
GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The semi-monthly meeting of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, March 13, 2008 in the Harris Auditorium, Genesee County Administration Building, 1101 Beach Street, Flint, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Joe Krapohl, President
James Washington, Vice President
William Lucas, Secretary
Raynetta Speed
Ted Henry
Mike Keeler
Bob Ranger

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rose Bogardus

EX-OFFICIOS PRESENT:

Jeff Wright, Ex-Officio
David Miller, Ex-Officio

STAFF PRESENT

Amy M. McMillan, Director
Ron Walker, Deputy Director
Matt Armentrout, Maintenance Supervisor
Deborah Wilkes, Secretary
Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer
Hilda McShane, Marketing Specialist
Nancy Edwards
Brian VanPatten
Cindy Roy

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brian Barkey, Commission Legal Counsel
Larry Stricker, Public
Douglas Olson, Public
Dave Cappaert MSU Research Technician

(1) CALL TO ORDER

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

(2) PRESENTATION OF EMERALD ASH BORER STUDY

Ms McMillan introduced Dave Cappaert, Research Technician from Michigan State University. Mr. Cappaert has been working on the Emerald Ash Borer problem since 2002. This is the #1 forest pest in the East. His presentation showed the tremendous impact of the EAB on the ash trees in the forests and its potential affect on the economy. This could be the third hardwood species that has been eliminated by exotic pest in the last 50 or so years. The studies have shown that one particular pesticide treatment has been extremely effective and a natural predator (a wasp) has been identified as well. The materials used in the pesticide are experimental at this time but should be registered by next spring and available for commercial users. Costs have not been identified by MSU's research. The research on the natural predator (the wasp) will continue, as will the study in general, to confirm that current data regarding pesticides and natural predators will perpetuate the conclusions of current studies.

Studies done in Genesee County Parks have been very beneficial to their research. MSU researchers are enormously appreciative of government agencies and private landowners who recognize the problem and are willing cooperate with MSU Forest Service to avail their facilities

for studies. It is a great opportunity for the researchers who could not operate without cooperation from places like Genesee County Parks.

(3) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Larry Stricker of 3547 N Gale Rd., Davison noted that a member of the public Mr. Doug Olson, acts as a steward of the Parks by making sure that litter is picked up regularly at the Goldenrod Disc Golf Course Club.

(4) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion: There are no items to be removed from the consent agenda.

Motion to approve the items on the consent agenda.

Action Taken: Motion by Commission Lucas
Supported by Commissioner Washington

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0

(5) REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. Barkey reported that yet another amended Remedial Action Plan has been submitted by the owners of Richfield Landfill. A copy of the 2nd amended RAP has been requested through the Freedom of Information Act. It is currently being reviewed administratively. It must then go to a RAP team at the DNR, if it passes that review it goes to the DNR Director, then it is posted publicly and a public meeting is scheduled. The RAP is in the very early stages of that procedure. Legal Counsel will bring any significant changes (from the previously submitted RAP) to the commission.

(6) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. Proposed Park Rules - Camping Section and Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs

Discussion: The highlights are: Campers must be 18 yrs of age to secure a campsite. Language regarding the number of "family" members allowed to occupy a campsite has been changed to remove the term "family" to say "persons". Other changes clarify the No Alcohol policy and, to add that any child under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Upon adoption by this board, the rules will be publicly posted and forwarded to the Genesee County Board of Commissioners and Lapeer County Board of Commissioners for final approval and adoption.

Motion to adopt the proposed park rules for Alcohol Beverages, Drugs section and Camping sections.

Action Taken: Motion by Commissioner Speed
Supported by Commissioner Washington

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0

b. License Agreement with City of Flint for Max Brandon Park

Discussion: Ms. McMillan noted that she has sent an email (on March 12) to the Park Commissioners regarding a license agreement between Genesee County Parks and the City of Flint that was prepared by legal counsel and forwarded to the City of Flint regarding Max Brandon Park mowing. The City is in the process of reviewing the agreement and she hopes to bring it back to the Commission for consideration and action by the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

The staff is also in the process of securing additional quotes for the disc golf course concrete (tee) pads and those quotes will be brought to the Commission at a subsequent meeting.

Motion to postpone the Max Brandon Park agreement and Goldenrod Disc Golf Course capital improvements to a date certain.

Action Taken: Motion by Commissioner Henry
Supported by Commissioner Miller

No Roll Call: Ayes - 9
Nays - 0

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0

(7) OTHER BUSINESS

Ms McMillan stated that the interview process for Facilities Management Director has been completed. Seventeen candidates were interviewed and she was impressed by the expertise and experience of the candidates as well as the number of locations from which we drew candidates; namely: California, Arizona, Florida, Colorado and the State of Washington. The candidates expressed a desire to move back to Michigan, which she was delighted to hear since we so often hear that so many people are moving out of Michigan. Staff has narrowed the list down to three candidates and second interviews will be held the week of March 24 and hopefully staff will be introducing a new person to Commissioners sometime in April.

(8) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Henry asked about Day Out With Thomas ticket sales. Ms. McMillan stated that as of Tuesday there were over 1,000 tickets sold and we have received our first compensation check for those tickets sold.

(9) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

No members of the public addressed the commission.

(10) President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 10:40 A.M.