

**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, March 22, 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  
James Washington, Vice President  
William Lucas, Secretary  
Rose Bogardus  
Ted Henry  
Raynetta Speed

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Jeff Wright, Genesee County Drain Commissioner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**APPOINTED MEMBERS**

Shirley Prater

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Billy Bradshaw, Genesee County Road Commission  
Bob Ranger, Genesee County Planning Commission

**STAFF PRESENT**

Amy M. McMillan, Director  
Ronald Walker, Facilities Director  
Leisa Gagne, Financial Affairs Officer  
Nancy Edwards, Recreation Program Specialist  
Hilda McShane, Marketing Specialist  
Deborah Wilkes, Secretary  
Eugene Williams, Seasonal Recreation Programmer

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Brian Barkey, Commission Legal Counsel  
Liz Shaw, *The Flint Journal*  
Kaye Kreutzfeldt, Citizen  
Ken & Diane Turland, Citizens  
Rich Richardson, Citizen  
Patrick Parrott, Citizen

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

President Krapohl called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

**(2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 8, 2007 REGULAR MEETING**

**Discussion:** There are no corrections or additions to the minutes.

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Bogardus, supported by Commissioner Washington, to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2007 regular meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.**

### **(3) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

None.

### **(4) COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Thank you letters, see attached in Commission packet.
- b. Details in the Insight Environmental letter (attached to packet) indicates that testing of soil from the diesel fuel spill resulted in a minimal impact on the property at the Cummings Center.
- c. Board of Commissioners approved the easement to Consumers Energy through the Mounds. Mr. Barkey, Corporate Counsel and Consumers Energy will now work to get the easement on record.

### **(5) REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL**

Mr. Barkey described the method of testing to Park Commissioners and confirmed that this information will be passed on to the Fair Board and to MDEQ. He has a copy of the full report.

Update on the lawsuit regarding the activity at For-Mar. Alicia Piotrowski served the Parks with a hand-drafted lawsuit, one of several she has recently filed. She has indicated there will be more, including an amended lawsuit. Lawsuits will be defended vigorously.

Attempts to meet with City of Flint officials concerning the Richfield Landfill have been unsuccessful. Mr. Barkey will advise the Board when discussions commence. The next step is for MDEQ to have a public meeting for comments regarding the request by the landfill owners to open another site. The Parks has requested a meeting with Flint officials prior to this MDEQ public meeting.

### **(6) DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT**

#### **A. Parks Status Report**

- i. Ms. McMillan asked Mr. Walker for his report. Mr. Walker read his report with no additional updates or questions. (see report attached in current commission packet)
- ii. Ms. McMillan asked Ms. Edwards for her report. Ms. Edwards read her report (see report attached in your current commission packet). She updated her report to confirm that the Michigan Steelheaders granted our funding request. Funds will allow us to purchase rods, reels and bait. Commissioner Speed asked how people may obtain further information about programs listed in the Family Fun Guide. Ms. Edwards stated that the public may contact our office. We can make sure they are given additional information or forward to a staff member for details about specific programs.
- iii. Ms. McMillan reported that Ms. Moreno is on vacation. Ms. Moreno's report is included in the current commission packet.
- iv. Ms. McMillan asked Ms. McShane for her report. Ms. McShane read her report (see report attached in your current commission packet). Commissioner Speed inquired about school distribution and promotion of programs on television. Ms. McShane explained that GISD is used for distribution. However, some districts require additional approval of distribution pieces from outside sources. Ms. McShane coordinates the topics to be discussed on television when our staff is interviewed. Information is on-line as well.

Ms. McMillan added to the staff reports:

The Parks received a \$25,000 grant from Ruth Mott Foundation. This will help create “shade” at Bluebell Beach.

The “Kitchen Cabinet” group should be recognized for their valuable input on our promotional print materials. The high quality materials reflect their points of view, opinions and experience.

Commissioner Bogardus asked about the feasibility of selling prints of some of the photos we have of the Parks. Ms McMillan stated that preliminary research indicates that it is not very cost effective. We remain open to researching projects that may be a profitable venture.

**B. MSU Emerald Ash Borer Research:**

**Discussion:** Ms McMillan requests that the Parks Board authorize the acceptance of the proposal from MSU for Emerald Ash Borer Research at some additional locations, particularly those on the Reservoir. Some key reasons to accept the proposal: There is no cost to the Parks; it will likely provide professional development for the staff to learn more about the problem, and it may provide information to save future trees in the future. We are currently treating landscape trees with varying degrees of success.

