

**ISABELLA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 1, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vasold at 6:02 pm.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Bob Busch, Tim O'Neil

OTHERS PRESENT

Director Sue Ann Kopmeyer, Interim Director Miranda Walker, Parks Supervisor Kurt Burnia, Alternate County Commissioner Terry Hutchinson, and Parks Staff Member Kathy Vanderkolk

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda was accepted as presented (Willoughby/Murphy).

INTRODUCTIONS

N/A

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Director called for Chairman Nominations.

It was moved (Willoughby/Engler) to nominate Randy Vasold as Chairman.

Moved (Engler/Murphy) to close nominations and have a unanimous ballot cast for Randy Vasold as Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

Newly reelected Chairperson Vasold called for Vice-Chair Nominations.

It was moved (Willoughby/Murphy) to nominate John Dinse as Vice Chairman.

Moved (Engler/Clingan) to close nominations and have a unanimous ballot cast for John Dinse as Vice Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Vasold called for Secretary Nominations.

It was moved (Dinse/Engler) to nominate Craig Clingan as Secretary.

Moved (Engler/Murphy) to close nominations and have a unanimous ballot cast for Craig Clingan as Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

The December 7, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed. **It was moved (Murphy/Clingan) to approve the December 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Director presented the bills for December 2022. **It was moved (Murphy/Bruursema) to approve the Financial Summary Report for December 2022. Motion carried unanimously.**

The Director presented the bills for January 2023. **It was moved (Bruursema/Murphy) to approve the Financial Summary Report for January 2023. Motion carried unanimously.**

CAMPGROUND SUMMARY REPORT

Due to the transitioning of the new online reservation system a campground summary was not presented.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Parks

The cross-country ski trails at Deerfield Nature Park were groomed Tuesday, January 31st.

Projects/Capital

The Director gave an update on MidMichigan Community Pathways Project. The detailed Invoice that was requested from the Road Commission in May has been received and they are working on submitting payment.

Interim Director Miranda Walker gave an update on the new online reservation system, Camis, Inc. Set-up for the new system is complete and testing has now been begun. The staff at Camis, Inc. are very responsive and very nice to work with. Tentative dates that are scheduled are Monday, February 20th for campers to create an account and browse site availability and Monday, February 27th when reservations will go live starting at 9:00 a.m. Campers will be happy with the ease of use for the new system as well as the map view and calendar view that will be available to them for checking site availability.

The wayfinding sign project is underway. Posts have been placed throughout the trails at Deerfield Nature Park and installation of the signs (noting "you are here") will take place in the Spring. 14 signs have been ordered from Fossil Industries and will be placed throughout Deerfield Nature Park thanks to the Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant, Eagle Scouts and Chippewa Nature Center.

The Eagle Scout project for the revitalization of the Orienteering Land Navigation Course at Deerfield Nature Park is still underway. Lukas from the Eagle Scouts will be giving a presentation on this project to the Isabella County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Isabella County Parks and Recreation has applied for a DNR Spark Grant for the Herrick Recreation Area Development Project which includes improvements to the bathhouse, playground and pit toilet on the south side of Herrick Recreation Area. Approval for this grant has not been announced yet.

Isabella County Parks and Recreation was approved for \$50,000 from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2% funds to support updating the playground on the North side of Herrick Park. \$230,000 has been budgeted in capital funds for this project.

Isabella County Parks and Recreation will be proposing to go back to a wage range for seasonal staff wages like the department used to do before 2001. Currently seasonal staff wages are based on the county wage scale. Going back to the range will give the department more flexibility with hiring new staff at different starting wages and also keep them competitive with other local companies. The proposal is being presented to the Isabella County Board of Commissioners next Tuesday, February 7, 2023.

Events

The 14th annual Frigid Doe Ice Bowl Disc Golf Tournament took place on Saturday, January 14th. Commissioner Clingan noted they had a great turnout this year with 137 people and raised \$2,500 for EightCAP.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Coldwater Lake/Beal City Public Sewage Improvements

The Director noted that Beal City received an extension for their project. The Coldwater Lake area project won't take place until probably summer of 2023. \$250,000 has been budgeted in capital funds for this project.

Meridian Park – Acquisition Project

A new appraisal was completed for the 3.99 acres. A closed session with the Isabella County of Board of Commissioners will take place on Tuesday, February 7, 2023. The easement renewal for this property is also being presented to the BOC meeting next week. The easement will expire in July 2023.

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 February 27, 2023. It is a 3-year term that ends on December 31, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

Erosion Project Interpretive Signs

Two interpretive signs have been ordered from Fossil Industries that will be placed at Deerfield Nature Park.

2023 Board Meeting Schedule

The 2023 Board Meeting Schedules were sent via email to Isabella County Park Board Members.

2023 Annual Passes for Board

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

Commissioner Vasold announced that Director Sue Ann Kopmeyer will be retiring. Her last day

working will be March 10, 2023. Administrative Coordinator Miranda Walker has been named Interim Director starting January 23, 2023.

Commissioner Engler stated that Jerry Jaloszynski will be Vice Chairperson for the Isabella County Board of Commissioners. All others have stayed the same. The County has paid back the bond of \$2.6 million for the jail. Contractors for the jail project have agreed to keep with their initial bid. Commissioner Engler also noted the recycling center project is getting started.

Commissioner Hutchinson noted that groundbreaking for the jail could be as soon as March depending on availability of materials and getting permits. Completion is expected on December 5, 2024. He noted that the Recycling Center currently has a committee being set up. If they want to expand, they can use the footprint that is currently there. He also stated that a sound study was completed for the turbines throughout Isabella County. Testing for each township came back under 50 decibels which is in compliance.

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

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved to adjourn (Murphy/Willoughby) at 6:57 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Clingan, Secretary