

BARRY COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
November 16, 2023; 5:30pm; Tyden Center Community Room, 121 S. Church St., Hastings, MI 49058

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chair Daryl Cheeseman.

1. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Voting Members Present (Roll Call): Cheeseman, Fiala, Getty (arrived 5:32), Jensen, Klein, LaForge, Lyke, Moore.

Absent: Hutton, Nelson

Others: Jerrie Fiala

Staff: Dan Patton, Director

3. Approval of Agenda:

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

Ayes: all present. Nays: None. Absent: Getty, Hutton, and Nelson

Motion carried 7-0.

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 LaForge, seconded by Fiala, to approve consent items 5a (October 26, 2023, meeting minutes), and 5b (November 1, 2023, expense report and November 9, 2023, revenue report).

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

Nays: none

Absent: Getty, Hutton, and Nelson.

Motion passes 7-0

6. Items for Consideration:

a. Approval of 2023 budget amendment. Director Patton went over the details of an amendment to the original Charlton Park budget. A motion was made by Fiala, seconded by LaForge, to approve the budget amendment as presented.

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

Nays: none

Absent: Hutton, and Nelson.

Motion passes 8-0.

7. Old Business:

ARPA Paul Henry Trail Update. Director Patton briefly went over what has transpired since our last meeting with the trail improvement. Soil boring data were received on the day of this meeting. Lyke suggested that we get bids for all three sections of the trail, even if we feel we may not be able to afford construction at this time. This is in case future grants become available and an application is required on short notice. Patton said that we will complete the design and engineering work on all three sections. Williams & Works has been slow to provide us with this.

8. New Business:

There was no new business.

9. Director's report:

- Most of the winterization of Charlton Park has been completed.
- All Hallows Eve was held on October 28th. Between 1,500 and 2,000 children attended with their parents.
- Of Christmas Past will be held December 9 & 10.
- School groups continue to utilize the park.
- A sewer line in the Museum at Charlton Park failed recently and had to be replaced.
- The Metcalf Lake project is moving ahead slowly. Dan marked out where the old cabin site must be excavated for debris removal.
- OCBA was at the November 14 Executive Committee meeting to discuss the Charlton Park Master Plan. A landscape architect will head up this project.
- Ron Welton has been busy cleaning up dead ash trees at multiple locations.
- New Charlton Park trail signs and confidence markers were installed recently. A press release has been prepared describing the park's trail system.
- A new full-time maintenance employee will be sought in January, 2024. Getty suggested using the Indeed app.

10. Committee Reports:

- A. Executive (Cheeseman): The Executive Committee met on November 14th. OCBA and the park master plan was discussed, along with the budget amendment.
- B. Trails (Jensen): A workday was held November 4th, and new signs were installed along the Charlton Park trails. A press release was written by Jensen.
- C. Marketing Committee (Lyke): Work is underway on a draft for potential partnerships.

11. Park Commissioner Time:

Moore moved a large rock to the Devine Road East trail access gate to block unauthorized use by all-terrain vehicles.

Cheeseman mentioned that our next meeting will be on December 14th.

Getty mentioned that the Thornapple Township board, which met on November 13th adopted a resolution to support the trail plan.

Announcements: The next BCPRC meeting will be December 14, 2023, at Tyden Center, beginning at 5:30 PM.

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

Motion carried 8-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Doug Klein, BCPRC Secretary

Douglas C Klein