
**GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

The semi-monthly meeting of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, August 27, 2009 in the Conference Room of the Genesee County Parks Administration Building, 5045 Stanley Rd., Flint, 48506.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Krapohl, Jim Washington, Archie Bailey, Billy Bradshaw, Bob Ranger, Jeff Wright, Mike Keeler, Patrick Gleason, Bill Lucas

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ted Henry

STAFF PRESENT: Amy McMillan, Director; Ron Walker, Deputy Director; Deborah Wilkes, Secretary; Hilda McShane, Marketing Specialist, Nancy Edwards, Program Coordinator; Brian Barkey, Legal Counsel.

OTHERS PRESENT:

(1) **Call To Order**

President Krapohl called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

(2) **Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission**

No one from the public addressed the commission.

(3) **CONSENT AGENDA**

Discussion: There were no items removed from the consent agenda.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Lucas
Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support for approval of the consent agenda items.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Bailey, Bradshaw, Gleason, Keeler, Krapohl, Lucas, Ranger, Washington, Wright
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Henry

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

(4) **REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL**

We have been assigned a probate judge in Oakland County that will hear our petition regarding the Martha Merkle Trust. As soon as we receive notice of a hearing date we will circulate that date to all interested parties. Meanwhile a copy of the petition was circulated to interested parties who have spoken on the record during the public meetings.

Deborah Wilkes and Hilda McShane completed their Crim events.

President Krapohl congratulated Mr. Barkey for participating in the Crim as well.

Regarding the Merkle Trust: Commissioner Keeler liked the article in the paper by Liz Shaw shedding some light on Mrs. Merkle and the fact that she did indeed allow hunting on her property and it came from someone who knew her personally.

Commissioner Bailey recognized Brian Barkey for the article written about him (Salute to the Unsung Hero by Roberta Wray in the July/August issue of *BARBEAT*. All of the commissioners congratulated him as well.

(5) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

A. **Merkley Trust:** The petition will find its way through the courts in its own timeframe but in the meantime there are several things we need to do to prepare for, from a programmatic perspective, in the event the court determines there is no violation of the trust by allowing hunting in some fashion in For-Mar. There are certain activities that need to take place over the course of the next several weeks. These activities do not, in any way, pre-suppose an outcome from the court or pre-suppose, in any way, that the parks commission will ultimately approve a recommendation for hunting. We have not yet brought that to the commission and that final say belongs to this commission.

Some of the legwork that needs to be done:

1. Fencing. Complete the repair of the perimeter fencing around For-Mar. Other parks have had their fence lines repaired and it is time for For-Mar, and this has nothing to do with the hunting issue.
2. Qualifications program. In the event the court rules it is permissible to hunt, we must institute a program to qualify hunters who may be interested in participating. We would do that in early September. It does not automatically tell someone they are going to be allowed to hunt. If the program moves forward we would have to hold a lottery of qualified persons. The qualifications process would be handled publicly and it may generate some comments from your constituents and we want to let you know about that in advance.
3. DNR tags. We would have to apply for DNR tags for a hunt regardless of the method we use. The tags are \$5 each and if there is no hunt we are only out \$5 for each tag and it will have no affect on our budget.

Commissioner Bailey asked if we have voted on the issue yet? Ms. McMillan said we have not. President Krapohl added that the only thing that has been done is the board has directed the administration to develop a wildlife management plan.

Commissioner Bailey asked when we will decide. Ms. McMillan said after the court makes a decision.

Commissioner Bradshaw asked about the qualification guidelines. Ms. McMillan said hunters would have to hit a 9 inch paper plate target at 25 yards with three arrows. If they do not, they would not be considered as a qualified hunter or be allowed in the lottery. Crossbows would be permitted. The qualifying would take place at the E. A. Cummings Center and conducted by the park ranger division. The state defines the ages and equipment, and we will follow all DNR guidelines.

We will be very clear that this is just part of the process, it has an end point, of which we are not there yet, but because there are timelines and schedules to consider and because we feel so strongly that this is an urgent problem at For-Mar, and it has been a problem at For-Mar for some time and we want to have the pieces in place in case the commission approves the request. We would expect the commission would want staff to move forward with the plan in 2009 so the pieces have to be put in place. If we brought a recommendation to the commission after a positive court ruling, and the commission says no, then no (there will be no hunt) and that's fine too.

