

MINUTES



CALHOUN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, March 1, 2018
315 W. Green St., 1-400, Marshall, MI 49068

1. Chair King called the meeting to order at 4:06.

2. Roll Call – Community Development Support Staff, Pat Dadow

Present: Bill Comai, Lindsay Johnson, Derek King, Allyn Miller, Ron Sootsman (via phone)

Absent: Annette Chapman, Tammi Damerow, Fred Heaton, Jesse Jacox, John Rodwan

Also Present: County Assistant Administrator Brad Wilcox, Community Development Director Jen Bomba, Community Development Support Staff Pat Dadow

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Member Miller, supported by Member Comai to approve the March 1, 2018 agenda of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission as presented.

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

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Member Sootsman, supported by Member Comai to approve the February 1, 2018 minutes of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission as presented.

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

5. Public Comments

There was none.

6. Subcommittee Reports

a. Trailway Workgroup

Community Development Director Jen Bomba mentioned the Trailway workgroup members Kelli Scott, Ron Sootsman, Larry Rizer, and Brad Wilcox met recently. She believed it to be a successful meeting, picking up where they left off regarding the maintenance and management plan. They discussed the matrix and costs of maintenance activities. She believes that the various management plans will be ready to hand over to the new Project Manager who will be starting soon.

7. Unfinished Business

There was none.

8. New Business

a. New Parks and Recreation Logo

Community Development Director Jen Bomba presented the 3 requested changes to the logo to the members of the Commission. The versions were discussed and a vote was taken as to which one was preferred.

Moved by Member Comai, supported by Member Miller to adopt the preferred logo, the option that depicts the flat top bridge, as the new Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Logo.

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

9. Department Report

Community Development Director Jen Bomba described the details regarding the Trailhead Acquisition and Development Project in eastern Calhoun County. She explained; working with Albion College, Calhoun County was awarded a \$231,900 Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund grant and additional \$100,000 State appropriation from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to acquire and begin developing a 65 acre parcel in eastern Calhoun County. Albion College guaranteed the required \$81,400 match, which can also be met through a combination of the State appropriations and other pending external funds.

Ms. Bomba discussed Phase I plans for the property which include removal of a house and trailer that are vacant and replaced with trailhead parking, signage and some amenities.

This Acquisition will be put on the agenda at the Board of Commissioners meeting as a public hearing on March 15 as a presentation for their support. She feels this is a great partnership with Albion College, the City of Albion and Albion Township. She mentioned there is an April 1st deadline for a development proposal to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the grant.

Ms. Bomba updated the Commissioners on the Trailway boardwalk damage from snowmobiles. She stated the County has submitted an insurance claim for the damage. They also met with Emmett Township Public Safety (ETPS) about the vandalism and monitoring the parks more frequently. The outcomes of the meeting are the ETPS are limited to where they can go, so they suggest having people call 911 when they observe a violation to the parks rules. Properly placed cameras could be used as evidence in catching violators. And signage of rules is also needed.

County Assistant Administrator Brad Wilcox asked the Commissioners for feedback regarding over signage. Is there a balance we can strike between the vandalism and misuse of the park versus the

public who enjoy the park and walk the trails? How are we presenting the park if we need cameras, police and signs everywhere?

Member Comai commented, the snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles are very destructive and we need to do everything possible to keep them out of the parks and off the boardwalks.

Nancy Marfarlane of the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance is more than happy to help market any coordinated plan. She feels the homeowners near the parks and trail users are very protective of the parks and Trailway and would cooperate in reporting destructive behavior. She mentioned cameras should be secretive and neighbors who are watching call 911 instead of the Parks and Recreation phone number. Ms. Bomba also suggested posting on Facebook and other media of the trouble and the consequences of breaking the rules or laws. She feels posting pictures of the damages, the public will respond accordingly. Ms. Macfarlane would like to see the rules posted in a bigger more legible format or maybe even on the gate to Arlington, a sign that says "Report all Vandalism to 911".

10. Commissioners' Time

There was none.

11. Public Comment

There was none.

12. Adjournment

The March 1, 2018 regular session of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission adjourned at 4:37 pm.