
GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The semi-monthly meeting of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, January 22, 2009 in the Harris Auditorium of the Genesee County Administration Building, 1101 Beach St., Flint, 48502

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Archie Bailey

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Madore, Richfield Twp. Supervisor;

(1) CALL TO ORDER

President Krapohl called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. President Krapohl welcomed our newly appointed commissioners, Patrick Gleason (present) and Archie Bailey (not present).

(2) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

President Krapohl asked if any members of the public wished to speak to the commission. Each person is allowed 3 minutes. No members of the public addressed the commission.

(3) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion: There are no items to be removed for further discussion from the consent agenda.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Lucas

Supported by Commissioner Keeler

Motion and support for approval of consent agenda items.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Bradshaw, Gleason, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Lucas, Ranger, Washington, Wright

Nays: None

Absent: Archie Bailey

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0

(5) REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL

There is no legal report.

(6) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. 2009 Meeting Schedule

Discussion: In the informational packet you will find the remainder of the year's park commission meeting schedule. The only date that is not included is the retreat date. We will be poling the board members to find a mutually agreed upon date, hopefully the first part of February. The meeting will be about 4 hours or so. The retreat will focus on bringing the newest members up to speed on current issues, our financial condition and future financial conditions. We will have the meeting at the Parks administrative office conference room to save money. The staff and commission will facilitate the meeting rather than bringing in a facilitator.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Washington

Supported by Commissioner Wright

Motion and support for approval of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation 2009 Parks Commission Meeting Schedule.

Vote by acclamation:
All Ayes
Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Five-Year Plan Update

In a word, progress has been slow. We have had a lot of pressing business on our plates during the course of the last few weeks. If we intend to apply for grants to the DNR in April of 2009, the plan must be updated and approved by both the parks commission and the board of commissioners by March 1st. We can easily meet that date however; Ms. McMillan doesn't expect to have sufficient funds to apply for grants that require matching funds this year so we can be a little bit flexible about that. We can bring it to the parks commission as an action date at the retreat and then submit the plan to the board of commissioners and then on to the DNR. We are in the process of reviewing some changes the DNR has proposed to the scoring process for trust fund grants; these could be of great benefit to the Parks. Ms. McMillan will keep you up to date on those changes.

This five-year plan will be more inclusive and will incorporate master plans for the Mounds and master plans for the trails that have been adopted by the Planning commission, as well as recommendations from the parks user survey taken a couple years ago. Because this will make the plan quite sizeable, so part of the plan, such as addendums will be burned onto discs. Our goal is to be very comprehensive so everything is included if funding sources become available. It will also allow some flexibility to partner with other groups and associations for particular types of projects.

C. Staff Meeting

If you were able to read your copy of the Park Pulse you know that yesterday, January 21, we held a staff meeting. The meeting was very well attended by full time staff and a considerable amount of seasonal staff for the purpose of developing some cost-saving ideas for our daily operations. Our focus is on "\$10 ideas" because a bunch of ten dollar ideas add up to a lot of money saved. It's easier to identify small things than to come up with the million dollar idea. *Every* staff member, normally quiet staff members, and even our intern, who has only been with us a few weeks, provided some great ideas for saving money. At our next parks commission meeting we'll have a list of those ideas. Most will not require any policy changes. We are assigning staff members to do some research and costing out some of the savings associated with the ideas. Ms. McMillan wanted to go on record as saying that our staff people are participating very fully and very seriously in this process and she wants to thank them for that. If you (the parks commissioners) run into anybody while you are out, pat them on the back because each and every one is participating in a meaningful way and we really appreciate it.

Commissioner Washington said that he just wanted to comment that receiving the Park Pulse via email rather than mail is real nice; "we can read it at our leisure".

Commissioner Gleason complimented Ms. McMillan on the staff meeting. He thinks there is no better way to save money than reach back and speak to the rank and file for creative ways to save money. What a great concept, nice job. Ms. McMillan accepted the compliment and said that we have a great group and she is the luckiest director in the State!

(7) OTHER BUSINESS

President Krapohl said that the last retreat was on a Friday morning. In the past it's been either a Friday or Saturday and we try to do it first thing in the morning so we are out of the meeting by noon or 1pm.

President Krapohl stated that because the county has had such a large turnover of local elected officials, perhaps we could hold an open house at the parks' office to show off who we are, what we do, what we are capable of, and what we have in the county to offer. He asked for some feedback from the commissioners and asked if they thought it was a beneficial idea.

The Commissioners were in general agreement that it was a good idea, however Commissioner Henry suggested it be held sometime in April or May since many of the newly elected officials are overwhelmed right now. Ms. McMillan said that time frame would work well.

President Krapohl made one committee assignment: Patrick Gleason to our budget sub-committee. We'll be holding a budget sub-committee meeting within the next couple months.

The Fair Board sub-committee remains the same. Ms. McMillan stated that she has been in email contact with Christian Miller regarding meeting with him in the near future, probably in February. Commissioner Wright said that the majority of the board members on the Fair Board are excited about the cooperative efforts that can be shared between the parks commission and the fair board and there is a good attitude among the members.

President Krapohl further stated that there is really no need to assign anyone to the wildlife management sub-committee at this time. Right now the staff is handling the processing of information and there is really nothing for the committee to do so a member will be assigned at a later date. The committee members will be present for the public meetings. If it looks like there is something that the staff needs to bring back and propose to the committee he will appoint the vacant seat. The wildlife committee is currently comprised of Henry, Wright, Ranger and Krapohl.

(8) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Keeler asked how long the parking passes are valid. Commissioner Henry said he thought the might be ready. Ms. McMillan also added that parking tickets could be validated in the Board office by Betty until you receive your 2009 pass.

(9) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

No one from the public addressed the commission.

(10) ADJOURNMENT

With no objections made, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.