



MINUTES

CALHOUN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, October 6, 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, Bill Comai, Jesse Jacox, Lindsay Johnson, Derek King, Christine Kosmowski, Ron Sootsman, Blaine VanSickle

Absent: Allyn Miller, John Rodwan

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

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Member Jacox, second by Member Chapman to approve the October 6, 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 Jacox, second by Member Chapman to approve the September 1, 2016 minutes of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission as presented by Sootsman.

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

5. Public Comment

Mr. Jim Coury commented that the Krazy for the Kazoo river clean-up day this past Saturday, was a very successful event. He mentioned there were seven locations and that Member Kosmowski headed up the Battle Creek location. Mr. Coury stated this event is organized by the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council with many other volunteers groups assisting.

6. Subcommittee Reports

a. Historic Bridge Park Workgroup

Member King reported the Historic Bridge Park Workgroup met with ambitious goals. He stated the workgroup discussed the need to inventory the Park. King also mentioned the need to improve the partnership with Enbridge to capitalize on the making the park great. Community Development Educator Ault welcomed all in attendance to join the next meeting Monday, October 10, 2016 at 8:00 am in room 1-400.

b. Interactive Map – Staff report

Community Development Educator Ault stated the Interactive Map will debut in the Spring of 2017.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Ott Biological Preserve Public Meeting

Community Development Educator Ault distributed a copy of the Ott Biological Preserve Maintenance and Management Plan that was disseminated to the public for comment. She stated the public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in room 1-400 of the County building. Ault mentioned she has received public feedback about the Plan much if it is regarding animal control of beaver and mute swans.

She has extended personal invitations to the public meeting, to the stakeholders identified in the Ott Biological Preserve Maintenance and Management Plan. She is pleased to report that she received positive feedback from the Department of Natural Resources Representative and the local Audubon Society who are both impressed with the Plan. She stated there will be one final public meeting of the Ott Biological Preserve Workgroup to implement any changes deemed necessary by the work group after the public meeting.

b. Trailway Maintenance and Management Plan

Community Development Educator Ault brought the Calhoun County Trailway Maintenance and Management Plan to the Parks and Recreation Board of Commission for approval. The Plan will then be forwarded to the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance for their comments at their October 13th meeting. They will have one month to comment on the plan and forward their suggestions to the Trailway Work Group, at which time they will consider their thoughts and make amends as necessary.

The plan will be brought to the public for comment for a period of 30 days. The expectation is this will happen in early 2017. There will be a public meeting in February with the plan adopted by the Parks and Recreation Commission in spring of 2017. Finally, the Board of Commissioners will be presented with a final draft in late spring 2017.

Moved by Member Chapman, second by Member Kosmowski to approve the Calhoun County Trailway Maintenance and Management Plan as presented by Ault and forward to the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance.

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

c. Reschedule Annual Park Tour

The Parks and Recreation Board of Commission rescheduled the Annual Park Tour for Thursday, October 20, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

d. Any other unfinished business

There was none.

8. New Business

a. 3rd Quarter Budget Report

Community Development Educator Ault reviewed the third quarter budget spreadsheet report for the four Calhoun County owned Parks. She began with Historic Bridge Park and noted that revenue for the pavilion was over budget due to strong rentals this year bringing in \$1,850 so far. She added that the Foundation has been forwarded the expenses for the 1st and 2nd quarter for operating the park and we are waiting for payment. Expenses for this park were as expected with the exception of the cost to replace the stolen EZ Dock which cost \$5,067.52.

She noted the revenue under Kimball Pines included a \$10,000 grant from ITC Transmission which is to be used for any park improvements agreed upon by the commissioners. The expenses were as expected with the exception of the cost to live trap and remove beavers from the culvert at the railroad, which came to \$3,390.

The Ott Biological Preserve had no revenue and had expenses beyond the ordinary that included the replacement of the split-rail fence in the Arlington and Jameson Road parking lots. The cost for replacement came to \$5,861, which was funded through the Firekeeper's grant that was awarded in 2014.

The Trailway discussion included an accounting of expenses and repayments from the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance for items that are reimbursable through the Foundation that has been established for Trailway maintenance. There was also mention of the removal of trees behind the Medical Care Facility and the cost share of \$700 by the agency for the project.

Ault concluded that as of September 30, 2016 the parks are operating at a deficit of \$34,971.67. This amount will come from the parks fund balance at the end of the year.

b. Park Intern

Community Development Educator Ault introduced Joelle Clayborn, a Senior high school student at Battle Creek Public Schools who is going to be doing an internship with the Parks Department. Her focus will be to work on the inventory for Historic Bridge Park and other miscellaneous projects as assigned.

c. Any other new business

There was none.

9. Community Development Educator Report

Community Development Educator Ault provided a Power Point report of what has been happening in the parks.

- She thanked Jim Coury for pruning trees at Historic Bridge Park and Victory Life Church who has volunteers that will be finishing up this work.
- GIS Coordinator Brent Thelen has completed a map showing the historic bridges and ways to access the Trailway. The map will be posted in the Kiosks.
- She reported on some logs that were placed in the brook at the bridge in Historic Bridge Park that Brent Brown used heavy equipment to begin removal of. Some are still in the creek and will require additional man power.
- The Community Development staff are working on telling the Story of our Parks. Ault has asked Michigan State University Extension Support Staff Vera Prince to help create a timeline on the Parks. Also Vern Mesler has history of the bridges to contribute to the story.
- We are collaborating with the Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Department, the Calhoun County Landbank, and private land owners to create a Dog Park near the Calhoun County Animal Shelter.
- Working on assigning the location for additional signs and kiosks for the Trailway.
- A bee hive that was near the Jameson Road parking lot has been removed from the Trailway.
- Girl Scout Sam Reasons has begun work on her bat house project. Unfortunately the Kalamazoo River Community Recreation Foundation did not fund the cost for signs for her project so she is still looking for suggestions for this piece of the project.

10. Commissioners' Time

Member Kosmowski mentioned she saw Member Rodwan at the Tribal Water Workshop and he asked her to express his disappointment at not being able to attend the meeting today and that he was very appreciative for the rental permit of the Historic Bridge Park pavilion. She stated Rodwan felt the workshop was very successful and worthwhile.

11. Public Comment

There was none.

12. Adjournment

The October 6, 2016 regular session of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission adjourned at 5:05 pm.