

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The semi-monthly meeting of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, May 22, 2008, in the Conference Room of the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Administration Building, 5045 Stanley Rd., Flint, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Krapohl, President
Mike Keeler, Citizen Representative
Rose Bogardus, Commissioner
William Lucas, Secretary
Jeff Wright, Ex-Officio
Bob Ranger, Ex-Officio
Ted Henry, Commissioner
Dave Miller, Ex-Officio
Raynetta Speed, Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Washington, Vice President

STAFF PRESENT: Amy M. McMillan, Director
Ron Walker, Deputy Director
Deborah Wilkes, Secretary
Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer
Nancy Edwards, Recreation Program Specialist
Hilda McShane, Marketing Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Barkey, Commission Legal Counsel
Don Dale, Veteran's group representative
Brian Brandt, AYSO representative

(1) CALL TO ORDER

President Krapohl called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

(2) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

No members of the public wished to address the Commission.

(3) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Motion to approve the items on the consent agenda.

Action Taken: Motion by Commissioner Lucas
Supported by Commissioner Wright

Roll Call: Yeas: Bogardus, Speed, Krapohl, Keeler, Miller, Lucas, Henry, Wright
Nays: None

Absent: Washington. Commissioner Ranger arrived at meeting after the roll call.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0

(4) REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. Barkey reported about the Richfield Landfill's Corrective Action Plan. The original deadline was May 15 or 16 but as a result of the input received at the public meeting and the written comments that were submitted, the deadline has been extended to May 28. The DEQ is currently working on a response to the written comments received from the

Parks Commission and Lake Association.

Commissioner Bogardus asked: if we are not happy with their (DEQ) response, is there any type of appeal process. Mr. Barkey said: not before their decision is made. It's possible to challenge a decision but it is not administrative, it would be through the courts.

Commissioner Wright stated that this particular approval (submitted to the DEQ) would be for the CAP. If it is approved, the landfill owners must submit the actual RAP as part of their request for the additional cell. Mr. Barkey clarified that the process to build the additional cell requires the owners to request a permit. That permit to construct a new cell does not include any remediation done on the current cell. The DEQ is only considering the CAP at this time and they will not consider the permit until this CAP is approved.

Commissioner Wright said that he understands that the most critical thing for this body, and any other interested bodies, is the consent agreement that the State is working on. The consent agreement will tell us how serious the State is about enforcing what the landfill people have proposed that they will do. Without a consent agreement that has some teeth to it, then it is no different than the last time they issued a permit to construct. His question is: How do we get access to see what that consent agreement says? Do we work through our legislators? Use a FOIA? Set up another meeting with the DEQ?

Ms. McMillan stated that the DEQ will not provide us with a copy of the consent agreement until the document is signed. Access to anything in "draft" form at this time is not available because it is not a public document yet.

President Krapohl asked if there was anything in the permit process for the new cell that we should be concerned about to ensure that we don't have this same problem 30 years from now, or are the current guidelines strict enough that it should ease our concerns. The experiences he has seen around his own Forest Township area does not leave him very comfortable. Residents were assured that chemicals would not migrate and now chemicals are migrating to local waters.

Mr. Barkey said that the permit process is similar to the previous permits that were issued for Cell #1, which is documented as leaking now, and Cell #2, which they (DEQ) are concerned about. Whether or not the technology and safeguards they have in place now are sufficient to block leaking from Cell #3 for all time, we just don't know. Technology is an evolving thing and the more they learn from their bad experiences here, and elsewhere, the more they apply to the technology they use to approve this project.

Ms. McMillan said the current issue and concerns are that the cells that are currently leaking will continue to leak and will not be properly addressed. The best we have to work with is that the best technology is available. The problem is that once the CAP is approved and the permit is issued for the new cell, there is no incentive to continue to do anything more with the leaking cells. Mr. Wright said that is why the consent order is so important. The consent order needs to say that the State has the ability to shut the landfill down if they do not comply with what they have committed to do in the CAP. If that is not in there, we are in no better position than when the State issued permits for the last expansion and there would be no guarantees that the work would be done. He further stated that our first goal is to make sure the existing problem has a fix. When it comes to Cell #3, the DEQ sets certain minimum standards and specifications for any new cells, in any county, that they will approve and neither we, nor anybody else will get them to change those standards.

