

**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 9, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission, 5045 Stanley Rd., Flint, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Joe Krapohl, President
Raynetta Speed
Ted Henry
Shirley Prater
James Washington, Vice President

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Jeff Wright, Genesee County Drain Commissioner

APPOINTED MEMBERS ABSENT: Rose Bogardus, County Commissioner
William Lucas, Secretary

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: James Pomeroy, Genesee County Road Commission
Bob Ranger Jr., Genesee County Planning Commission

STAFF PRESENT

Amy M. McMillan, Director
Nancy Edwards, Recreation Program Specialist
Hilda McShane, Marketing Specialist
Deborah Wilkes, Secretary
Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brian Barkey, Commission Legal Counsel
Cheryl DeFrain, FACVB
Larry Stricker, Resident
Jim & Joanne Mindorff, Friends of the Carousel
Jackie Bartz, Friends of the Carousel
Cliff & Sharon Black, Friends of the Carousel

(1) CALL TO ORDER

President Krapohl called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

(2) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Larry Stricker spoke about the conditions for canoe launching at the Timberwolf Ponds. He recommends using a spot further down that has a natural chute for launching canoes.

(4) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion: No items were removed or needed further discussion.

Motion to approve items on the consent agenda.

Action Taken: Motion by Commissioner Speed
Support by Commissioner Prater

Roll Call: Yeas: Wright, Washington, Speed, Prater, Krapohl, Henry

Nays: None

Absent: Pomeroy, Ranger, Lucas, Bogardus

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0

(5) REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL

Arrangements have been made for publication of the amended park rules in both Lapeer County and Genesee County newspapers. The process will be completed no later than August 22. Our rules will be effective as soon as they are published.

Piotrowski Lawsuit: There will be a hearing on Monday, August 13, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.. She has filed a motion asking for the parks commission to be held in default. We have filed a motion to have the case dismissed.

(6) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Grant request: Ruth Mott Foundation has responded to our inquiry by inviting us to submit a full proposal requesting \$30,000 to help offset the cost of the pedestrian bridge at For-Mar Nature Center & Arboretum. This bridge will replace the so-called telephone bridge that was taken out of service because it was determined to be unsafe.

Budget: You were emailed a draft of the budget this week, and this will be on the agenda at our August 23, 2007 commission meeting. We will ask that the parks commission adopt the budget and then it will be presented to the Genesee County Board of Commissioners for approval. Some of these issues have been discussed with the Board of Commissioners because they are working hard to get the County's budget in order as well and all departments are talking with them to achieve this goal by October 1. However this is still a draft at this point in the process. If you have any questions or concerns prior to our next meeting, please feel free to contact Ms. McMillan or a member of the budget sub committee: Mr. Krapohl, Mr. Washington, Mr. Ranger or Mrs. Speed.

Day Out With Thomas is sold out except for two tickets on the first weekend (August 17-19). The second weekend has 717 on Saturday and 1500 on Sunday available. We had a good turnout at our volunteer orientation for Day Out With Thomas on August 8. Thomas is en-route to Michigan at this time.

(7) OTHER BUSINESS

Friends of the Carousel, Sharon & Cliff Black, Jim & Joanne Mindorff and Jackie Bartz were present to report about their recent activities and projects:

The Pony Carts were restored this winter, The Band Organ was taken to Ohio to be tuned and new parts installed, Sixteen tails were replaced on the horses. The Band Organ has never sounded so good and Dan Gosnell was truly missed this past winter because he usually took care of all the tails on the carousel horses.

The group was finally able to find 2 authentic Parker horses to be used as replacements in the Carousel. The market value was well over \$14,000 for both horses. The gentleman who owned them lives in Michigan and is very fond of the efforts of the Friends of the Carousel and the work they do, and wanted to keep the horses in Michigan so after several bargaining sessions with him, he parted with them for \$9,400.00. One is a 1908 horse, slightly older than our carousel and slightly different in style, and is already restored; the other is not restored. Part of the work of the Friends is to educate people to the restoration process so this horse will provide that opportunity. The Friends of the Carousel are very excited that both horses are here and have not been seen by anyone except a few members of the group so the Commissioners are being given a preview today.

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Since 1985 the Friends of the Carousel have contributed over \$249,000 toward the Carousel in the Village. Mrs. Black thanked the Commission for allowing them to continue selling merchandise and concessions at that end of the Village so they can continue to contribute to the Crossroads Village Carousel.

(8) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Washington thanked the Friends of the Carousel for all that they do. We are all very grateful and as President Krapohl said, the Commissioners may not say it often enough, but we are all appreciative.

Commissioner Prater agreed as well and thanked the Friends of the Carousel.

President Krapohl said that there are two members of the commission missing at today's meeting due to deaths in their families, please keep them in your thoughts and hopefully they will both be with us at our next meeting.

(9) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Larry Stricker stated he is not ungrateful that the ponds have been open, but he is concerned about the current launch area not being as well suited to launching as a spot further down the road.

President Krapohl addressed Mr. Stricker by stating that the Commission is in the process of a Capital Improvement Survey in which park users will give their input about the parks. The information will be used to assess the needs of all the County Parks. A capital improvement plan will be developed with those survey results and the requests will be prioritized, The Commission will work with the funding we have to complete those tasks. Mr. Stricker's request will be on that list as well. Nothing will be done in the Timberwolf pond areas in the short term (before the end of this year). All capital improvements will start in the next calendar year after they are prioritized by the information from the survey.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.