**Motion to accept the proposal for Emerald Ash Borer Research in the Genesee County Parks to be performed by Michigan State University.**

**Action Taken** – Motion to accept recommendations: Commissioner Lucas,  
Support: Commissioner Bogardus.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0**

**C. Crossroads Village Farm Animals:**

**Discussion:** A request before the Commission to approve a proposal to provide farm animals and programming at Crossroads Village. Bids were solicited through the Purchasing Department along with a mandatory pre-bid meeting with bidders. Carousel Acres submitted a proposal. Commissioner Bogardus asked about the start date of June 13, which is after our School Days programs end. Ms McMillan said school dates may be added if they are available.

**Motion to award the bid of farm animals and related programming for the summer season of 2007 to Carousel Acres in the amount of \$36,720 and authorize the Director to sign the contract upon review and approval of legal counsel.**

**Action Taken** – Motion to accept bid: Commissioner Lucas  
Support: Commissioner Washington.

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: 7- 0**

**D. Crossroads Village Entertainment:**

**Discussion:** Ms McMillan stated that we had a wide variety of bids this year in comparison to past years when we received only one. The bid process is complete and the request before the

Commission is to authorize a contract with Vertigo Productions, a local group for summer 2007 and Christmas 2007 in the amount of \$57,120.00. Further requesting to authorize a contract with Premier Magic Productions for Halloween Ghosts and Goodies 2007 and summer 2008 season \$38,325.00. We used Premier Magic and Encore Magic last year and Premier received higher customer service ratings from Premier. Vertigo has not worked for us in the past but they perform dinner theater productions at the Masonic Temple and perform at the Buckham Alley Theatre.

**Motion to accept the bids and enter into contracts for entertainment at Crossroads Village with Vertigo Productions and Premier Magic Productions.**

**Action Taken:** Motion to accept bids and contracts: Commissioner Wright  
Support: Commissioner Washington.

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: 7- 0**

**E. Ratification of Payment of Bills for time period of February 23, 2007 through March 5, 2007.**

**Discussion:** Ms McMillan recommended approval.

**Action Taken:** Motion to approve: Commissioner Washington  
Support: Commissioner Lucas

Roll Call: Yeas: Krapohl, Lucas, Washington, Wright, Bogardus, Henry  
Nays: None  
Absent: Commissioner Henry left meeting at 10:35 a.m.  
Bradshaw, Prater, Ranger

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6- 0.**

**F. Ratification of Commissioner Investments**

**Discussion:** Ms. McMillan recommended approval.

**Action Taken:** Motion to approve: Commissioner Washington  
Support: Commissioner Wright.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: 6- 0**

**(7) OTHER BUSINESS**

**Discussion:** Group Sales background information is provided in your packets. Economic analysis and cost and revenue associated with a program relating to group sales provided by PROS Consulting. Commissioner does not suggest we add a staff position, she wants to be assured that someone is promoting bus tours since we are so close in proximity to attractions such as Frankenmuth and Birch Run which bring in tour groups. Ms McMillan did confirm that we are members of the Frankenmuth Chamber of Commerce and our promotional materials highlight our proximity to Frankenmuth. We do coordinate a number of activities with the Flint Convention Bureau and provide information to them to help bring customers into Genesee County. If we send out information to tour groups we do need a staff person to follow up on those letters, hence the reason

for the PROS analysis report. Commissioner Krapohl talked about this issue with the Convention & Visitor's Bureau (he is a member of the Board of Directors of that organization as well) and discussed not duplicating services. He was assured that CVB markets all facilities in Genesee County and they have adopted a marketing plan to turn day trip motor coach visitors into overnight trips. We have on-going conversations with CVB to make sure we can tap into the tour group market.

Commissioner Krapohl discussed the idea of consent agendas in the future, which would allow combining items like bills, investments and minutes into one motion for approval. He is looking at ways to expedite some of the routine business.

#### **(8) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Bogardus: She glad to see farm animals at Crossroads and wanted to be sure that hand sanitizers were going to be available for patrons after touching and handling animals.

Commissioner Krapohl: Has met Gene Williams at many functions and found him to be hard working and friendly and the transition from Stacy Hiller to Gene should be seamless and welcomed Gene on behalf of the Park Commission.

The average taxpayer pays \$28 per year to support the parks; one trip to the movies with your children will blow your \$28. You can attend many free and low cost programs that are listed in the Family Fun Guide with your whole family - all summer long. It is a good return on your investment.

Commissioner Speed: There are a lot of great educational components in the Family Fun Guide.

#### **(9) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

No comments from the public.

#### **(10) ADJOURNMENT**

President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Recorded and transcribed by:  
Deborah Wilkes, Secretary  
Parks\M032207