

**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, July 26, 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
William Lucas, Secretary
Raynetta Speed
Ted Henry
Shirley Prater
Rose Bogardus
James Washington, Vice President

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Jeff Wright, Genesee County Drain Commissioner

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

STAFF PRESENT

Amy M. McMillan, Director
Ronald Walker, Facilities Director
Nancy Edwards, Recreation Program Specialist
Hilda McShane, Marketing Specialist
Deborah Wilkes, Secretary
Roxy Moreno, Planning & Development
Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brian Barkey, Commission Legal Counsel
Jerry Preston
Larry Stricker
Don Dale
Charles Middleton
Chuck Walton

(1) CALL TO ORDER

President Krapohl called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

(2) GENESEE TOWNSHIP VETERAN'S MEMORIAL

Discussion: Don Dale presented the Commission with plans for a proposed memorial to be built on the vacant property next to the public fishing site on Genesee Road (across the street from the Parks Administration Building.) Mr. Dale showed the site plan and hopes the Commission will agree to allow construction to begin this fall and within the next two years complete the project. Fundraising continues by the Veteran's group and the project will proceed to completion as funds become available. Plans show the site remaining somewhat rustic to blend with the surrounding area and it will be an area to reflect and hold ceremonies. This property is approximately less than an acre. The property will remain under the ownership of the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission. Staff will review the site plan presented and bring it's recommendation to a commission meeting in the near future but Ms McMillan recommends that the Commission "agree in concept" the plan to allow a Veteran's Memorial on the site.

Motion to support to agree in concept, pending final staff review and approval, of Genesee Township's Veterans Memorial Park.

Action Taken: Motion by Commissioner Lucas
Support by Commissioner Washington

No Roll Call Necessary, All yeas.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0

(3) 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, approximately 600 feet, and using the parking lot near the proposed location. The proposed location has a gentler slope 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 Lucas
Support by Commissioner Wright

Roll Call: Yeas: Bogardus, Henry, Krapohl, Lucas, Prater, Speed, Washington, Wright
Nays: None
Absent: Pomeroy, Ranger

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0

(5) REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL

Status report on the amended rules: Ms. McMillan and Mr. Barkey attended the Lapeer County Board of Commissioners meeting on July 5 to ask them to consider the proposed amended park rules and they approved them unanimously. We are in the process of arranging for publication.

Piotrowski Lawsuit: On July 16 a hearing was held for Ms. Piotrowski's attorney to withdraw and that motion was granted. Ms. Piotrowski has been ordered to appear on August 13, 2007 in court, either herself or her attorney to discuss the status of the case.

(6) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Parks Commission applies for trail grants through the Road Commission. When the funds are approved by the State we sign an agreement with the Road Commission to pay our amount. A copy of this agreement was provided in your packet.

Thomas Update: Radio, television and print advertising are in full swing. We have sold 80% of the tickets (17,129 tickets) as of today, and the first weekend is nearly sold out. We are on pace with the sales last year. There are only 20 tickets per train departure available at the Village ticket booths each morning Thomas is in the Village.

We are making a big push for Volunteers during Day Out With Thomas. We could use more, so if you know anybody interested in volunteering, please have them call our office.

The Parks continue to stay very busy everywhere, there has not been a slow down after the Fourth of July period.

Wolverine campground reservations are up approximately 200 from last year. Crossroads Village attendance is up 5.8% overall from last year. The Bluegrass Festival boosted attendance 35% over last year during the same weekend. Our visitor surveys are telling us that guests are having an outstanding time. Programs are busy and staff is working very hard. Hopefully you get a chance to get out into the parks and if you visit and have any questions or concerns please let us know.

(7) OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

(8) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Bogardus asked if we could put a value on the services we receive from the Master Gardeners. She also asked if we had any survey results showing the impact on the public of the services they provide. Ms McMillan said that she could ask the group to provide an accounting of the total hours they worked in 2006 and project the hours through 2007. There are standard rates that apply to certain types of volunteering so we should be able to put a value on their services. We don't have a section of the survey cards that ask about the visual appeal of the landscaping but we get many comments about how lovely the flowers and gardens are in the Village.

Commissioner Lucas commented: "numerous people have come up to me to tell me how great the parks are looking". He said "this has never happened before in all my years (on the commission), they are coming up to me and telling me how great they are looking, and not just talking about Crossroads Village, they're talking Flushing Park, Linden Park the walkway and bridge over the river – everything is positive, it is great to hear." Yesterday, July 25 was the picnic for Local 599. Commissioner Lucas wanted to congratulate Garry Pringle for the job he did. He wants it on the record that Garry Pringle "took real good care of the group and he went over and above. He did one heck of a job over there yesterday for us".

Shirley Prater added that the food was excellent and she doubts there were any leftovers or even one speck of potato salad left.

(9) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

He proposes that the natural "chute" with a gentler slope, approximately 600 feet beyond the current gate, be used for launching canoes. If there is a concern about gas-powered boats being used we could hang a sign prohibiting engines and wakes.

Deb Wilkes showed the Commissioners the Employee Recognition gifts that have arrived with the Parks logo imprint – a lunch bag, water bottle, key chain w/compass and the folding bag chairs would arrive today.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.