

BARRY COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
October 26, 2023; 5:30pm; Tyden Center Community Room, 121 S. Church St., Hastings, MI 49058

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM by Chair Daryl Cheeseman.

1. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Voting Members Present (Roll Call): Cheeseman, Fiala, Getty, Jensen, Klein, Lyke, Moore and Nelson.

Absent: Liz Hutton, John LaForge

Others: Jerrie Fiala, Juli Sala

Staff: Dan Patton, Director

3. Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Fiala, seconded by Nelson, to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: all present. Nays: None. Absent: Hutton, LaForge

Motion carried 8-0.

4. Limited Public Comment:

No public comment was made.

5. Consent Items (voted upon at one time by roll call vote)

A motion was made by Getty, seconded by Fiala, to approve consent items 5a (September 28, 2023, meeting minutes), and 5b (October 2, 2023, expense report and October 23 and 25, 2023, revenue report).

Roll call vote: Ayes: Cheeseman, Fiala, Getty, Jensen, Klein, Lyke, Moore and Nelson.

Nays: none

Absent: Hutton, LaForge.

Motion passes 8-0

6. Items for Consideration:

There were no items for consideration.

7. Old Business:

There was no old business to consider.

8. New Business:

a. ARPA Paul Henry Thornapple Trail Development

Director Patton described the first draft of an engineering and design document from Williams & Works for improvements to the Paul Henry Thornapple Trail. The document describes three trail sections in detail and will be used to bid the work out. The document covered sections of the trail from 108th Steet to Stimson Road, a segment behind Thornapple Manor and extending east to the property line, and a segment from the Washington property east to the Eaton County line through the Village of Nashville. Patton reminded everyone that we will probably not have funding to complete all three sections of the trail using ARPA funds, but at least the design and engineering will be done. Fences may be needed in some areas where the trail runs alongside parking lots or crosses an existing railroad bridge. Road crossings at Sherman Street and Reed Street in Nashville still need to be finalized. There are sheds encroaching on the county right-of-way in Nashville that will have to be dealt with by Village of Nashville officials.

Chair Cheeseman asked whether a long-range cost study of future maintenance costs of the trail with various surface options has been considered. Patton reminded the commissioners that funds are already being expended on the trail for mowing and tree removal. This comes from the 250 fund for trail maintenance.

Nelson asked if native plantings could be used wherever bare soil will be left during trail clearing and paving. Moore suggested that it would be nice to be able to plow snow from the trail in winter, especially near schools and in Nashville.

Williams and Works is working on a second draft of their document.

9. Director's report:

- Winterization of Charlton Park assets has begun.
- All Hallows Eve will be on October 28th.
- The Metcalf Lake project is moving ahead slowly. Dan met with EGLE there recently as the old cabin site will have an environmental assessment. This is not being paid for by Barry County.
- A contractor to install the dry hydrant at Charlton Park has been found.
- OCBA will be at the November Executive Committee meeting November 14th to discuss the Charlton Park Master Plan. A landscape architect will head up this project.
- The Southern Michigan Street Rod Association has decided to no longer support the Father's Day Car Show at Charlton Park. Director Patton is exploring other options for this event.

10. Committee Reports:

- A. Executive (Cheeseman): The Executive Committee met on October 10th. The Paul Henry Thornapple Trail was discussed.
- B. Trails (Jensen): A meeting was held October 20th, and new signs are to be installed along the Charlton Park trails on Saturday, November 4th, from 9 AM to noon.
- C. Marketing Committee (Lyke): Work is underway on a draft for potential partnerships.

11. Park Commissioner Time:

Cheeseman traveled to Carsonville, MI, on October 7th. As a result, the annual International Harvester Collector's Show will be held at Charlton Park on July 11 and 12, 2025. This is a big show that could draw people from all over Michigan and surrounding states and the province of Ontario.

Getty mentioned that the Thornapple Township board, which meets on November 13th will hopefully adopt a resolution to support the trail plan.

Announcements: The next BCPRC meeting will be November 16, 2023, at Tyden Center, beginning at 5:30 PM.

12. A motion to adjourn was made by Getty, seconded by Klein; all ayes.

Motion carried 8-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Doug Klein, BCPRC Secretary

Douglas C Klein