

**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, October 13, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission Administrative Offices, 5045 Stanley Road, Flint, Michigan.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**APPOINTED MEMBERS**

Joe Krapohl, President  
James Washington, Vice President  
William Lucas, Secretary  
Archie Bailey  
Rose Bogardus  
Raynetta Speed

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Dave Miller, Genesee County Road Commissioner  
Bob Ranger, Jr., Designee  
Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission  
Jeff Wright, Genesee County Drain Commissioner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**APPOINTED MEMBERS**

Shirley Prater

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

None

**STAFF PRESENT**

Amy M. McMillan, Director  
Ronald Walker, Facilities Director  
Leisa Gagne, Financial Affairs Officer  
Nancy Edwards, Recreation Program Specialist  
Hilda McShane, Marketing Specialist  
Kimberly L. Cunningham, Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Brian Barkey, Commission Legal Counsel  
John O'Brien, Genesee County Drain Commission  
David Fenech, MSU Extension/Genesee County

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

President Krapohl requested any corrections and/or additions to the minutes.

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Bailey, supported by Commissioner Ranger, to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2005 regular meeting as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

President Krapohl asked if there was anyone from the public wishing to address the Commission. President Krapohl stated that per Commission rules speakers have three minutes to make their comments and should state their name and address for the record.

There were none.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. McMillan stated that she has many communications for the Parks Commission today, but she wanted to begin with one that is not on the agenda. She stated that the reason Roxy Moreno is not here this morning is that as of 4:30 a.m. she is a new grandmother. Her daughter, Caeli, had her first child and Roxy's first grandchild, a baby girl, 8 lbs. 8 oz./21 inches long. Everyone seems to be happy, healthy, and doing well. Ms. McMillan stated she expects there will be photos to share at the next Commission meeting.

Ms. McMillan stated she would like to draw particular attention to a couple of items. One is a correspondence from Mr. Leonardi from the Department of Natural Resources. As most of you know, over the course of many, many years, the DNR has used the pond at the front of the Cummings Center as a fish hatchery to raise walleye and other small fish and then, retrieve them and dump them into the lakes. Over the course of the last several years, there have been problems with the Ph in that pond. The DNR has tried to correct it, but has been unsuccessful. For the near future, the DNR will not be using that pond for that purpose. The DNR has had this trouble all over southeastern Michigan. Our pond is the one that has been kept open the longest and this is a problem that the DNR has been unsuccessful in addressing.

Ms. McMillan further stated that one of the items of great interest that is included in the packet is the Holloway Lake Association's newsletter. The Parks and Recreation Commission is a dues paying member of the Holloway Lake Association, as we are of the Byram Lake Association, and we regularly participate in their meetings. This particular newsletter not only highlights their support of our efforts in the tax appeal with

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Oregon Township, and those efforts have been very helpful, but also gives you some very interesting background about the Reservoir as a whole.

Ms. McMillan asked if there were any questions or comments.

Commissioner Bogardus stated that with regard to the Brisebois letter the apple trees had to be taken out. According to state law, you can't leave an orchard sitting there. She understands that they had to be taken out. Ms. McMillan stated that the primary issue is that Fenton Township developed a master plan for the site using public input; it was approved by the Township Board and by the Parks and Recreation Commission; and removal of those trees was included as part of that plan. AYSO and Fenton Township are still in compliance with the terms of their license agreement with the Parks and Recreation Commission. Ms. McMillan stated that their plans are to fully develop the property as a soccer facility and trees stand in the way of doing that.

**REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL**

Attorney Barkey stated as an update on the Oregon Township tax appeal that the Parks Commission had filed motions for sanctions against Oregon Township for their failure to make certain time deadlines. Since that time, there have been three more deadlines that have passed. Oregon Township was supposed to respond to our motion; they were supposed to have filed a witness list, and they were supposed to have filed an exhibit list and exchange exhibits. They have done none of those things. This coming Tuesday, October 18, there is scheduled before the magistrate of the Tax Tribunal a scheduling conference. Usually, these things are very automatic, routine things and take about ten minutes, but given the status of this case, Attorney Barkey thinks you could sell tickets. By the next Commission meeting, he stated he should have more news. Commissioner Bailey asked who Oregon Township's counsel is. Attorney Barkey stated Todd Pope who is with the law firm of Taylor, Carter & Butterfield in Lapeer.

**DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT**

**Parks Status Report**

Ms. McMillan then asked Mr. Walker for his report.

