



MINUTES

CALHOUN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, March 31, 2016
315 W. Green St., 1-400, Marshall, MI 49068

1. Chair King called the meeting to order at 4:04.
2. Roll Call – Michigan State University Extension Support Staff, Pat Dadow

Present: Annette Chapman (departed at 4:33), Bill Comai, Derek King, Christine Kosmowski (arrived at 4:06), Allyn Miller, Ron Sootsman

Absent: Jesse Jacox, John Rodwan, Blaine VanSickle

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

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Member Miller, second by Member Chapman to approve the March 31, 2016 agenda of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission as presented by Ault.

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

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Member Chapman, second by Member Miller to approve the March 31, 2016 minutes of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission as presented by Sootsman.

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

5. Public Comment

Jim Coury announced the City of Marshall is taking orders for trees and if anyone is interested they can contact Cheryl Vosburg. He also mentioned that Enbridge is granting money to local businesses, which may benefit the Parks and Recreation Commission.

6. Subcommittee Reports

a. Ott Biological Preserve Workgroup

Member Comai reported the Ott Biological Preserve work group has almost completed the management and maintenance document draft. Comai stated the last step is to forward the draft for public comment.

b. Trailway Workgroup

Member Sootsman had nothing new to report from the Trailway Workgroup.

c. Finance Subcommittee

Community Development Educator Ault stated the Finance had not met.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Commission Vacancy Recommendation – Lindsay Johnson

Member Chapman relayed to the Parks and Recreation Commission that Lindsay Johnson was a great candidate for the vacancy of the Commission.

Moved by Member Miller and second by Member Kosmowski that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend to the Board of Commissioners that Lindsay Johnson be appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission to fill the seat vacated by Chad Curtis expiring on December 31, 2017.

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

b. Trailway Safety – Edgewood and Evanston Road

Community Development Educator Ault stated the split rail fence will be installed the second week of April and the new bollards will be ordered next week.

c. ITC Transmissions Update

Community Development Educator Ault stated ITC Transmissions have moved the downed logs in Kimball Pines to the proper location. She mentioned that she has had calls from people asking if they can take the logs and use them for firewood, she is hopeful no one will. She added that there are still some repairs needed to be done to the Trailway that was damaged by the heavy equipment.

d. Interactive Map

Community Development Educator Ault asked the Parks and Recreation Commissioners if they would like to have input on what's included on the interactive map. Member Chapman stated that she felt that Staff members could make this decision and the Board agreed.

8. New Business

a. Trailway Inventory Demonstration – Brian Huggett

Brian Huggett of the Potawatomi Resource Conservation and Development Council was hired by the County to develop a spatial inventory of the Trailway. Huggett demonstrated the data system and explained his findings specific to signs, culverts, retaining walls, bollards, boardwalks, and fencing.

The Parks and Recreation Commission thanked Huggett for his work. Community Development Educator Ault stated the data Mr. Huggett collected will be instrumental in finishing the Trailway maintenance and management plan and in managing the property now and in the future. She also thanked Huggett for all the hard work in put into this task.

b. Annual Park Report

Community Development Educator Ault discussed the Parks and Recreation Annual Report as presented and highlighted some of the accomplishments in 2015.

c. 1st Quarter Budget Review

Community Development Educator Ault reviewed the first quarter budget report of the Calhoun County Parks and Receptions four business units.

9. Community Development Educator Report

Community Development Educator Ault demonstrated the new updated Parks and Recreation webpage on the Calhoun County website with links to frequently asked questions, documents, and minutes and agendas. She mentioned this is in the beginning stages and more updates will be forthcoming.

Community Development Educator Ault stated preparation of park opening has been underway with the following activities taking place.

1. The split rail fencing in the Arlington and Jameson Road parking lots of the Ott Biological Preserve will be replaced within three weeks.
2. The metal fence leading into the Ott at Arlington has already been replaced thanks to a donation by Chair King.
3. The disc golf course volunteer group is working on getting first nine holes in Kimball Pines installed the second week of April.
4. She applied with the United Way “Day of Caring” community service for help at Historic Bridge Park on April 18th picking up trash and working in the flower beds.
5. She noted Denny Bukoski of the Maintenance Department salvaged a hot water tank to use at the Kimball Pines restrooms.

We are expecting to open the restrooms on Friday April 29th.

Community Development Educator Ault thanked County Administrator Scott for including the Parks and Recreation Commission in her Bi-weekly update.

10. Commissioner’s Time

Member Comai asked if there were any updates on the Ceresco river access. Member Kosmowski stated that Enbridge is considering it.

Member King thanked Brian Huggett for his work on the Trailway data inventory. He also thanked Ault and Dadow for updating the webpage.

Member Sootsman asked about the volunteer recognition idea. Community Development Educator Ault stated she is going to write a letter to be signed by the Commissioners to give to Mr. Logan to thank him for grading the Trailway.

Community Development Educator Ault and the Parks and Recreation Commission thanked Corporate Council Lindsay for his service and wished him well in his new position.

11. Public Comment

Jim Coury mentioned an event in Grand Rapids of an operation and maintenance workshop. He also thanked Corporate Council Lindsay for his work in establishing the conservation easements.

12. Adjournment

The March 31, 2016 regular session of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission adjourned at 4:55 pm.