

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Vasold at 6:02pm at Deerfield Nature Park.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Bob Busch, Bob Willoughby, Craig Clingan, Frank Engler, Jeremy Murphy, John Dinse, Randy Vasold and Tim O'Neil

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Jordan Bruursema

OTHERS PRESENT

Director Sue Ann Kopmeyer, Assistant Parks Supervisor Emma Vanacker, Administrative Assistant Nichole Manley, Administrative Coordinator Miranda Walker, Alternate County Commissioner Terry Hutchinson, Parks Staff Member Kathy Vanderkolk, Richard Gruss, Kathy Vasold and Nancy Clingan

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda was accepted as presented (Busch/Willoughby).

INTRODUCTIONS

N/A

MINUTES

The October 12, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed. **It was moved (Murphy/Willoughby) to approve the October 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

CAMPGROUND SUMMARY REPORT

Director Kopmeyer gave an update on the Campground Summary Report for October and November 2022.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Parks

The Director noted that off season projects are currently being worked on at the parks.

Projects/Capital

The Director gave an update on MidMichigan Community Pathways. The sink hole that was reported has been repaired and billing invoices have been updated with detail.

Weekly meetings are being held with the setup team from Camis Inc., the new reservation system.

The wayfinding sign project is underway. There will be 8-9 signs placed throughout Deerfield Nature Park thanks to the Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant. Blazes will also be added to trees to mark the trails.

The Eagle Scout project for the revitalization of the Orienteering Land Navigation Course at Deerfield Nature Park is still underway.

The Director noted that \$230,000 was budgeted for FY '23 for the playground on the northside of Herrick Recreation Area. A 2% grant was received from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe for a total of \$50,000 that will be utilized for this project.

Isabella County Parks and Recreation is applying for a Spark Grant for the Herrick Recreation Area Development Project. This includes improvements to the bathhouse, playground and pit toilet on the south side of Herrick Recreation Area. The Spark Grant has a submission deadline of December 19, 2022.

The Director noted that the Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail will be paying for mile markers along the trail.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Coldwater Lake/Beal City Public Sewage Improvements

No update at this time.

Deerfield Nature Park – Chippewa River Erosion Project

The Chippewa River Erosion Project is now complete. 29A gravel was mixed with diamond dust last week to create a smoother trail.

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

The final appraisal was received last week. The Director will set up a meeting with Mr. Whitehead. When the grant was submitted it was for 11 acres, the amount has gone down to 4 acres and may require adjustments to the grant application.

Deerfield Nature Park Turn Lane

No update at this time.

Board Appointment Advertisement

The current vacant position on the Isabella County Parks and Recreation Board has been re-advertised with a deadline for submissions on December 12, 2022. It is a 3-year term that ends on December 31, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

2023 Board Meeting Schedule

The Director noted that the August 3, 2023 meeting at Herrick Recreation Area will be utilized to also gather public input for the Spark Grant. **It was moved (Murphy/Clingan) to approve the 2023 Board Meeting Schedule as amended. Motion carried unanimously.**

2023 Annual Passes for ICPR Board Members

Isabella County Parks Board Members can go to the Deerfield Nature Park Gatehouse while the Gate Attendant is there to receive their free 2023 Annual Pass.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Vasold presented an award to Richard Gruss for his service to the Isabella County Parks and Recreation Commission. An official meeting to celebrate his service was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Board of County Commissioner Engler stated that the new software for 911 was approved. The old software was 20 years old. He also noted that the preliminary Material Recovery study was received, noting that the new system would fit on the current property.

Board of County Commissioner Hutchinson stated the Material Recovery Facility recently hired a new driver. He also gave an update that the SPARC Grant was passed by the Board of County Commissioners. Chris Embry will be joining the Board of County Commissioners in January and will serve the west side of the County. Commissioner Hutchinson also noted that 988 is an extremely useful number for those needing to speak with a professional counselor.

Planning Commissioner O'Neil noted at the Planning Commission meeting on November 10, 2022 the Master Plan was approved.

Road Commissioner Busch noted that the Lincoln and Broomfield Road project is now done and the roads are open. Broomfield Road to the east will be paved in the spring of 2023.

Drain Commissioner Willoughby stated that Crawford Road was closed soon after the project was completed to add a guardrail as there had not been one there before. The channel to the train bridge was cleaned up.

The next Parks and Recreation Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at The Isabella County Building – Room 225.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved to adjourn (Clingan/Murphy) at 6:56 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Clingan, Secretary