Mr. Walker stated:

**For-Mar Nature Preserve** – The bridge that connects the DeWaters Building with the Nature Center has been resurfaced and is now open to staff traffic.

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**Mounds ORV Area** – Staff met with Katie Campbell, a representative from the DNR Trails Division, to go over the 2006 grant application. She wanted to see the area to see what we were requesting.

**Huckleberry Railroad** – On the tracks just east of Genesee Road, there is a large culvert that goes underneath the tracks to Mott Lake, which has become plugged. We had to clean that out and things are running very well.

**Watershed Meeting** – Staff was at the Watershed meeting, which is coordinated by the Drain Commission Department, and meets the last Wednesday of the month. We will be attending those meetings regularly.

**Crossroads Village** – The Halloween Ghosts & Goodies is up and running. There was a great attendance on opening weekend.

**Linden County Park** – This is the week that we have access to Byram Lake for one week in the fall.

**Goose and Duck Season** – It is goose season right now and duck season opens this Saturday. We are taking lotteries at 1:00 p.m. every day.

Mr. Walker asked if there were any questions.

President Krapohl asked if the interest level is up for goose and duck hunting. Ms. McMillan stated that goose hunting starts off pretty slow and duck hunting tends to escalate. We expect a good response with duck hunting this weekend. The Parks Commission did approve a modified season pass for waterfowl hunters on Mott Lake this year. We have already sold five of those. This does not guarantee somebody a spot and they still have to go through the lottery, but it allows them to do so at a reduced fee. Ms. McMillan stated she thinks it is off to a relatively good start. There are considerably fewer geese on Mott Lake this year than in previous years, but there is an increased interest in duck hunting. We have received good comments about the season pass concept, which was requested by hunters last year.

Ms. McMillan stated that we have had excellent attendance beginning our Halloween program this year. Attendance was approximately double on Saturday of what it was last year and up by several hundred people on Sunday as well. So far, we have had great Halloween-type weather for our Halloween program. This weekend's looks to be very good too so we are very happy about that. If you haven't gotten out with your family and friends yet, you've got to go. Ron has done an especially good job of rounding up candy for us this year. As you know, we have a primary vendor, however, each year that vendor tends to have problems securing the candy that he has guaranteed to us. Ron spends considerable time, energy, and effort going all over southeastern Michigan securing candy for the Halloween program and really goes

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above and beyond the call in his dedication to that program. Ms. McMillan stated we would like to thank him for that.

Ms. McMillan stated that staff also had a meeting yesterday with our consultants from Hamilton Anderson Associates and representatives from the various volunteer organizations on the landscaping plan at Crossroads Village. She stated she expects to bring something back to the Parks and Recreation Commission in early-November.

### **Request to Approve Proposed Fees and Hours for FY 05-06**

Ms. McMillan stated that she would like to note that in accordance with the decisions made when the budget was adopted staff has increased admission fees across-the-board at Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad by \$2.00 in each category. Also in accordance with the same decisions, staff has not increased fees to our facilities for Genesee County residents at Parks and Recreation facilities. Staff has increased fees in some categories for non-residents. Non-residents include residents of Lapeer County.

Ms. McMillan stated that staff has also made some significant changes in the Food Service operations at Crossroads Village, primarily as relate to catering. Those are a direct result of recommendations that were made by PROS Consulting regarding our food service. One of the major changes is that we will permit outside caterers to serve events at the Village. If you have a wedding or a class reunion or have special dietary needs that we cannot address or you have a preference to use your own caterer, you will pay a premium for the use of the facility, so we will be making some portion of the difference, but that choice will be open and available to you in 2006.

Ms. McMillan stated that most of the hours are consistent with what they have been in the past in terms of when parks open and when parks close. In terms of the Village, we are continuing with a five-day a week schedule. We have gone back to daytime hours with the exception of Wednesday evenings when we will be open late. Again, those are in accordance with the recommendations after this summer's operations at Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad. We do expect to have our on-line registration/reservations program up and running very soon. Right now, we are finishing up our privacy policies. There are some unique challenges to doing a privacy policy as a public agency because we are subject to FOIA in some circumstances where private companies are not. Brian Barkey is working with Hilda McShane and our Webmaster and our provider to make that happen. We are working out the glitches so we should be able to go live as well.

