

**Members Present:** President Joe Krapohl, Vice President Jim Washington, Secretary Bill Lucas, Commissioners Jeff Wright, Ted Henry, Mike Keeler, Patrick Gleason and Cloyce Dickerson. Commissioner Ron Winters arrived at 10:15 a.m.

**Members Absent:** Commissioner Archie Bailey

**Staff Present:** Amy McMillan, Director; Ron Walker, Deputy Director; Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer; Nancy Edwards, Recreation Program Specialist; Hilda McShane, Marketing Specialist; Bob Davis, Park Planner, Deborah Wilkes, Secretary

**Others Present:** Brian Barkey, Legal Counsel; Joe Madore, Richfield Township Supervisor; Debbie Buterakos, Richfield Township Treasurer.

**Call to Order.** President Krapohl presided over the meeting and called meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**Opportunity for the public to address the commission.** President Krapohl asked if there is anyone wishing to address the Commission. Per commission rules each person shall have three minutes in which to address the commissioners.

Joe Madore, Richfield Township Supervisor addressed the Commission. Mr. Madore introduced the new Richfield Township Treasurer, Debbie Buterakos.

**2) Consent Agenda.** Discussion: President Krapohl asked if any commissioners wished to remove any items from the consent agenda. Commissioner Henry asked that the bills be removed for further discussion.

**Action Taken:**

Motion by Commissioner Henry  
Supported by Commissioner Washington

**Motion and support for approval of consent agenda items A through E as listed.**

**Roll Call**

**Yeas:** Keeler, Lucas, Washington, Dickerson, Krapohl, Henry, Wright

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Commissioners Gleason stepped out of the room and missed the vote. Commissioner Bailey and Winters are absent.

**MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

**4) Report from Legal Counsel.** Mr. Barkey has no report today.

**5) Director's Report.**

A. Ms. McMillan shared holiday greetings from Bob Ranger and Billy Bradshaw, former parks commissioners.

B. Ms. McMillan received information from the Genesee County Planning Commission that the Richfield Landfill operators have withdrawn their request for an expansion permit. There is speculation about what that means but that is the information that we have to date.

Commissioner Henry asked when the withdrawal of the Richfield Landfill became effective.

Ms. McMillan said she received the information a couple weeks ago. She didn't know the actual date it was withdrawn.

Commissioner Gleason said he believes it is just a temporary withdrawal.

C. We are as close as we can get to approval from the DEQ for the permit to move forward on Cornwell Creek project. We want to acknowledge the drain commissioner's office for all of their assistance. We'll be meeting with the drain commission office tomorrow to hopefully finalize some construction documents to finalize the permit and then it will go out to bid. We are not moving at the rate of speed we'd hoped but we are making steady forward progress.

Commissioner Henry asked if there was a master plan for the Cornwell Creek project. Can we briefly touch on what they want to do?

Ms. McMillan confirmed that there was. Ms. McMillan will provide the plans to Commissioner Henry and Mr. Wright will elaborate on the plans.

Mr. Wright said that this was a project initiated by the General County and the parks assumed the oversight and responsibility of the project about a year ago. As part of that process the Parks has been working with the DEQ to get a permit to stabilize the banks of the Cornwell Creek. Why this is important is because this was the site of a former landfill site and without the banks being stabilized there are continual pollutants flowing into Mott Lake and the Flint River near the intersection of Bray and Carpenter Roads. About 1,000 to 1200 feet of bank needs to be stabilized.

Commissioner Henry asked if it is being encased.

Mr. Wright said it is not being encased; we are trying to put it back to as much as it used to be as possible. Ms. McMillan added that ultimately it will be up to the DEQ to tell us that our plans are permitted.

D. Ms. McMillan introduced Kevin Shanlian as the new full-time Chief Ranger. He has been on board for a couple weeks. He is making great progress and has finished the complete overhaul of the Park Ranger Policies and the policies and procedures are on their way to being fully in effect.

E. Parks Fees and Schedules. The director requested the commission approve the 2012 parks fees and schedules. Each year we ask that you approve our fees and schedules. There are no proposed fee increases and dates have only changed as required by the dates on the calendar. It is certainly not that we would not benefit from additional revenue by increasing fees, however because the CS Mott Foundation has stepped in to underwrite our deficit, and because one of their stated reasons for doing that is to continue to keep the parks open and accessible, not just physically accessible but economically accessible and we have reflected that philosophy and maintaining the line on our fees and charges.

**Action Taken:**

Motion by Commissioner Wright  
Supported by Commissioner Dickerson

**Motion and support to approve the requested proposed fees and hours for fiscal year 2011-2012.**

**Yeas:** All Ayes

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Commissioners Bailey and Winters are absent.

**MOTION CARRIED**

F. Parks Commission Meeting Schedule for 2012. Ms. McMillan asked the commission to approve the schedule for 2012 park commission meeting. The dates have been checked to make sure there are no conflicts with the County schedule in terms of furloughs, building closures or to the extent that we know, scheduled meetings.

**Action Taken:**

Motion by Commissioner Washington  
Supported by Commissioner Wright

**Motion and support to accepted the proposed meeting schedule for 2012. Schedule will be posted according to the Open Meetings Act.**

**Yeas:** All Ayes

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Commissioners Bailey and Winters are absent.

