



## MINUTES

### CALHOUN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, December 3, 2016  
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, Jesse Jacox, Derek King, Christine Kosmowski, Allyn Miller, John Rodwan, Ron Sootsman, and Blaine VanSickle

Also Present: Calhoun County Community Development Educator Ingrid Ault, Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox, GIS Coordinator Brent Thelen, MSU Extension Support Staff Pat Dadow

3. Election of Officers

Member Miller suggested to defer the election of officers until the January meeting as it is stated in the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission Bylaws.

*Moved by Member Jacox, second by Member Kosmowski to table the election of officers until the January 7, 2016 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.*

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

4. Approval of Agenda

*Moved by Member Miller, second by Member Jacox to approve the December 3, 2015 agenda of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission as presented by Ault.*

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

5. Approval of Minutes

*Moved by Member Jacox, second by Member VanSickle to approve the November 5, 2015 minutes of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission as presented by Ault.*

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

6. Public Comment

Vern Mesler presented documents covering various aspects of work performed on the historic bridges in Historic Bridge Park to the Parks and Recreation Commissioners. They included copies of news articles, the Historic Evaluation of the 20 Mile Bridge and the site location of the Charlotte Highway Bridge. He left them in the care of Community Development Educator Ault.

A citizen of Battle Creek voiced his concerns of the gate being left open in Kimball Pines behind the Calhoun County Medical Care Facility. He has witnessed underage drinking, vandalism and motorized vehicles along the Trailway in Kimball Pines. He suggested that the gate to the park should not be left open during winter months as it would act as a deterrent.

Brian Huggett of the Potawatomi Resource Conservation & Development Council stated he evaluated the changes to Kimball Pines Park since the arrival of one or more beavers to the area at the fourth boardwalk along the Trailway. He and other colleagues found the culvert beneath the Railroad is in poor condition and is being blocked by the beaver colony. He has contacted an engineer to evaluate the situation and will update the Parks and Recreation Commission when more is known.

*Moved by Member Kosmowski, second by Member Sootsman to ask Richard Lindsay, Corporate Counsel contact the railroad owner to inform them of our current situation.*

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

7. Subcommittee Reports

a. Ott Biological Preserve Workgroup

Community Development Educator Ault mentioned the Ott Biological Preserve workgroup is meeting tomorrow December 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. She stated the management and maintenance plan is almost done and anticipates it will be ready for review in February or March.

b. Trailway Workgroup

Community Development Educator Ault stated the next Trailway workgroup is scheduled to meet January 6<sup>th</sup>. She reported the management and maintenance plan is nearing completion and should be ready for review in February.

c. Finance Committee

Member Chapman reported at the last meeting of the Finance Committee they talked about prioritizing different grants and projects to pursue. She stated they would like to set up a timeline for next year to plan in advance for budget times.

d. Membership Vacancies Subcommittee

Member Chapman reported Community Development Educator Ault was researching how other departments (like Planning) have solicited the replacement of vacancies on their boards. Ault added there is an application form on the County website to apply for Boards and Commissions and she received one application last week.

8. Unfinished Business

a. Ceresco River Access

There was discussion regarding the draft letter to Meredith Powel, Enbridge Energy Special Advisor in support of a boat launch in Ceresco Green.

*Moved by Member Jacox, second by Member Chapman to approve the letter as drafted and carbon copying Cheryl Vosburg, Environmental Programs Coordinator and the Kalamazoo River Community Recreational Foundation in the letter.*

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

9. New Business

a. Review Parks and Recreation Commission By-Laws

Members of the Parks and Recreation Board of Commission discussed amending the By-laws to include diversity as a board priority for member selection, changing the election of officers to December, and not including a room number for meeting location. Community Development Educator Ault suggested a draft with proposed changes be submitted for discussion at the January 2016 meeting.

b. Commissioner Appointments

*Moved by Member Miller, second by Member Sootsman recommending to the Board of Commissioners that Members Chapman and Rodwan be reappointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission to serve a two year term expiring on December 31, 2017.*

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

c. 2016 Meeting Schedule

Community Development Educator Ault recommended to change the April meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to March 31<sup>st</sup>. She will send email calendar invitations.

*Moved by Member Miller, second by Member VanSickle to accept the 2016 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting schedule as presented with one change to the April meeting by moving it to March 31<sup>st</sup>.*

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

d. 2016 Work Plan

Community Development Educator Ault shared the proposed 2016 Parks and Recreation Board of Commission Work Plan. She also requested updates to the the Parks and Recreation Commission Subcommittee Structure spreadsheet and sought volunteers for the Volunteer Development Subcommittee. Members Miller, Sootsman and Kosmowski were appointed by Chair King.

*Moved by Member Chapman, second by Member Kosmowski to accept the Work Plan as presented except moving the election of officers in December to January.*

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

10. Community Development Educator Report

Community Development Educator Ault gave an update regarding the Calhoun County Parks stating that she has been in contact with Emmett Township and has a discussion about handling inappropriate behavior in the Parks.

*Moved by Member Comai, second by Member Jacox to close the gate at Kimball Pines for the winter season and reopen on May 1, 2016.*

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

Community Development Educator Ault explained the National Parks Service "Picture This" program photos taken by local youth will be displayed in the Marshall County building. She noted it is a traveling exhibit that is gaining national recognition.

11. Commissioners' Time

Member Comai asked if the letter of support had been sent to John Macfarlane as approved at the November meeting. Community Development Educator Ault stated that it had.

Member Kosmowski distributed calendars that were produced by the Battle Creek Area Clean Water Partners. She added the pictures are taken by local photographers as part of a photo contest for the calendar each year. She noted that the calendar included tips on how to protect ground water and surface water.

Member Sootsman mentioned the Albion River Trail extension has made it to the top of the DNR Trust Fund list.

Member Jacox expressed that it was good to be back. He thanked the Board for their patience and Ault, Community Development Educator for her hard work. Member King thanked Jacox for his continued commitment to the Commission.

12. Public Comment

Jim Coury invited everyone to visit Brooks Nature Center in the springtime when there should be apples to eat and spring flowers to see. He also asked if he could do some winter pruning work in the Parks.

13. Adjournment

The December 3, 2015 regular session of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission adjourned at 5:20 pm.