Commissioner Wright reminded the board the administration put together a plan and there are multiple options. One is bow hunting, one is bringing in professionals, one is using park rangers and all the options are still under consideration. Regardless of the option chosen, DNR tags would be required.

B. **Budget.** There is nothing good to say about the 09-10 fiscal year budget that we have recommended to the board. As you know we are under consideration for funding from the C S Mott Foundation. We are progressing in the process but their timeline is different than ours and, by law, we need to present and adopt a balanced budget to the commission utilizing the resources we can reasonably expect to have. Those resources do not include any grant funding to support operations.

This is a two step process. First, the parks commission approves the budget by each of our funds departments. The parks commission forwards the approved budget to the Board of Commissioners and it is adopted by the Board of Commissioners by resolution at the time all county budgets are adopted. Up until the time it is adopted we can make changes. Even after the budget is adopted we can make changes if we receive funding and things that are reduced may be restored.

There are several personnel reductions, some are temporary, some are projected to be permanent. We have talked to each of the employees that would be affected and invited Human Resources here to answer any questions regarding unemployment, seniority, etc. Each employee may have a personalized approach to their layoff. (such as two week off, two weeks on, a straight 30 days, etc.) We are identifying the different options the employees may wish to take their lay off, determine the process by which those decisions can be made, and to the extent possible support what works best for that individual employee. Some options will be subject to the bargaining unit approval. Having to be the person delivering the bad news, Ms. McMillan stated that each of the persons receiving the bad news has taken the news in a very professional and courteous manner. It is terrible to be the bearer of bad news and even harder when you have people being so kind to you who are receiving the bad news. Staff is to be commended for their response.

We have provided the budgets, a summary of the budget and we ask that the board proceed with the adoption of each of the funds. Staff will provide answers to any of the commission's questions, and accept recommendations for changes if the board chooses to make any changes. The approved parks budget will go to the controllers office on September 8th. The Board of Commissioners will put a proposed budget for all departments on the table for public review on September 25th and action must be taken to approve all budgets no later than September 30th.

Ms. McMillan requests a motion approving Resolution 006-09 Fund 208 General Operating.

Commission Gleason said he was impressed with the revenue side of the Mounds and Boat Ramps. The numbers are eye-catching. Ms. McMillan said we have those business operations to manage and staff takes a serious approach to this business and they are to be commended.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Gleason
Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support for adopting Resolution 006-09 Fund 208 General Operating for fiscal year 2009-10.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Wright, Washington, Ranger, Lucas, Krapohl, Keeler, Gleason, Bradshaw, Bailey
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Henry

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

Ms. McMillan requests a motion approving Resolution 007-09 Fund 508 Railroad/Boat.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Ranger
Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support for adopting Resolution 007-09 Fund 508 Railroad/Boat for fiscal year 2009-10.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Lucas, Washington, Bradshaw, Gleason, Keeler, Wright, Ranger, Krapohl, Bailey
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Henry

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

Ms. McMillan requests a motion approving Resolution 008-09 Fund 211 Crossroads Village.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Washington
Supported by Commissioner Ranger

Motion and support for adopting Resolution 008-09 Fund 211 Crossroads Village for fiscal year 2009-10.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Gleason, Lucas, Bailey, Keeler, Washington, Ranger, Wright, Krapohl, Bradshaw
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Henry

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

Ms. McMillan requests a motion approving Resolution 009-09 Fund 666 Equipment.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Washington
Supported by Commissioner Bradshaw

Motion and support for adopting Resolution 009-09 Fund 666 Equipment for fiscal year 2009-10.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Ranger, Krapohl, Gleason, Wright, Bailey, Bradshaw, Washington, Keeler, Lucas
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Henry

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

C. **Ratification of Investments:** There was a delay in the treasurer's office providing reports about the commission's investments so it was not included in the consent agenda items.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Lucas
Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support for ratification of commission investments.

Yeas: All yeas
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Henry

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

(6) OTHER BUSINESS

There is no other business.

(7) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

President Krapohl noted that staff member Nancy Edwards was elected to the Board of Directors of the Flint Steelheaders and she is the first female elected to that board. She was congratulated by the commissioners. Ms. McMillan noted that Nancy does this on her own time and there has been a direct benefit to the Parks as a result of her participation as the Steelheaders have financially supported our annual kid's fishing derby for many years.

Commissioner Lucas thanked Amy for her work on the budget, and everybody who was involved with it; they have done a heck of a job with what they had to work with.

(8) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

No one from the public addressed the commission.

(9) ADJOURNMENT With no objections made, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.