(5) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Genesee Veteran's Memorial Project. You may remember that a local group of volunteers have expressed a desire to develop a memorial on the site directly across the street from our administrative offices.

They have secured the services of a professional design company, Wilcox Engineering, whom we (the Parks) have also worked with successfully in the past, to put together a site plan of the proposed project so they can move forward with their fundraising goals. Staff has reviewed the plan and worked extensively with the volunteer group and we recommend that the board approve the plan as well.

Commissioner Wright said he thought it was a great use of the property. Commissioner Henry also added that he is active in the one being built in Swartz Creek and he was amazed at the number of people who became involved and drawn in as the project got started.

Motion of support to accept staff recommendation for the site plan of the Genesee Veteran's Memorial located on Genesee Road.

Action Taken: Motion by Commissioner Wright
Supported by Commissioner Lucas

Yeas: All Ayes
Nays: None
Absent: Washington

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

- B. **Day Out with Thomas Ticket Update.** As of today's date: 4,723 tickets have been sold and several trains are nearly sold out. The rate of sales is a little slower compared to last year, but we expect that the event will be sold out. We will keep you up to date.
- C. **Huckleberry Radio Hour.** We have only 17 tickets left for the Huckleberry Radio Hour on Saturday at 7pm inside the Colwell Opera House. We have done some radio promotions and she (Amy) will promote the event on Channel 12 later today and people are really captivated by the idea. President Krapohl said he saw Michael J. Thorp, who will be hosting the event and Michael is very excited about it.
- D. **AYSO Requests for Changes at the Deer Run Soccer Complex.** Administratively the staff have approved several items they have requested such as speed limit signs, no parking signs, improvements to the gravel entrance road, chipping and brushing, remove some fencing, painting the trim on concession and restroom building, and offered the services of our horticulturist staff, at no charge, to assist and advise them on developing a landscaping plan to bring back to the commission for approval later. Each of these items has also been approved by the Fenton Township Board as required. As you may remember the Parks Commission owns the property and it is licensed to Fenton Charter Township, who in turn, sub-licenses the property to AYSO Region 417. Any changes proposed on-site must first be approved by Fenton Charter Township and Fenton Charter Township requests the Parks Commission approve or reject what they have approved. The remaining items on the list are an action item for the Park Board to consider: A request to paint an emblem and hang it on the building; install different fencing (in place of the aforementioned fencing they wish to remove) but in a different configuration.

Commissioner Bogardus was concerned about trees. Ms. McMillan stated that we would be overseeing any removal of invasive trees in ditches, etc. Park staff will identify which trees will stay and which will be removed.

Commissioner Keeler asked about the fencing and price quotes. Ms. McMillan clarified that split rail would be used near the parking area and the green chain link is on the fields. She also clarified that with regard to fencing quotes that it is the AYSO's money

and they can spend it as they wish.

Commissioner Henry asked if the field is only used by the soccer group. Ms. McMillan clarified that it is a public park regardless of the licensing to Fenton Township and the AYSO group. The park is open to the public for use outside of the regularly programmed soccer program. So if someone wished to use it while there were no other soccer programs scheduled they certainly could do so. Commissioner Henry asked if there were any other organizations involved. Is there an agreement that states that they must return the property to its previous state when they no longer use it? Ms McMillan said that the licensing agreements are very specific about physical changes made on site and the process involved. Commissioner Henry was concerned about the emblem on the building and that the organization bears the expense of removing the signage in the event they vacate the premises.

Commissioner Ranger asked about the size of the emblem. Mr. Brandt answered that the sign would be about 6 ft x 4 ft, painted on a piece of wood and then adhered to the building; it will not be painted on the building. Commissioner Ranger said he did not have a problem with it as long as it was easily removed.