**MOTION CARRIED**

G. Sullivan's Black Forest Request. We have a request from our caterer to permit, under certain circumstances, alcohol sales at Crossroads Village and Mill Street Warehouse and Dining Room. There has been a significant change in the legislation in which alcohol can be sold and served by caterers at events. You may recall as late as last year the whole issue of a caterer providing alcohol was a major difficulty. It made it difficult for our customers, particular wedding parties and it reduced our opportunity to bring in that business into the dining room. Sullivan's asked us to allow alcohol last year when we hired them. Ms. McMillan asked that they have three seasons of activities so we can determine what their performance was and how they dealt with customer service and the parks commission as customers. She is happy to report that since they began working with us we have had virtually no complaints regarding food service. We've had no complaints regarding food quality from anyone using our facilities. One complaint she recalled was from Ladies Night Out that we did not provide salad but that menu was our choice. By and large people have been very complimentary of the quality and customer service. On opening night we did run out of something, but we had 3,812 people here, and that was 1100 more people than the previous year. We've had a very positive partnership with them. They pay their bills on time, they answer our questions and concerns, they are very organized and they've done an extraordinary job. We are recommending to you today, that they be permitted to provide this service to us. We still maintain the ability to review the individual request, for example we can virtually guarantee that you will not see beer sales during Kaleidoscope!

Commissioner Henry asked who was responsible for the license.

Ms. McMillan said that Sullivan's is responsible. They must comply with the new legislation and it is an additional license they must retain.

Commissioner Washington asked how it would impact the Parks liability.

Mr. Barkey said the Parks are the proprietor of the event, there is a certificate of insurance (provided by Sullivan's) included with the recommendation, 1M for general liability, 1M for liquor liability, which he believes are very adequate limits. There is a liability, but it is insured.

**Action Taken:**

Motion by Commissioner Lucas

Supported by Commissioner Dickerson

**Motion and support to allow Sullivan's Marketing Inc. to provide the sales and service of alcohol at Crossroads Village Mill Street Warehouse and Dining Room for the calendar year 2012 under the provisions set forth in the recommendation.**

**Yeas:** All Ayes (Mr. Winters arrived at 10:15 and was included in this vote)

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Commissioners Bailey

**MOTION CARRIED**

Everyone has been provided a copy of the CS Mott Foundation annual report, which was released online yesterday. She wants to bring to your attention the first nine pages. The Parks Commission is featured prominently as a grantee in the 2010 year. Our grant was for 1.27 million dollars in 2010. The CEO, Bill White, in his opening message makes some very strong statements that are about the need to continue to provide public services to the community and to provide excellent public services particularly in these times. He mentions that traditionally private philanthropies do not provide funding to government services, because that is what taxes are for. But the extraordinary times we are experiencing in Genesee County have had a dire effect on the county as a whole and the Parks provide such a vital service to the community that the foundation feels it is entirely appropriate to step forward and preserve those services and he essentially says that although it is not in keeping with the general philosophy but these things are important to our community.

Mr. White also says the parks are not just a quality of life issue for this community, but they have a direct economic impact on the community as well.

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**6) New Business.**

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B. Each year we try to bring you a photographic memory representative of the Parks for the year and at the top of this year's list is the Warrior Dash. The photo also features staff that participated in the dash, and she hopes you enjoy the memory of that event as much as we did.

### **7) Opportunity for Commissioners to address the Commission.**

President Krapohl said that although it was a difficult year, it was also a very successful year and on behalf of the entire commission he wished all the staff a very Merry Christmas and thank you for all your hard work every day. We do appreciate all the hard work the employees do and it is recognized even if we don't always say it. We look forward to a tremendous year next year. He commended each of the staff that was in attendance as well calling out their contribution to the Parks: Nancy, Hilda, Leisa, Kevin, Bob, Ron. He pointed out that he liked the "Public Relations" statistic on the (status) report that the Chief prepared. It reports the number of non-criminal ranger contacts with the public and shows that the rangers are out there talking to people so our rangers are not perceived as bad people and they are there to make sure their experience is enjoyable in the parks.

Commissioner Dickerson thanked the staff and employees, they do a great job. He enjoyed the volunteer dinner and the volunteers do a great job. It's been a pleasure to work with this group.

Commissioner Henry said it has been a very busy year at the County and he may not have put as much time in the park commission as he would have like, and hopefully he'll do better next year.

Mr. Wright dittoed the sentiments of the other commissioners and wished the staff Happy Holidays.

Commissioner Winters said he is relatively new to the park board but has thoroughly enjoyed his participation thus far. Even in this short time he has gained significant appreciation for the benefits the parks system in Genesee County provides, not only socially, but economically to the residents of Genesee County. He looks forward to being with us next year.

Commissioner Gleason wanted to echo what has been said about the staff. He welcomed the new Chief. He's excited about 2012 with some new, interesting proposals being on the table next year and is optimistic that the parks are only going to get bigger and stronger and more efficient.

Commissioner Keeler said that the Branch Road section that has been closed has now been barricaded by either the parks or road commission. There were logs, barricades, dirt; cement barricades but there used to be a space to get through with bikes, but there is a gate with a chain now that bike riders cannot get around.

Ms. McMillan said she would speak to the Road Commission about that as we have no jurisdiction over that barricade and they have had problems with vehicles trying to get through.

Commissioner Keeler also wished everybody a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Lucas reiterated what everybody else said. He appreciates the job everybody does and wished everybody Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Washington said he enjoyed the fireworks on opening night, they were fantastic. He enjoys this group, the entire staff and what they do, and can't say enough about the staff; they demonstrate the spirit of excellence. He also wished Nancy an early Happy Birthday too. He thanked his fellow commissioners and the secretary.

President Krapohl thanked the secretary (Deb Wilkes) for the phone calls, reminders and the commissioners know she is valuable to the Director ...although there is no cheesecake in the future, there will be monster cookies!

President Krapohl invited those in attendance to stay for lunch today.

**8) Opportunity for the public to address the commission.**

**9) Adjournment.** Hearing no objections, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.