

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vasold at 6:00 pm.

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, Interim Director Miranda Walker, Parks Supervisor Kurt Burnia, Assistant Parks Supervisor Emma Vanacker, Alternate County Commissioner Terry Hutchinson, Administrator/Controller Nicole Frost, Parks Staff Member Kathy Vanderkolk, Liz Busch

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda was accepted as presented (Willoughby/Murphy).

INTRODUCTIONS

N/A

MINUTES

The February 1, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed. **It was moved (Dinse/Engler) to approve the February 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Director presented the bills for February 2023. **It was moved (Murphy/Clingan) to approve the Financial Summary Report for February 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 have been groomed.

Projects/Capital

The Director gave an update on MidMichigan Community Pathways Project. The detailed Invoice

that was requested from the Road Commission in May is being taken care of.

Interim Director Miranda Walker gave an update on Opening Day of reservations that opened Monday, February 27th using the new Online Reservation System, Camis, Inc. It was a very successful opening day with a total of 769 bookings that generated over \$97,000. The phones were busy in the office for the first 2 hours with basic user ability issues. Staff was able to help these users navigate the new system. Phone reservations will open Tuesday, March 7th.

The wayfinding sign project is still underway. The signs have been ordered and are expected to be shipped this month. Installation of the signs (noting “you are here”) will take place in the Spring. The project is being funded by 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 gave a presentation on this project to the Isabella County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, February 7, 2023.

Isabella County Parks and Recreation had 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. The parks were not approved for funding for the first round. The Parks Department will re-apply this summer for the second round.

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. Planning for this project has begun and staff has met with Gametime.

Isabella County Parks and Recreation is currently working with the Friends of the Pere Marquette who showed interest in providing funding for mile markers to be placed along the 8.5 miles that Isabella County owns to indicate what mile that are at along the trail.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Coldwater Lake/Beal City Public Sewage Improvements

The Director noted that this project is still ongoing in Beal City. Meeting minutes from Nottawa Township shows they will be talking to other townships in the near future. The Coldwater Lake area project won't take place until probably summer of 2023.

Meridian Park – Acquisition Project

The Director met with the owner and they are moving ahead on this project. The property will be a little more in acreage from 3.99 to 4.1 acres.

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 had been re-advertised with a deadline for submissions of February 27, 2023. Isabella County Parks did receive

some applications. Appointments will be made at the March 7th Isabella County Board of Commissioner Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Erosion Project Interpretive Signs

Two interpretive signs that will be placed at Deerfield Nature Park have been ordered from Fossil Industries and are expected to ship in March.

Director Sue Ann Kopmeyer presented before and after pictures of the Erosion Project.

2023 Board Meeting Schedule

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

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 Hutchinson noted that the jail project is getting started. Material is on its way and groundbreaking will depend on weather. He noted that the Recycling Center project is also taking place in hopes of expanding.

Commissioner Tim O'Neil noted that the Planning Commission did not meet in February.

Commissioner Engler stated the windmill depreciation schedule went from 10 years to 15 years which will bring an additional \$2 million to the county. The county budget planning sessions will begin soon. Trees will be available through the Conservation District. The weather has made the schedule a little different this year.

Commissioner Busch reported that \$4 million is being spent on our roads this year. Vandecar bridge will be closed sometime this summer. They will be working on major parts of the bridge. The bridge will also be closed for tubers to go under during construction.

Director Sue Ann Kopmeyer thanked the parks board. She acknowledged that it was a pleasure working with everyone and that the parks board has been very proactive and supportive these past years.

The next Parks and Recreation Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at the Isabella County Building – Room 225.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Clingan, Secretary