



MINUTES

CALHOUN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, March 3, 2016
315 W. Green St., 1-400, Marshall, MI 49068

1. Chair King called the meeting to order at 4:03.
2. Roll Call – Michigan State University Extension Support Staff, Pat Dadow

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

Absent: Bill Comai, Jesse Jacox, Christine Kosmowski

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

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Member Miller, second by Member VanSickle to approve the March 3, 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 February 4, 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 would like to tag some small hickory and oak trees in Kimball Pines. He offered to pay for the first 50 tags and was wondering if the county would pay to tag additional trees. He asked for permission to do this in the spring and summer. Mr. Coury is going to contact Ingrid Ault, Community Development Educator to work out the details.

6. Subcommittee Reports

a. Ott Biological Preserve Workgroup

Community Development Educator Ault reported the Ott Biological Preserve Workgroup has made much progress. Member Miller added the workgroup is finalizing changes and the management and maintenance document is close to being done. Ault also mentioned a gentleman from the University of Wisconsin contacted her to do a butterfly and moth study in the Ott Biological Preserve later this year.

b. Trailway Workgroup

Member Sootsman reported that the Trailway Management and Maintenance plan draft is ready for review by the Parks and Recreation Commission members.

Moved by Member Miller, second by Chapman to table the approval of the Calhoun County Trailway management and maintenance plan to the March 31, 2016 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

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

c. Finance Subcommittee

Community Development Educator Ault stated the Finance Subcommittee has not met again and there is nothing to report.

d. Membership Vacancies Subcommittee

Member Chapman reported the Membership Vacancies Subcommittee received five applications to review and has narrowed those down to two candidates to interview. Once that has been done they will forward their recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Commission, hopefully at the next meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Review Parks and Recreation By-laws

Community Development Educator Ault met with Corporate Council Richard Lindsey to review the Parks and Recreation By-laws, and between them they do not recommend any changes.

b. ITC Transmissions

Community Development Educator Ault stated ITC Transmissions work has begun in Kimball Pines and the felled trees were incorrectly placed in the wrong location. She is looking to get this corrected. Otherwise they have been doing very nice work. She also noted they have begun work in the Ott Biological Preserve.

Ault was pleased to announce that she received the \$10,000 ITC Transmissions grant check for Kimball Pines and the Ott Biological Preserve plantings.

8. New Business

a. Trailway safety – Edgewood and Evanston Road

Community Development Educator Ault discussed the issues of surrounding neighbors using the Trailway as a road and the safety of pedestrians. She recommended putting in bollards at these critical access points. Member Sootsman suggested also adding fencing beside the bollard at Edgewood and Evanston; he said the cost of this would go to the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance.

Moved by Member Chapman, second by Member Miller to place bollards and add a section of split rail fence to prevent use of the Trailway as a road or access to residential areas.

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**

b. Interactive Map

GIS Coordinator Brent Thelen demonstrated an online seasonal interactive map from Oakland County. He stated that this is possible to do for Calhoun County. The members of the Parks and Recreation Commission expressed their interest to develop a similar interactive map for our region using the Calhoun County Parks inventory.

c. Volunteer recognition

Community Development Educator Ault suggested thanking some of the amazing volunteers that have helped in the Parks. Members discussed ways of recognizing the many volunteers. Ault will assemble some suggestions and a possible event to recognize volunteers.

9. Community Development Educator Report

Community Development Educator Ault stated she had nothing else to report at this time.

10. Commissioner's Time

Member Rodwan wanted to have an EPA water conference Field Day at Historic Bridge Park in October. Community Development Educator Ault stated he should complete and event application for the event.

11. Public Comment

Jim Coury mentioned a meeting of the connecting the last part of the Kalamazoo Trail with Battle Creek on March 14 or 17. He will forward the information to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

12. Adjournment

The March 3, 2016 regular session of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission adjourned at 4:47 pm.