
GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The semi-monthly meeting of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, September 10, 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, Ted Henry

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Ranger

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

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**

Joe Madore, Richfield Township Supervisor asked the commission if they had any issues with the Richfield Township police patrolling through the parks. Ms. McMillan stated that she did not have any problems with their presence in the parks, but if there were any specific problems they need to be coordinated with the park rangers. She also stated that the property issue will be addressed after the budget process is complete.

(3) **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Bailey
Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support for approval of the consent agenda items.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Washington, Wright, Lucas, Krapohl, Keeler, Gleason, Bradshaw, Bailey

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Henry arrived at 10:04 and missed this vote, Bob Ranger is absent.

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

(4) **REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL**

We are still waiting to hear from the Oakland County judge that has been assigned to hear the petition in the For-Mar case. The hearing will most likely occur in an Oakland County courtroom. We will notify interested parties when we a date is set.

Commissioner Wright asked if any other petitions have been turned in about the issue of deer hunting. Ms. McMillan said she has not seen or heard of any.

(5) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

A. **For-Mar Hunt:** We are making plans to have a pre-qualification program in the event that:
A. the courts find there is nothing in the trust that prohibits that and; B. that this commission approves such recommendation. She believes a recommendation will be brought to the parks commissioners on the 24th of September for action. The caveat would be that it would not go

into affect until such time as there was a court ruling that would support that and if the parks commission does not approve the recommendation then we are done. We are putting the pieces in place so that if we move forward, we can do so in a timely manner and not wait for another year to pass.

B. Waterfowl Hunt: Several years ago we started a wildfowl hunting program. It has worked very well. We believe there is no single cause to the water quality issues at Bluebell Beach. It has been speculated that the wildfowl problem has been considered to be part of the problem. This entire swimming season we had *zero* closings at Bluebell Beach. We believe that all of the efforts taking place, cumulatively, are helping this. Staff recommends that the parks commission approve this program for 2009-10 hunting season.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Washington
Supported by Commissioner Wright

Motion and support to accept the recommendation of staff for the approval of waterfowl hunting for the DNR established 2009-10 hunting season as provided.

Yeas: All Ayes

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Ranger

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

C. Summer Season: Ms. McMillan said we had an outstanding summer season and a full wrap up will be provided at a later date. Thanks to some great weather during Labor Day weekend we exceeded attendance at Crossroads Village over last year. We had a great turnout by UAW Region 1-C; Wolverine Campground staff did an outstanding job this year; the Mounds ORV Park was very busy and we expect to exceed revenue projection there as well as at the boat launches. With 32% less maintenance staff they still did a phenomenal job keeping the parks in great condition. Park Rangers did an outstanding job keeping visitors and staff out of trouble. We are delighted to close 2009 summer season and are looking forward to the upcoming programs.

We have an Antique Attic Sale on September 19th, filming of *Alleged* is scheduled to begin around September 17. The people working on filming this movie will be spending 1 million dollars, actual cash dollars in our community. We are excited to showcase Genesee County, not only to the film industry, but also to the individuals taking part in that project. We hope to convince them that the property values and natural beauty of the area are a worthwhile investment and that they will come back on several occasions.

Yesterday we continued to make stronger connections to the business community and expand our partnership with the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce. We hosted lunch at Crossroads for about 102 Chamber members who were delighted with their experience at the Village. Some were visitors in the past but did not have a sense of what the Village currently offers. We may pick up some additional sponsorships from that event as well.

Ms. McMillan presented the parks commission budget to the Board of Commissioners yesterday. Joe Krapohl attended, as did Brian Barkey. Mr. Wright was there as well. She thinks the BOC appreciates that we are in similar difficult financial circumstances as every other county department, and they also appreciate the efforts of the parks commission to pick up the cost the BOC has asked us to take on. There are additional budget discussions at the BOC level that need to be held before the county adopts the entire budget at the end of September. Ms. McMillan will be attending those budget meetings.

(6) OTHER BUSINESS

There is no other business.

(7) **OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Henry asked how many closings we had at Clover Beach. Ms. McMillan said about 2 ½ weeks. We were able to open Wednesday before Labor Day. It started with the big rain and it is suspected that Starr Farm could be a factor.

Has there been any further discussion about repairs on the pavilion roofs? Ms. McMillan said that in the event we have a positive response to our request from the C.S. Mott Foundation for funding, we will replace the roof, if we do not, or we do not receive the full amount we have requested we could make repairs. We don't want to spend \$3,000 to patch it now, and then come back and replace the entire roof.

There has been discussion about the accommodations tax with the Board of Commissioners and it is suggested that the parks commission have a presence in those meetings. There are talks about the educational facilities collecting the tax during the summer months when there are groups, outside of students, using their dorms. Ms. McMillan said that she would appreciate being kept apprised of the meetings and she will attend. Commissioner Henry said he would let her know when the meetings are scheduled, as he believes the parks commission should be represented.

Beulah Hanson's family donated the Calkins Barn at Crossroads Village. She is celebrating her 90th birthday and Commissioner Henry asked if the parks commission could acknowledge her; perhaps send her a card. She's a great lady and it would mean a lot to her.

Commissioner Wright said there have been so many people in the parks, more than he has seen in the past 8 years that he has been walking in the parks. It's good to see the parks being used so much. He also said Amy did an excellent job presenting the budget.

(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 10:24 a.m.