



# MINUTES

## CALHOUN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 3, 2015

1. Chair King called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Derek King, Annette Chapman, Bill Comai, Allyn Miller, John Rodwan, Ron Sootsman

Absent: Blaine VanSickle, Chris Kosmowski, 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, Corporate Counsel Richard Lindsay, County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott

3. Approval of Agenda

*Moved Member Miller, second by Member Chapman to amend the September 3, 2015 agenda by removing Item 7B and adding Item 8C – River Access in Ceresco.*

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

4. Approval of Minutes

*Moved Member Chapman, second by Member Miller to approve the August 6, 2015 Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission minutes as presented.*

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

5. Public Comment

Vern Mesler stated he sent an email regarding wrought iron.

6. Subcommittee Reports

a. Ott Biological Preserve Workgroup

Community Development Director Ault and Pottawatomie RC&D Director Brian Huggett were working to get final the pieces of the Ott Management Plan together. She stated they were working on the final phase of the planned implementation and though it was not a complete document yet, they were on the last stage. She stated she hoped to have something to present to the Commission in October.

b. Trailway Workgroup

Community Development Director Ault stated the Trailway Workgroup had not met.

c. Finance Committee

Member Sootsman stated the Finance Committee met and were gathering more information. Member Chapman stated Sootsman put together a spreadsheet to identify potential funding sources that was very helpful. Community Development Director Ault stated the budget is due next week.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Community Development Director Ault stated the Enbridge grant application was almost done. She was waiting for the cost on some of the items that need to be replaced then would be submitting it.

8. New Business

a. PARC Attendance Review

Member King stated that due to lack of attendance, he would like to send a recommendation to the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners to remove Chad Curtis from the Board. He stated he and Ingrid had tried several times to contact Curtis with no success.

*Moved Member Miller, second by Member Chapman to recommend the removal of Chad Curtis from the Parks and Recreation Commission to the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners.*

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

b. Parks Tour

Community Development Director Ault stated the Board Parks Tour would be Tuesday, September 29, from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm. She stated it would be similar to last year, ending in Bridge Park with lunch. She stated she would extend the offer to Donna Mahoney of the Medical Care Facility; Chief Olson and Supervisor Tim Hill of Emmett Township; Kelli Scott, Richard Lindsey and Brad Wilcox of Calhoun County; and Chris Jenkins of the Marion Burch Adult Day Care Facility.

c. River Access

Community Development Director Ault stated she received an email from Cheryl Vosburg, Environmental Program Director for the City of Marshall asking the Commission to join the city and several other supporters in appealing to Enbridge for a river public access point in Ceresco to eliminate the need for crossing private property.

*Moved Member Comai, second by Member Chapman to request more information from Cheryl Vosburg and the City of Marshall to clarify what the request to Enbridge was, the exact location they would like to modify and for what purpose.*

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

9. Community Development Educator Report

Community Development Director Ault stated there was a picture of a tree in member packets that had been removed from the trailway.

Ault stated she was working on updating information in the kiosks and updating the trailway maps.

Ault stated arrangements were being made for a sign to be put up telling people the pavilion at Bridge Park could be rented and renters have preference to use. She stated renters will be given a confirmation letter so there is no question they have the right to use the pavilion.

Ault stated a sign will be put up giving information on how to report issues on the trailway.

Ault stated she met with Enbridge to talk about creating a Capital Improvement Plan at Bridge Park. She stated that as soon as the Ott Preserve and Kimball Pines plans were done, she will work on Historic Bridge Park. She stated Enbridge gave her ideas and were supportive. She noted they also approved the reimbursement for the installation of two more trash cans.

Ault stated the broken Ott Biological Preserve sign has been replaced with a new one on Michigan Avenue, making it more visible to traffic.

10. Commissioners' Time

Member Comai stated there is a lot of erosion on the trail in the Ott Preserve. He stated there were 8-12 inch ruts that will need to be backfilled and corrected or they will cause accidents for bikes. He wondered who will pay for this type of repairs and stated that should be part of the management plan. He stated there are some spots that will wash out every year and they should ask the trailway builders how to deal with potential problems.

Member Chapman stated the Picture This! exhibit is on display at the Battle Creek Community Foundation building and recommended everyone come see the great work the kids did. She stated it will remain up weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 through September.

Member Rodwan asked if the disc golf course has been finished. Community Development Director Ault stated the volunteer group has the first nine holes done and expect to have the entire eighteen holes completed by the end of September.

11. Public Comment

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

Brian Huggett explained the state's Great Lakes Initiative will be allocating \$5 million to allow for projects to be done in the great lakes basin. He stated the Pottawatomoni RC&D will be receiving money to do invasive species control and he would like to include the parks in the work plan.

## 12. Adjournment

The September 3, 2015 regular session of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission adjourned at 4:55 p.m.