



MINUTES

CALHOUN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, August 06, 2015
315 W. Green St., 1-400, Marshall, MI 49068

1. Chair King called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.
2. Roll Call – Michigan State University Extension Support Staff, Pat Dadow

Present: Annette Chapman, Bill Comai, Derek King, Christine Kosmowski (left at 4:45), Allyn Miller, Ron Sootsman, Blaine VanSickle

Absent: Chad Curtis, Jesse Jacox, John Rodwan

Also Present: Calhoun County Community Development Educator Ingrid Ault, County Administrator Kelli Scott, Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox, Corporation Counsel Richard Lindsey, MSU Extension Support Staff Pat Dadow

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Member Miller, second by Member Chapman to amend and approve the August 6, 2015 agenda of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission amended to add item 8c, Enbridge Grant under new business.

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

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Member VanSickle, second by Member Kosmowski to approve the July 14, 2015 minutes of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission as presented.

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

5. Public Comment

Jim Coury mentioned Canoe the K-zoo on Saturday August 8, starting at Saylor's Landing and ending at Historic Bridge Park should be lots of fun. Member Kosmowski stated this event was full and she was thrilled to have 150 people signed up.

6. Subcommittee Reports

a. Ott Biological Preserve Workgroup

Member Comai stated the workgroup had not met since the last meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

b. Trailway Workgroup

Member Sootsman stated the workgroup had not met since the last meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

c. Rules and Regulations Subcommittee

Community Development Educator Ault to discuss under unfinished business.

7. Unfinished Business

a. ITC Transmission

Community Development Educator Ault noted the items she discussed with ITC Transmission Representative, Luba Sitar. These will be addressed further at the October Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

1. Invasive plant species control
2. Plant prairie seed mix
3. Downed tree logs lined up to control motorized vehicles will be staked so they cannot roll

b. Fence Replacement

Community Development Educator Ault presented the cost of demolishing the old 3 rail split fence and replacing with a new 2 rail split fence at the two entrances to the Ott Biological Preserve. She recommended using the balance of the money left from the sale of surplus lumber from the Trailway for the Arlington Road entrance installation.

Member Chapman asked Ault about getting a priority list on repairs that needed to be done on the Trailway. Ault stated that the Trailway workgroup is working on this.

8. New Business

a. Medical Facility Golf Carts on Trailway

Community Development Educator Ault addressed the issue of the Calhoun County Medical Care Facility driving their golf carts in Kimball Pines on the Trailway. Member VanSickle stated that he hated to take this enjoyment away from the members of the Facility. Member King suggested putting a County logo seal on the golf carts from the Medical Care Facility to differentiate them from others. Member Sootsman purposed putting in a turn-a-round spot for them to use. It was a consensus of the Parks and Recreation Board of Commissioners to allow the Calhoun County Medical Care Facility to use the Trailway with the stipulation that the Parks Department and the Medical Care Facility agree to the terms of use.

b. Park Procedural Changes

Community Development Educator Ault reported the Rules and Regulations Committee discussed two issues at their last meeting.

1. Closing the gates for Historic Bridge Park and Kimball Pines after park hours to curb the vandalism and reopening in the morning.
2. Placing signage at the pavilion in Historic Bridge Park regarding the rental procedure for it.

The Board discussed closing the Parks and the possibility of locking people in. It was suggested to take the question to the Emmett Township Officials with a possible public hearing.

c. Enbridge Grant

Community Development Educator Ault stated there is money available through an Enbridge Grant that could be used for park improvements. She mentioned a couple ideas and others added to the conversation. She was instructed to write a grant to include a request for the following items:

1. Add a new pavilion in Kimball Pines Park.
2. Playground equipment at Historic Bridge Park.
3. Split rail fence at Jameson Rd. entrance to Kimball Pines.
4. Restoration of Kimball Pines with planting prairie grasses.

Member Comai suggested hiring a Park Ranger. It was determined by the Board this was not pertinent at this time.

9. Community Development Educator Report

Community Development Educator Ault stated she will be receiving a budget report on August 13 with a due date approximately a month later. She will be organizing with the Budget Committee to set dates to complete this work.

She noted some updates regarding happenings at Historic Bridge Park. Enbridge Energy is completing the second phase of the invasive species remediation to the area. She added the playground tunnel has been reinstalled and one of the spring coil toys was broken again.

She also presented the "Picture This, Focus on the Parks" a National Park Service Grant to introduce youth to area parks and learn about nature and photography. The event brought volunteers and youth from the YMCA to the Ott Biological Preserve on August 3 and the Boys and Girls Club to Kimball Pines on August 5th. Ault mentioned The Battle Creek Community Foundation will be hosting a Gallery Opening of the pictures that the youth took, one on September 3 for the youth and their families and another September 4th for the general public. She noted this was a fun event and made many new friends.

Member Chapman suggested having a presentation of the pictures in the County building and Member Comai suggested the Hospital.

10. Commissioners' Time

There was none.

11. Public Comment

County Administrator Kelli Scott stated she would like to work with the Parks and Recreation Commission on the sign for the Pavilion rental. She suggested keeping the Parks open at night but felt the issue needs more research.

Jim Coury congratulated Ingrid Ault on the "Picture This" program, he stated she did a great job and that the North County Trail Chief Noonday Chapter are a wonderful group. He mentioned contacting the Americorps program to fund a Park Ranger. Partners for Wildlife program could help fund planting prairie grass in Kimball Pines Park.

Member King asked about the absence of Chad Curtis and will call him.

12. Adjournment

The August 6, 2015 regular session of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission adjourned at 5:17 pm.