

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

An additional meeting of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, October 23, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. in the Harris Auditorium of the Genesee County Administration Building, 1101 Beach Street, Flint, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Joe Krapohl, President
William Lucas, Secretary
Rose Bogardus
Shirley Prater
Raynetta Speed

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Don Becker, Designee
Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission
Galen Jamison, Genesee County Road Commission
Jeff Wright, Genesee County Drain Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

APPOINTED MEMBERS

James Washington, Vice President
Fred Shaltz

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

None

STAFF PRESENT

Amy M. McMillan, Director
Ron Walker, Facilities Management Director
Roxy Moreno, Planning & Development Director
Ruth Whitehead, Finance Officer
Nancy Edwards, Recreation Program Specialist
Bob Davis, Parks Planner
Charles Winfrey, Planned Giving Coordinator
Teresa Blaine, Administrative Secretary

COMMISSION COUNSEL:

Brian Barkey, Commission Legal Counsel
Dave Graham, The Flint Journal

GENERAL PUBLIC:

Evelyn Bower, Flushing Resident; Randy Byrne, City of Grand Blanc Manager; Vincent Paris, Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation Director

CALL TO ORDER

President Krapohl called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He welcomed the members of the audience. He stated that the purpose of the meeting is to accept public input on a proposed millage question and to provide information about the parks.

INTRODUCTION

President Krapohl explained that as a result of public workshops and a survey about Parks strategic planning held in the spring, the Commission recommended to the Board

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of Commissioners in July that a parks millage question be placed on the November ballot. President Krapohl said that there were concerns from local units, other individuals, and the County Board itself regarding the allocation of the millage, so the the Parks Commission withdrew its request. He said the Commission is proceeding to hold more public meetings and gather more input to see in which direction it should proceed.

PRESENTATION

Ms. McMillan thanked the audience for attending.

Ms. McMillan narrated and presented a 20-minute Power Point presentation detailing how the Parks & Recreation Commission meets the seven factors of excellence for a parks system, as determined by the Trust for Public Land. The presentation also included financial information, reasons why additional revenue is needed, forms a millage question could take, and possible uses of millage funds.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Krapohl requested those interested in speaking to come to the podium. The following people commented:

Evelyn Bower, Flushing – Ms. Bower stated the presentation was very nice. She said she doesn't visit the County parks very often, but on Saturday, July 2 at 1:30 p.m. on a beautiful summer day, she drove through Flushing County Park. She said she saw only two other people and an additional vehicle with no one around, when she would expect to see lots of people. Ms. Bower stated she does not think any more money needs to be spent on the County parks.

Randy Byrne, Grand Blanc City Manager – Mr. Byrne thanked the Commission for holding this meeting and stated he was unable to attend the other meeting. Mr. Byrne stated that the City of Grand Blanc has a millage for its own parks. He asked when does the existing County parks millage expire? Ms. McMillan replied that the Commission would have to renew it in 2007.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Jamison stated it was a very good presentation showing what the County Parks are doing for the people of Genesee County.

President Krapohl stated that the majority of the Commission's facilities are open to the public at no charge. He also encouraged everyone to drive through For-Mar or any of the County Parks because the fall colors are absolutely gorgeous right now.

Commissioner Bogardus asked if there is an estimate of how many people use the County parks each year? Ms. McMillan replied negatively, stating the reason is because fees are not charged. She said that Flushing Park is generally sold out on pavilions every day all summer. She said the Commission does have figures for paid attendance at Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad and the boat ramps (facilities where fees are charged). Commissioner Bogardus stated the Commission would also have rental information. Ms. McMillan replied affirmatively and stated rental information is available for the campgrounds, as well.

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Commissioner Becker stated that every week he goes through each of the parks and there are times when there are a lot of people using the parks.

ADJOURNMENT

President Krapohl thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

There being no objections, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m..

Recorded by:

Teresa M. Blaine
Administrative Secretary

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