make decisions they should walk the walk and make the right decisions and that the board should look at this issue in the wintertime, the springtime, and the summertime to complete the whole program. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objections, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Recorded and transcribed by:
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