

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, September 27, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Building, 5045 Stanley Rd., Flint, MI.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Joe Krapohl, President
Rose Bogardus
Ted Henry
James Washington, Vice President
William Lucas, Secretary
Raynetta Speed

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Bob Ranger, Genesee County Planning Commission
Jeff Wright, Genesee County Drain Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Pomeroy, Ex-Officio, Road Commission
Shirley Prater, Citizen Representative

STAFF PRESENT

Amy M. McMillan, Director
Deborah Wilkes, Secretary
Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer
Ron Walker, Facilities Director
Teneisha Calhoun, Seasonal Marketing Secretary
Greg Parks, Chief Ranger

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brian Barkey, Commission Legal Counsel
Cheryl DeFrain, Flint Area Convention & Visitor's Bureau
Larry Stricker

(1) CALL TO ORDER

President Krapohl called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

(2) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Larry Sticker noted that the public is using the back end of Goldenrod, which is better fishing than the beach area.

(3) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion: Items to be removed from communications for discussion:

- ii. Community Foundation Fund Statements,
- iii. Third Quarter income distribution, and
- iv. State of Michigan inspection of Mott Dam.

Motion to approve remaining items on the consent agenda.

Action Taken: Motion by Commissioner Wright
Support by Commissioner Henry

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0

(4) REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL

No report.

(5) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1 Connecting Michigan Resolution

Discussion:

Ms McMillan requested Commission approve the Connecting Michigan resolution. This is a resolution to support a statewide trail system plan. Connectivity and trails are a high priority in Genesee County. Supporting this resolution helps to support statewide trail way efforts and ultimately lead to additional funding opportunities and preserve current funding opportunities available for trails.

Motion to support endorsement of the Connecting Michigan Statewide Trail ways Vision and Action Plan.

Action Taken: Motion by Commissioner Lucas
Support by Commissioner Wright

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0

B. 2007 Waterfowl Hunting

Discussion:

Ms. McMillan requests that the commission approve the 2007-hunting schedule. The program is the same one the commission has supported the last several years and includes hunting on the Holloway Reservoir and the east end of Mott Lake. This has been a popular program and helpful to us in controlling the wildfowl population. The dates are set by the State. Ms McMillan also explained that seagulls seem to be increasing in our area, however those birds are federally protected. The high spike of e-coli at Bluebell Beach in early August set the pattern for the geometric mean for the balance of the month. The spike was so high that it was impossible for the latter e-coli readings to bring it down. The samples that were taken in the past confirm that it is animal waste, not human waste causing the e-coli, so any problems with sewage spills in the area are not the cause of the spike. Commissioner Bogardus asked if we could find out whom to contact on the federal level regarding the excessive amount of seagulls coming inland and causing a nuisance. Commissioner Ranger noted that fecal matter from as little as 6 geese could make a piece of property a disaster. A flock of 100 geese anywhere nearby can really cause problems.

Motion to support accepting recommendation for the 2007 Waterfowl Hunting Season Rules and Regulations and Dates.

Action Taken: Motion by Commissioner Washington
Support by Commissioner Wright

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0

C. Items removed from Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Bogardus asked about the amounts we receive from these foundations and funds. Ms McMillan explained that we receive approximately \$20,000 to \$24,000 annually from the Community Foundation; we receive 5% of the value of the trust. , We receive approximately half of 5 percent from the Merkely Fund.

Ms McMillan clarified that the Mott Dam is inspected on a regular basis and is good condition.

(6) OTHER BUSINESS

Popcorn balls have been secured for Crossroads Village Ghosts and Goodies program.

President Krapohl stated that the pastors involved in the Peace March in Flushing Park were very supportive of how the director and staff reacted and responded to the vandalism in Flushing County Park. President Krapohl congratulated the ranger staff for its work leading to the issuing of warrants for the men responsible for the vandalism. He understands that there have been confessions and the legal system will take it from here. The men are currently on electronic tethers.

Commissioner Henry asked if we had an idea of how many hours were spent working on the investigation. Chief Greg Parks did not have a total of the hours yet. Ms McMillan said there is repair work that needs to be done in the parks and we will calculate those hours and supplies as well for the prosecutor's office in the hope that some form of restitution is ordered.

Ms. McMillan also commended the rangers for an outstanding job on bringing the investigation to a close. She said the entire staff, including maintenance, clerical and the parks commissioners, played an instrumental part in handling the entire incident. There has been much good that has come out of a deplorable situation.

Commissioner Ranger congratulated the rangers and wondered if any problems we've had in the past may stop if these men were responsible.

Commissioner Bogardus made the point that the when someone is on electronic tether they must pay for the tether program so they, or their families, are being charged on a daily basis.

Commissioner Krapohl was glad to see that the community and legal system are supportive of these men being charged to the fullest extent of the law.

(7) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Ms McMillan confirmed that the Flushing Park trail in the new walking trail brochure does not show the part of the trail that is outside the county park's boundaries. This year we added the walking path at Stepping Stone Falls to the brochure. Commissioner Henry said the piece was very well done and very eye catching.

President Krapohl noted that we had three pages in the Park Pulse of nominations for customer service awards so we are going in the right direction with regard to customer service.

(8) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Mr. Stricker refuted some of the assumptions the Commissioners may have regarding the area he would like opened up for boat launching in the Timberwolf area. He said all the ponds do not have drop offs, it is not all spawning area, many canoeist bring fishing poles, it is not going to be expensive to move the gate, and the area is not going to have heavy boat usage and big boats would not find it easily maneuverable.

(9) ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.