Ms. McMillan stated that staff did not make any changes, by and large, to user fees for Genesee County residents, and that includes the use of the Cummings Center and the Cooperative Extension Program through 4-H. Ms. McMillan stated that she brought the issue to the Commission's attention at the last Parks and Recreation Commission

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meeting so that the Commissioners would be aware of the operating agreement between Cooperative Extension and the Parks and Recreation Commission. As Ms. McMillan shared with the Executive Committee and with Mr. Fenech earlier this morning, it is certainly subject to debate as to whether the initial investment made by the group at the Cummings Center has been realized over the course of the time of this agreement. However, we do have a written agreement with Cooperative Extension and we, as staff, get very annoyed when we have contracts with other organizations and they do not honor their contracts with us. Therefore, we feel that it is important that we honor our contract with Cooperative Extension. In adopting the fees and schedules, the Parks Commission will be continuing that agreement that was reviewed and discussed at the last Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Ms. McMillan asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Bogardus stated that the Friends of the Carousel have a concern about the Lakeside Grill closing before the Village closes and that people are more likely to be in the back area of the Village than they are in the front area. Commissioner Bogardus stated that she tends to agree with that concern. Ms. McMillan stated that staff has thoroughly analyzed the use trends of the Lakeside Grill in making this recommendation and looked at how much we were selling at what times of the day and the overall cost and staff is focused on reducing the Food Service costs. Secondly, people who are in the amusement park area of the Village can purchase bottled water, cans of pop, popcorn, and other refreshments there from the Friends of the Carousel. Commissioner Bogardus stated that the concern was since the grill is closed and they are not allowed to sell it people would be upset. Ms. McMillan stated that there are rumors floating all over our volunteer groups—most of which have absolutely no basis in fact as no decisions have been made of any sort regarding who is going to be permitted to do what in terms of retail or food service in the Village. Ms. McMillan stated she understands their concerns and she appreciates their participation, but they are jumping the gun.

Commissioner Lucas asked if there was a motion on the floor. President Krapohl stated no, not at this time. Commissioner Lucas asked if they were going to take all the fees and hours up at once. Ms. McMillan stated yes.

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Lucas, supported by Commissioner Wright, to accept the staff recommendation for proposed fees and hours for FY 05-06.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Yeas: Bailey, Bogardus, Krapohl, Lucas, Speed, Washington, Ranger, Miller, Wright  
Nays: None  
Absent: Prater

**Request to Recommend Granting the Genesee County Drain Commissioner's Office Certain Easements Through Property Operated by the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission**

Ms. McMillan stated that it is important that when the Commissioners take action on this issue it is understood that the Parks and Recreation Commission's authority is limited to making a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners will actually take action regarding the granting of the easement. This is the first formal step in that process. We took informal steps towards this process a couple of times over the last year or so. The first of those informal steps was the Parks and Recreation Commission requesting permission and guidance from the Department of Natural Resources regarding whether they would permit the granting of these easements. The reason the Department of Natural Resources' input was required was that in both cases those properties were acquired, developed, or improved using various grant funds over which the DNR has authority. The DNR has done a very thorough review of our grant obligations. They have made site visits to determine that there will be no adverse recreational impact by granting these easements. They will not require any additional mitigation from the Parks and Recreation Commission because part of the compensation for the award of these easements actually puts more recreational property into the Parks and Recreation system than there was prior to the granting of the easements. With that as an introduction, Mr. Wright and Mr. O'Brien will share with you the information they would like you to consider today.

A motion was placed on the floor by Commissioner Lucas and supported by Commissioner Washington. President Krapohl asked that the Parks Commission label the Resolution 05-01 and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Wright stated that he is wearing two hats today—one as a Parks Commissioner and one as the Drain Commissioner, but he also wanted to let the Parks Commission know that he will be abstaining on this vote. Mr. Wright stated that there is a project called the Northeast Relief Sewer that the Drain Commission has tried to get in the ground over the last several years. Part of that process is to acquire easements from several hundred private property owners and the Parks Commission. The Drain Commission decided when they started this project that they were going to pay for easements, and the fact that they are offering a dollar value plus a piece of property on Buell Lake that will cover the cost of what we have been paying as fair market value throughout this whole process. Mr. Wright stated that the area that he is talking about is Bray Road and Carpenter Road where the Park Commission has several parcels of land. He further stated that there is an existing pump station there, but they are building a new pump station, new underground piping, etc, and those parcels of land are spelled out specifically and the values of those easements. Mr. Wright showed the Parks Commissioners the proposed easement routes on a map of For-Mar Nature Preserve. The dollar value is based on fair market value for the area. He further stated that the

