

ISABELLA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 3, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Vasold at 6:03pm at Herrick Recreation Area.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Bob Busch, Bob Willoughby, Craig Clingan, Frank Engler, Jeremy Murphy, John Dinse, Jordan Bruursema and Randy Vasold

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Tim O'Neil

OTHERS PRESENT

Director Sue Ann Kopmeyer, Parks Supervisor Kurt Burnia, Assistant Parks Supervisor Emma Vanacker, Administrative Assistant Nichole Manley, Administrative Coordinator Miranda Walker and Alternate County Commissioner Terry Hutchinson

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda was accepted as presented (Engler/Willoughby).

INTRODUCTIONS

Kathy Vasold

MINUTES

The June 1, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed. **It was moved (Murphy/Engler) to approve the June 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Dinse noted that he would like to express interest as a Commission to ask the County Road Commission (or Wise Township) to have paved access to Herrick Recreation Area. This will be added to New Business for the next Isabella County Parks and Recreation Board Meeting and Director will provide an update at the next meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Director presented the bills for June and July 2022. **It was moved (Murphy/Clingan) to approve the Financial Summary Reports for June and July 2022 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

CAMPGROUND SUMMARY REPORT

Director Kopmeyer gave an update on the Campground Summary Report for the months of June and July 2022.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Parks

All three campgrounds have been doing very well with many folks camping this year.

Employees

The Director noted that we have had a very new staff this year. There have also been staffing challenges with a few new hires not making it through to the end of the season.

Programs and Events

On June 21, 2022 the PALM (Pedal Across Lower Michigan) bike ride took place through the Isabella County portion of the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail. 600 bike riders took part in the event.

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe hosted a water clean-up of the Chippewa River on Wednesday, July 6, 2022. The group canoed and kayaked from Deerfield Nature Park to Meridian Park, picking up trash and recyclables along the way. Park Staff disposed of the trash at the end of the event and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe took care of the recyclables.

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe brought their boat wash station to Coldwater Lake Family Park on Friday, July 8 and Saturday, July 9 to spread awareness about invasive water species and how to properly clean watercraft to prevent the spread of invasives.

The Fourth of July Bike Parade was held at Coldwater Lake Family Park on Saturday, July 2, 2022 with around 20 participants taking part in the parade.

The HalloWeekend event will be held at Coldwater Lake Family Park on Saturday, August 13, 2022. This event is offered by the County Parks staff.

The Mt. Pleasant Open Disc Golf Tournament will be a two-day tournament held at Deerfield Nature Park on Saturday, August 13 and Sunday August 14, 2022.

Incidents/Accidents

The Director reported that there had been two cases of swimmer's itch have been reported this season. Signs are posted at the kiosks and bulletin boards in the parks.

Herrick Recreation Area received a high E. Coli reading on August 3, 2022 by the Central Michigan District Health Department. Retesting is taking place and the results should be known soon. In the meantime, signs have been posted at the beach noting the warning. The beach is not closed as it is swim at your own risk.

Director Kopmeyer reported on three separate incidents that have taken place at the parks.

Outreach

The Director noted that someone donated money and it now has been put into a "Camper's in Need Fund." Funds may be used to help those who may need it. Commissioner Busch noted

that he would be interested in helping any camper that may need help via the Isabella County Restoration House.

Other Items

Commissioner Busch stated that the Commission should look into selling Isabella County Park Discs at Deerfield Nature Park for the disc golf course. Commissioner Bruursema then noted that disc vending machines are available to purchase. The Director noted that in the past at Deerfield Nature Park vending was an option but it did not go over well with sales at the gate. Area business used to sell discs as well.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Coldwater Lake/Beal City Public Sewage Improvements

Director Kopmeyer stated that homeowners in Beal City are currently hooking up to the system.

Deerfield Nature Park – Chippewa River Erosion Project

The Director gave an update on the erosion project that is currently underway. Both the Director and Assistant Parks Supervisor, Kurt Burnia, gave many praises to Miller Contracting on how outstanding of a job they have been doing and how wonderful it has been to work with them. The Parks Board will be able to tour the sites at the next Isabella County Parks Board Meeting in September at Deerfield Nature Park.

Meridian Park – DNR Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund/Acquisition Project

The Grant Agreement has been signed by Governor Whitmer. The Director submitted her Staff Report that will go before the Human Resources Committee. The appraisal will be completed after the agreement is finalized.

Deerfield Memorial

The Parks Board will be able to visit the memorial at Deerfield Nature Park for Mike Marsh after the next Parks Board Meeting in September.

Deerfield Nature Park Turn Lane

No update at this time.

FY '23 Budget

Director Kopmeyer gave a handout of the budget composite. It was noted that there are many projects that are included in the FY '23 budget. A few of these projects may require applying for various grants. Also included in the budget composite is a new reservation system as the current reservation system has not met the needs of the Parks.

Board Appointment Advertisement

No applications were received for the current vacant position on the Isabella County Parks and Recreation Board. The position will be re-advertised in the next round of open positions.

NEW BUSINESS

Camping In Need Funds

The Director spoke about “Camping in Need Funds” under her Director’s Report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Vasold noted that the bath house on the camping side at Herrick Recreation Area is in need of repair. He noted that it is not handicap accessible and wondered about possible grants to help update this portion of the campground.

Commissioner Busch noted that the Road Commission’s projects are going really well. The Old Mission Road Project will begin after Labor Day. He also noted that past Park Employees Devon and Cody Sapp recently raced the Au Sable Canoe Marathon.

Commissioner Willoughby stated that the Drain Office is currently finishing up the Mission Creek Project. Box culverts will be installed on Bamber and Crawford Roads in mid-August.

Commissioner Engler stated that all current millages were passed at the Tuesday, August 2, 2022 Board of County Commissioners meeting. He also noted that so far, all departments have been under budget. Commissioner Engler gave an update on the Jail Project, noting they are still looking at different options for funding.

Commissioner Hutchinson noted that they are currently looking at ways to offset the costs of projects, he stated that referring to the 10-year plan has been helpful in this process.

The next Parks and Recreation Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at Deerfield Nature Park – Pond Overlook Pavilion.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved to adjourn (Willoughby/Clingan) at 7:30 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Clingan, Secretary