Commissioner Speed asked for the wording on the sign. Mr. Brandt clarified the name of the organization and the logo. She also asked Ms. McMillan how long this relationship has been in effect with the township and soccer organization. Ms. McMillan conveyed that it was since approximately the late 1980s.

Commissioner Bogardus asked if this situation is comparable to the Genesee County Fair Board's use of the Cummings Center. Ms McMillan stated that unlike the Cummings Center where we maintain and schedule events, the scheduling of programs and burden of maintenance of the actual field areas are in the hands of the soccer organization. The areas that are surrounding are under ours. Access to the fields is gated and we regulate the hours by our staff at the same time as the rest of the parks.

Commissioner Henry would like to see the parks get more involved in organized athletic programs. It's a great thing and the people behind the programs do good work. He would like to see the fencing and signage issues separated at this time. He would like to allow time for any commission members who wish to go out and look at the fields and determine where and how the fencing materials will be used.

Motion to allow signage to be adhered to the building structure at Deer Run Soccer Complex, with a maintenance program so the sign does not become unsightly, and when the signage is removed, the building put back to its original state. Design shall be subject to staff approval.

Action Taken: Motion by Commissioner Henry
Supported by Commissioner Miller

Yeas: All Ayes

Nays: None

Absent: Washington, Commissioner Wright left the meeting early.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0

Motion to postpone the proposed fencing at Deer Run Soccer Complex until the next meeting.

Action Taken: Motion by Commissioner Henry
Supported by Commissioner Miller

Yeas: All Ayes

Nays: None

Absent: Washington, Wright

MOTION CARRIED 8-0

(6) OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. McMillan stated that she will be on Channel 12 News at Noon today talking about the great programs we have coming up this weekend.

(7) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Commissioners Bogardus was at the Senior Power Day on May 21 and there were approximately 1300 people, the weather could have been more cooperative, but everyone seemed to be enjoying it. Congratulations to the Parks on their cooperation with Valley Area (Agency on Aging) on that program.

Commissioner Henry asked if the Parks were experiencing any problems with tire dumping. Ms. McMillan said she would remind the Rangers to watch for this problem. She said it seems to be a cyclical thing when it comes to dumping. A bigger problem at this time is that more people seem to be removing metal items for recycling. Our park rangers have been very successful in tracking down the parties responsible for this activity and the prosecutor's office has been cooperative in prosecuting the crimes. Our park rangers have done a great job in law enforcement in the last couple years. Commissioner Henry also thanked the gentleman from the AYSO organization for driving out to our meeting today.

Commissioner Miller said that not only tires, but phone books, and batteries are being dumped and the road commission has been picking them up.

President Krapohl reminded everyone that the Free Fishing Day is coming up at Bluegill Boat Launch and Nancy is still looking for worm counters! It is a good time for kids.

(8) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Mr. Don Dale reminded the group that the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Traveling Wall is coming to Bluebell Beach in June and there will be a noisy arrival with the Wall being escorted by approximately 1,000 motorcyclists. It will arrive on the 17th and it is coming from Chicago. There will be opening ceremonies on the 19th and closing ceremonies on June 22nd and he would appreciate the Parks Board taking the time to come out and support the project. He has posters available if anyone would like to advertise the event at their offices, or local township halls or organizations. Commissioner Henry asked what route would be taken by the escort. Ms McMillan said that she would get the complete details and keep in touch with the necessary groups to pin down the time so if anyone would like to see the arrival she will have the information available. Commissioner Ranger and Henry wanted to be notified of the arrival time of the Memorial Wall. Mr. Dale also said he is the chairman of the group that is building the Veteran's Memorial on Genesee Road.

Brian Brandt thanked the Board for all of their considerations and his group looks forward to everything being done correctly in the future as they move forward.

(9) ADJOURNMENT

With no objections made, President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.