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DNR has fully walked the whole area, has made many site visits and has talked to Mr. Walker, to Amy, and to the Drain Commission. The DNR is very satisfied that the Drain Commission will not be a detriment to any of the Parks' facilities. Mr. Wright also pointed out that acreage is actually being added. There is one parcel of land with a house on it on Buell Lake. The Parks Commission has wanted to try to get that piece of property to make Buell Lake a 100% county park for years. As part of the process, the house came up for sale approximately six months ago and the Drain Commission purchased the house. Part of this process will be deeding that property over to the Parks Commission and that will make Buell Lake 100% County Park. Mr. Wright stated that they also got a good deal on the property. Mr. Wright further stated if there were any specific questions he would be glad to answer them.

Commissioner Bailey asked how long the easement was in miles. Mr. Wright stated that at For-Mar it is close to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile or 3,200 feet across For-Mar and just a little over  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile on Carpenter and Bray Roads. When it is done, it will be underground. The only thing that you will see every 400 to 500 feet is a 24" diameter steel cover that will either be flushed with the ground or slightly below it. The Drain Commission is also making the pump station larger and more up-to-date. As far as For-Mar is concerned, the only thing you will see is some catch basin lids every 400 to 500 feet. All the pump stations that the Drain Commission has been building are brick with peak roofs.

President Krapohl stated that it is fully in Mr. Wright's right to abstain, but according to legal counsel, there is no conflict of interest in this motion. Mr. Wright would be voting as a member of the Parks Commission doing what's best for the Parks Commission and Genesee County residents, and as Drain Commissioner, he would be basically fulfilling the job requirements of providing sanitary sewer systems to the County. Legal counsel says you do have the right to vote and there is no conflict of interest. The only conflict of interest is if you had a direct monetary result from the motion.

Commissioner Bogardus stated because she knows it will come up because the \$21,000 will actually go to Genesee County she is recommending that the Parks Commission consider pledging that money toward cleanup efforts. President Krapohl stated that in the resolution it is for stabilization of Kearsley Creek in For-Mar. Mr. Wright stated that it is their intent to make sure the Parks, hopefully, gets the use of the monies, and as it has been laid out in the resolution, there is a severe erosion problem next to the arboretum at For-Mar. The Drain Commission has stabilized it temporarily. Mr. Wright stated that the Parks Commission needs to ask the County Board to make sure that this \$21,000 stays with the Parks Commission and not the General Fund of the County. Ms. McMillan stated that the resolution does state that. Commissioner Bogardus asked if the stabilization would be done at the same time as the easement work. Mr. Wright stated that there are no plans for the Drain Commissioner's Office to do the stabilization now. A year ago, the Drain Commissioner's Office went in and removed some problems that were causing some erosion and stabilized the bank. The Drain Commissioner's Office also did a preliminary study that shows some of the

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different options for long-term stabilization and the approximate costs of those options. This is something that the Parks Commission and For-Mar are going to have to discuss in great detail because the ultimate fix there is much more expensive than \$21,000. Mr. Wright stated that he has committed to Amy that there are federal and state dollars for bank stabilization when it comes to soil erosion and his office will do everything they can to try to procure some of those bank stabilization dollars. Ms. McMillan stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission has encumbered some dollars over the course of the last several years for that project. She further stated about five years ago it was discovered that the Merkley Trust had underpaid the Parks and Recreation Commission income from the trust for For-Mar. The Parks Commission encumbered that money for future use as bank stabilization and has been holding it as we have gone through this process by which the Drain Commission has done some preliminary cost estimates in conjunction with this whole process that is in front of the Parks Commission today. She further stated that the Parks Commission will work with the Drain Commissioner's Office to secure outside funding and they should have sufficient money to match outside funding in order to make that happen.

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Lucas, supported by Commissioner Washington, to approve request of the Genesee County Drain Commissioner's Office to grant certain easements through property operated by the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Bogardus, Krapohl, Lucas, Speed, Washington, Ranger, Miller, Wright,  
Bailey  
Nays: None  
Absent: Prater

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0.

**Ratification of Payment of Bills** – Ms. McMillan recommended approval.

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Washington, supported by Commissioner Speed, to ratify payment of bills for the time period of September 15, 2005 through September 29, 2005.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Krapohl, Lucas, Speed, Washington, Ranger, Miller, Wright Bailey,  
Bogardus  
Nays: None  
Absent: Prater

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0.

