

**ISABELLA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 7, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Vasold at 6:00pm at Deerfield Nature Park.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Craig Clingan and Tim O'Neil

OTHERS PRESENT

Director Sue Ann Kopmeyer, Administrative Assistant Nichole Manley, Administrative Coordinator Miranda Walker, Alternate County Commissioner Terry Hutchinson and Parks Staff Member Kathy Vanderkolk

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda was accepted as presented (Busch/Bruursema).

INTRODUCTIONS

N/A

MINUTES

The August 3, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed. **It was moved (Dinse/Murphy) to approve the August 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Bruursema noted that the students of Central Michigan University are back for the year and he hopes to get the word out about the County Parks to them.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

CAMPGROUND SUMMARY REPORT

Director Kopmeyer gave an update on the Campground Summary Report for August 2022.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Projects

A waterline was hit by a camper late this afternoon at Coldwater Lake Family Park. Parks Supervisor Kurt Burnia and Parks Assistant Supervisor Emma Vanacker are currently working to restore it. Removal of invasive plant species has been a large part of the summer at Deerfield Nature Park.

A new bench for former Isabella County Parks Board Member, Robert Ball, was placed at Meridian Park. Friend of the parks and past Parks Board Member, John Mitchell, purchased the bench in memory of Bob as well as made a generous donation towards the Meridian Park Acquisition Project.

Employees

The Director noted that most of the seasonal staff were done for the season as of Monday, September 5, 2022. There are currently four year-round part-time employees working for the parks.

Miranda Walker has been working on the 10% retention for the seasonal staff that stayed on through Labor Day.

Programs and Events

The HalloWeekend event held at Coldwater Lake Family Park on Saturday, August 13, 2022 had 35 participants. The time was changed the day of due to the weather conditions.

The Mt. Pleasant Open Disc Golf Tournament held at Deerfield Nature Park on Saturday, August 13 and Sunday August 14, 2022 went well with 104 players on Saturday and 74 on Sunday.

Incidents/Accidents

The Director reported that a car was towed at Meridian Park after a vehicle did not pay for entrance pass with the Gate Attendant and the vehicle was left behind.

The power went out at Herrick Recreation Area over Labor Day Weekend, the electrical issue was on Consumers Energy's end. This incident did result in a few unhappy campers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Coldwater Lake/Beal City Public Sewage Improvements

No update at this time.

Deerfield Nature Park – Chippewa River Erosion Project

The Director noted that this was such a great project and the contractor, Miller Development LLC., was wonderful to work with. One change was made to the landings towards the end to make the landings less rocky, 29A gravel was added. Commissioner Busch noted that it is still a little rocky in some areas, but he is hoping the grass will soon help be a filler. The Director will look into this further. A ribbon cutting is being discussed to celebrate the completion of the project.

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

The appraisal is being done within the next two weeks by Mike Monahan of the Appraisal Advisory Group.

Deerfield Memorial

The bench, tree and boulder are in for Mike Marsh's memorial. A plaque for the bench will be ordered next week.

Deerfield Nature Park Turn Lane

No update at this time. The Director will speak with Brian Atkinson of Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) later this fall.

FY '23 Budget

The budget was approved at the Tuesday, September 6, 2022 Board of County Commissioners Meeting. The Director did note that the Parks had one change to the capital.

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 with a deadline for submissions on Monday, September 12, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

Paved Access to Herrick Recreation Area

The Director contacted Bob Moore the Supervisor of Wise Township in regards to a suggestion received by the Commission to inquire about paved access to Herrick Recreation Area. Bob noted that at this time they do not have plans to pave the road but he will bring the topic up at the next Wise Township Meeting. The Director will follow up with Bob.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Busch noted that the Road Commission is finishing up a few projects. Lincoln Road and Broomfield Road intersection will be closed until November 15, 2022.

Commissioner Willoughby stated that the Bamber Road project is now complete.

Commissioner Engler stated that the fiscal year 2023 was approved and he was glad to have had the extra time to work on it being that they process started earlier this year.

Commissioner Hutchinson noted that Ian Welch of Veteran's Affairs Office does a very good job trying to bring awareness to Veterans in regards to what his office has to offer.

Director Kopmeyer noted that she is currently looking in to having a ribbon cutting in October or November for the Deerfield Nature Park and Majeske Landing Chippewa River Erosion Project. The way finding signs may or may not be placed by the time of the ribbon cutting, depending on how long they take to be made. The Director also noted that we will wait until closer to the next meeting to decide if it will be held at the park or at the County Building.

The next Parks and Recreation Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at The Isabella County Building – Room 320.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved to adjourn (Willoughby/Murphy) at 6:51 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Ann Kopmeyer, Director