



MINUTES

CALHOUN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, June 2, 2016
315 W. Green St., 1-400, Marshall, MI 49068

1. Vice Chair Chapman called the meeting to order at 4:03.
2. Roll Call – Michigan State University Extension Support Staff, Pat Dadow

Present: Annette Chapman (left at 4:10), Bill Comai, Jesse Jacox, Lindsey Johnson, Derek King, Christine Kosmowski, Allyn Miller, John Rodwan, Ron Sootsman, Blaine VanSickle

Also Present: Community Development Educator Ingrid Ault, County Administrator Kelli Scott, Geographic Information Systems Coordinator Brent Thelen, MSU Extension Support Staff Pat Dadow

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Member Miller, second by Member Chapman to approve the June 2, 2016 agenda of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission as presented by Ault.

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Member Jacox, second by Member VanSickle to approve the May 5, 2016 minutes of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission as presented by Sootsman.

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**.

5. Public Comment

There was none.

6. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Ott Biological Preserve Workgroup

Member Comai reported the Ott Biological Preserve workgroup have almost finished the Management and Maintenance Plan, with a goal to be completed at the end of June. Community Development Educator Ault stated the workgroup has put together a public outreach list and will be sharing the draft at a public meeting and will submit the Plan for final approval after public input is completed.

b. Trailway Workgroup

Member Sootsman reported the Trailway Workgroup had not met.

c. Finance Subcommittee

Community Development Educator Ault stated the Finance Subcommittee had not met but will begin meeting soon.

d. Interactive Map – Staff report

Community Development Educator Ault stated staff is moving forward on the Interactive map and will have more information next month.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Any other unfinished business

There was none.

8. New Business

a. Event Applications

Community Development Educator Ault indicated that three events were submitted without paying a user fee for use of the Parks or Trailway. Ault asked the Commissioners what their viewpoint was on charging an event fee. The Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the Event Application and the fee for use of the Parks or Trailway.

Moved by Member Comai and second by Member Jacox that the Parks and Recreation Commission to waive an event fee for non-profit groups or government agencies and add to the Historic Bridge Park pavilion rental permit form a section stating not to leave tacks, staples, tape, etc. on or around the pavilion.

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**.

i. Battle Creek Clean Water Partners

Moved by Member Jacox and second by Member VanSickle that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the event application of the Battle Creek Clean Water Partners.

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**.

ii. Calhoun County Trailway Alliance

Moved by Member Miller and second by Member Comai that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the event application of the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance.

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**.

iii. Kalamazoo Area Runners

Community Development Educator Ault pointed out that this event has already occurred. She stated that she has been in contact through email with the event coordinator and that in the future she would like them to fill out an event application. Ault mentioned in her email that she was happy the Kalamazoo Area Runners are using and promoting the Calhoun County Parks and Trailway.

Moved by Member Jacox and second by Member VanSickle that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the event application of the Kalamazoo Area Runners.

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**

b. Address Point Application (Calhoun County Trailway Alliance)

Community Development Educator Ault reported the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance requested addresses for the parking lots at the Trailhead at Raymond Rd. and Emmett St., the Jameson Rd, parking lot for the Ott, and the Arlington Rd. parking lot for the Ott to better help people find access points for the Trailway. Ault stated that she completed the necessary paperwork to request these points and submitted it to the Road Department and she expects it will take about two weeks to assign the address points.

c. Any other new business

There was none.

9. Community Development Educator Report

Community Development Educator Ault introduced Calhoun County Administrator Kelli Scott who discussed the meeting they had with Enbridge Facilitators.

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott updated the commission on a recent meeting she and Community Development Educator Ault attended at the request of Enbridge officials to discuss the status of ongoing maintenance concerns at Historic Bridge Park.

County administration will follow up with specific issues including enhancing security and ways to prevent and respond to graffiti and thefts. Enbridge stresses the importance of the county complying with the park maintenance guide and developing a park management plan.

Kelli also expressed disappointment that the county's reimbursement from the Bridge Park endowment does not cover most of the expenses we are incurring. She said there will be future updates as these discussions continue.

Community Development Educator Ault then presented a PowerPoint presentation as part of her update that highlighted the many activities happening in our parks which included:

- Three more beavers were removed (one was 60#) making a total of 9 beavers being removed from Kimball Pines this year,
- We need to have a plan to maintain the restroom and disc golf course area in Kimball Pines,
- ITC Transmission finished grading the Trailway and lined trees along service drive to create the buffer between the service drive and the Trailway,
- The Trailway is ready for prairie grass planting,
- There has been a flurry of excitement and volunteers are coming forward,
- Share costs with Medical Care Facility to remove trees near power lines,
- Parts of the EZ dock were stolen,
- The sidewalk metal plates were recovered from the river,
- Thanks to Park Commissioners for working on playground equipment and removing fallen trees,
- A Facebook post regarding the stolen bench went viral garnering over 54,000 views resulting in a donation of a similar bench by the Battle Creek Public Schools,
- Boles Tree Service replaced fallen rocks on the Trailway,
- New Bollards for the Trailway are on order.

10. Commissioner's Time

Member Comai has been contacted by Vern Messler about the maintenance of bridges and about setting up funding for this and getting a volunteer base going. Mr. Messler would like to do lectures on bridges for the public that could bring in some money. He also has another bridge that he feels would be an asset to Historic Bridge Park.

Member Sootsman stated that there was not enough wood to rebuild a pavilion in Kimball Pines.

Member Jacox commented on how busy the river was over Memorial Day weekend. Jacox stated as much as the public uses the parks that he feels that the people of the community would help fund the parks.

11. Public Comment

It was mentioned that the Railroad crossing detour was bad timing for a Memorial Day weekend. Member Jacox suggested the Board of Commissioners take a river trip sometime this summer.

12. Adjournment

The June 2, 2016 regular session of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission adjourned at 5:17 pm.