



MINUTES

CALHOUN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

1. Chair King called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Blaine VanSickle, Derek King, Annette Chapman, Allyn Miller, John Rodwan, Ron Sootsman

Absent: Chris Kosmowski, Bill Comai, Chad Curtis, Jesse Jacox

Also Present: Calhoun County Community Development Educator Ingrid Ault, Deputy Clerk Chris McComb, GIS Coordinator Brent Thelen, Planning Coordinator Jen Bomba

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved Member Miller, second by Member Chapman to approve the July 14, 2015 agenda of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission amended to add item 8e, a letter for DK fence and item 8f, a request to do CERT training in Kimball Pines.

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

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved Member VanSickle, second by Member Miller to approve the May 7, 2015 Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission minutes as presented.

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

5. Public Comment

There was none.

6. Subcommittee Reports

a. Ott Biological Preserve Workgroup

Member Miller stated the workgroup was moving along and doing revisions to portions of the report. He believed they were one or two meetings away from completion.

b. Trailway Workgroup

Member Sootsman stated they were making progress on their documents and were also one or two meetings away from completion.

7. Unfinished Business

a. ITC Michigan tree removal in Kimball Pines

Community Development Educator Ault gave an update on the ITC Transmission tree removal work in Kimball Pines. She provided the answers ITC had given in response to the outstanding questions the Commission was looking for answers to. She stated they needed to develop a plan for removing trees but also to limit vehicle access. She provided Pictometry pictures of the Consumers' service drive with no barrier and many places to access and noted this area was the most problematic for erecting barriers. She pointed out other places where the barriers were not keeping motorized vehicles off the trailway.

Moved Member Chapman, second by Member Miller to direct ITC to start with the most northern point and work their way down, supplementing with tall plants and shrubs.

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

b. Opening Kimball Pines

Community Development Educator Ault stated the grand opening of the trailway was attended and the weather was beautiful. She announced that the Kimball Pines restrooms were open every day and they were working on adding a water fountain. She stated the disc golf community needed to rent some big equipment to move brush so they used crowdfunding to pay for it. She stated when the cleanup was done they would install the disc golf course, hopefully this month.

8. New Business

a. Special Use Permit – request to use metal detector

Community Development Director Ault stated she received a request to have permission to use a metal detector at Bridge Park and Kimball Pines. She stated the requester had proposed there would be no holes bigger than ten inches deep and five inches wide.

Moved Member Chapman, second Member Miller to support the staff recommendation to deny the request.

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

b. First and Second Quarter Budget Review

Community Development Director Ault presented the budget up to June, noting the parks were divided into three accounts and she had no data for trailway expenses at this time.

c. Schedule annual park visit

Community Development Director Ault suggested the Commission begin to plan their annual visit for September and she would send out a meeting request to get it on the calendar.

d. Jesse Jacox Leave of Absence

Community Development Director Ault stated that Member Jesse Jacox requested a leave of absence for personal reasons. She asked that he also be excused for the last two meetings.

Moved Member Chapman, second by Member Miller to approve a leave of absence from the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission from April 1 through December 31, 2015.

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

e. DK Fence

Community Development Director Ault reported the surplus lumber from the Trailway construction had been sold for approximately \$3300 - \$3400. She suggested using the money on the Arlington Road entrance for split rail fence to join the older fence then a gap for the entrance. She suggested using the money to replace the old fence and continue it around. She had a quote from DK Fence for \$3288 for demo and putting up new fence.

The Board held discussion on reviewing if there were any projects that were more of a priority that the money could be used for. It was decided to postpone a decision until next meeting so a priority list can be developed.

f. CERT Training in Kimball Pines

Community Development Director Ault stated she received a request to do a search and rescue CERT training on July 25 at Kimball Pines.

Moved Member Chapman, second by Member VanSickle to allow CERT training in Kimball Pines on July 25, 2015.

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

9. Community Development Educator Report

Community Development Director Ault stated she was moving forward with Picture This, a grant program to get underprivileged kids into the park. She stated they were working with kids from the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club. She explained that a professional photographer will take a photo from each kid, make a brochure with them and put it in the city Parks and Recreation office.

Ault stated Tracy Bronson had an intern who went to Bridge Park and worked up a plan to reinstall the rain gardens. She stated she was looking for funding to create a rain garden and though she hoped to get it done this summer, it may be next year.

Ault stated the tunnel in the children's playground was stolen from Bridge Park but they have put plywood at each end for safety reasons. She stated they were trying to locate a tunnel but the manufacturer is out of business so they can't replace it.

Ault stated the children's playground spring animal, the dinosaur, is broken again. She explained the other two that are left are something that you sit in. She stated they are reevaluating whether to replace it because it was \$100 each time just for the spring she noted that Enbridge won't cover it because it is considered an act of vandalism.

10. Commissioners' Time

Member Chapman stated there was a Wildflower Grant available for the rain garden.

11. Public Comment

James Coury suggested contacting Calhoun County Solid Waste to ask for funding.

12. Adjournment

The July 14, 2015 regular session of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission adjourned at 4:27 p.m.