**Ratification of Commissioner Investments** – Ms. McMillan recommended approval.

**Action Taken** – Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Wright, to ratify wired payments of investments for the time period of September 15, 2005 through September 28, 2005.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. McMillan stated that she would like to thank the Drain Commissioner's staff for all the work that they have done, not just with Parks staff, but also with the volunteer groups at For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum. She further stated when the first rumors hit the street about proposed easement there was a hue and cry, but none of those rumors were ever scheduled to happen. The Drain Commissioner has met personally with those groups and has gone walking with those groups through the area; he has made changes to the route to ensure that no large trees are sacrificed in this project. Ms. McMillan stated that, truthfully, she is very much appreciative that the Parks Commission is being compensated for these easements and would like to thank Mr. Wright and his staff for the work that they have done with the Parks Commission and with our staff.

Ms. McMillan stated she would also like to thank her staff. While she was on vacation last week, they did an outstanding job. Nancy Edwards did all of the initial typing that was associated with the fees and hours that are before the Parks Commission today. All of the clerical staff proofed it. It is really difficult to make sure all of the dates match with all the days of the week. They put in an incredible amount of time and energy to bring that to the Parks Commission today.

Ms. McMillan informed the Parks Commission that in November the consultants will be back and providing the Parks Commission updates on the progress at Crossroads Village, which includes actual things that they are discussing and recommendations that staff is doing. She further stated that, just like at For-Mar, when anything new is attempted rumors fly all over the place and people work very hard to protect their very genuine interests. Everybody who is a volunteer at Crossroads Village has a genuine attachment and investment in Crossroads Village, just as we do and just as the folks at For-Mar do. It is often difficult to make sure that communication is flowing in both directions. Sometimes, we communicate with folks and they don't directly communicate back with us and that makes it a challenge. Sometimes, no matter what we tell people they don't believe us because they are really concerned about their interest or particular experience. Ms. McMillan stated we are doing our best to communicate those issues directly and clearly with folks, and hopefully, they will accept the information that we are

sharing with them. When there are decisions to be made they will be brought back to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their actual action.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Washington stated he would like to get a copy of each of the Parks Commissioners' e-mail addresses and would like that e-mailed to him sometime today. He further stated that he had received a phone call from Ms. Black of the Friends of the Carousel. When he returned her phone call promptly, she was shocked that he even took the time to return her call. He asked Ms. Black to detail for him what her concerns were and what the group's concerns were. Commissioner Washington forwarded the e-mail to President Krapohl and a couple other commissioners whose addresses he had. He further stated that when things like that come in to him it concerns him that it is not just relegated to him or one or two other Commissioners, but it is something that the entire board needs to know and they can make their own decision as to how they need to have input into that. Commissioner Washington stated he told Ms. Black that the Commissioners take all calls seriously and that the Commissioners that she called would get back with her.

Commissioner Bogardus stated that she couldn't remember ever before one individual able to cause as much baseless concerns as to get that long of an article in the *Flint Journal*. Even though it started with describing the Kreutzfelds' yard, it looked in the paper like Flushing Park is a slum. There is no basis for these people's complaints and yet they got this huge article. Commissioner Bogardus stated she would like as a Board to make an official trip to the park and an official response to the paper because that type of stuff is what makes it so hard to pass a millage. People in Davison don't know what the Flushing Park is like. Neither do the people in Clio or Linden or Fenton. They just think that the Parks and Recreation Commission is ignoring this park, letting it turn into a mess, and she thinks that the Board needs to make an official response because that we a huge article and has the capability of really detracting from the public's opinion and lowering the public's opinion of the parks. She further stated that when she was in the House of Representatives she doesn't remember any other complaints about Flushing Park, but those people continually complain. She further stated that the Parks Commission should ask the *Flint Journal* to cover the Parks Commission's response as a news article and not as an editorial.

Commissioner Ranger stated that there were as many questions from that reporter on his opinion of the residents of Flushing as there was about the park. He further stated four or five times she phrased the question differently as to his opinion of those people. Commissioner Ranger asked what has that got to do with that park? Commissioner Ranger stated that he agrees with Commissioner Bogardus and that the Parks Commission should go out there and asks that the *Flint Journal* reporter go out there with us. Commissioner Ranger stated that the article stated the Kreutzfelds have 100 letters that they have sent. Commissioner Bailey stated that it is more than that. The

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Kreutzfelds have a stack of documents, e-mails, letters, and all sorts of contact with the Parks Commission, not only with us, but the City of Flushing, regarding snow removal, and with Flushing Township regarding the trees along McKinley Road. Commissioner Bailey stated everyone has his or her own thing and he guesses that is what's going on here. Commissioner Bailey stated that the reporter is brand new; she has had three front-page articles since the day she started a couple of months ago, and he thinks that that couple just whet her appetite for another front-page story, which it didn't make. Commissioner Bailey stated that nobody in the Flushing area would believe that the park is in the shape that they describe. He further stated that he doesn't think it hurt the parks, but he can understand the people in Davison reading it and not knowing what the facts are.

Commissioner Wright stated that as far as the lengthy article and multiple articles go today that is what journalism has come to—tabloid journalism basically. He further stated that the idea of getting out there as a group is a good idea. Commissioner Wright asked Mr. Walker if the Parks Commission has a policy on poison ivy. Does the Parks Commission go out and eradicate it? Mr. Walker stated no. Ms. McMillan stated that the general policy in the parks is that staff does not remove from the parks things that are natural to the environment. Ms. McMillan further stated that the consistent complaint she gets about Flushing County Park over the course of the last six months starts typically with "we love the Flushing Riverview Trail, but we need more—it's too crowded now". This is the worst complaint that she has received about Flushing County Park since January, other than from the Kreutzfelds. She stated that staff doesn't get complaints from the people who rent the pavilions, that they are being exposed to or injured in some way by poison ivy. Ms. McMillan stated that there are many different ways to spray poison ivy, some are successful—some are not. She further stated that the Parks Commission does not have the resources. There are seven full-time park maintenance employees for 11,000 acres and 80 people during the summertime for those 11,000 acres. The parks are way understaffed and the primary responsibilities are mowing and trash removal from the parks, which are users' concerns, and addressing safety issues on the playgrounds.

Commissioner Miller stated that the last time when this came up the Parks Commission said that they would deal with it if it is right in the public area, but there is nobody, realistically, that could expect you to do anything with it outside of those definite areas. He further stated that the poison ivy couldn't live in the lived in areas of the park if it is beat down into the ground.

Commissioner Bogardus asked that if you eradicate poison ivy are you going to eradicate everything around it and when you start spraying herbicides in a public park people are going to start saying I'm allergic to herbicides. She asked if there is something that would just specifically take care of the poison ivy. Mr. Walker stated no there is not.

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Commissioner Ranger asked what the pathway by the picnic tables is used for. Ms. McMillan stated that is primarily used by the maintenance people. Commissioner Ranger stated the Parks Commission had talked about putting a sign up prohibiting people from going back there. Commissioner Ranger stated that the reporter walked back there and looked at the tables. He further stated that if people are not supposed to be back there then we need to put up a sign telling the public to stay out of there if that is a designated lay down area. Ms. McMillan stated that staff would sign the area between now and the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Ms. McMillan further stated that staff is not trying to keep people out of the woods at Flushing County Park or anywhere else. The trails through the woods are beautiful, but that is, personally, one of the natural hazards of the area. It is the same at For-Mar and at Richfield County Park and in the wooded areas of Linden County Park. Staff does not just maintain open areas to keep people in open areas, but there are hazards that are apparent in the natural environment that do exist and staff is not able to address.

Commissioner Bailey stated that he has to give Commissioner Ranger credit in restraining himself in that article.

Commissioner Bailey stated that he has good news for the Parks Commission. Shirley Prater has gone shopping at the mall and to Commissioner Bailey that is a sign of good recovery.

Commissioner Bogardus stated that Saginaw Valley RC&D does erosion grants and that could be a source For-Mar. Ms. McMillan stated that the Drain Commissioner's Office is going to help the Parks Commission get access to some big dollars and they will leave no stone unturned.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

David Fenech, the County Extension Director, stated that he would like to thank the Executive Committee and staff for recommending that the policy and agreement that has been in place with the Cooperative Extension be continued. He wanted to thank all Commissioners for approving that recommendation. Cooperative Extension works very hard to support and help other county departments whenever they can. It is always very nice when other departments reciprocate. Cooperative Extension really appreciates their partnership and relationship with the Parks Commission and they thank them for the outstanding job that Parks staff does.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no objections, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

Recorded and transcribed by:  
Kimberly L. Cunningham, Secretary

Parks\M101305