

**ISABELLA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 3, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Craig Clingan, Frank Engler, Jeremy Murphy, John Dinse, Jordan Bruursema, Randy Vasold, Ruth Barrett and Tim O’Neil

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Bob Willoughby

OTHERS PRESENT

Interim Director Miranda Walker, Parks Supervisor Kurt Burnia, Assistant Parks Supervisor Emma Vanacker, Administrative Assistant Nichole Manley, Alternate County Commissioner Terry Hutchinson, Parks Staff Member Kathy Vanderkolk

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda was accepted as presented (Engler/Murphy).

INTRODUCTIONS

N/A.

MINUTES

The April 5, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed. **It was moved (Murphy/Willoughby) to approve the April 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Dinse noted that Hannah’s Bark Park will receive new equipment this summer. Commissioner Engler noted he may have a culvert to add to the park.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

CAMPGROUND SUMMARY REPORT

Interim Director Miranda Walker gave an update on the Campground Summary Report for April 2023.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Parks

Interim Director Walker stated that both Coldwater Lake Family Park and Herrick Recreation Area opened on Friday, April 28, 2023.

Trainings for Seasonal Park Staff will begin on Monday, May 8, 2023 with the Maintenance Training, Tuesday, May 9, 2023 is Staff Training and Wednesday, May 10, 2023 will be reservation system training for Gate Attendants and Managers.

The Parks Director position has been posted and applications were due Friday, April 21, 2023. Any Isabella County Parks Board Member is welcome to be part of the interview process that is expected at the end of May or beginning of June.

Projects/Capital

The FY '24 budget process has started and the preliminary numbers are due Friday, May 5, 2023.

Isabella County Parks and Recreation will reapply for the second round of the DNR Sparks 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 submission deadline for the second round is due Monday, June 26, 2023. During the first round of scoring, Isabella County Parks received 81 out of 100 points. Park Staff will work together to see where they can adjust the application to receive higher scoring for the second round.

The wayfinding signs and blazes will be installed this upcoming weekend by Isabella County Park Staff, the Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club and the Eagle Scouts.

Accident/Incident

The MIOSHA citations were received for the accident that happened in January to an employee who was injured while using our wood splitter. The serious citation had a penalty of \$6,300, the other three administrative citations were \$900 each. Interim Director Walker worked with the Administration office to apply for a penalty reduction that brought the penalties down by 50%. The penalties are now \$3,150 and \$450 (three penalties at \$450 each), respectively.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Meridian Park – Acquisition Project

The updated appraisal was received and approved by DNR Grant Coordinator, Samantha Davis. The updated appraisal will still need to be approved by their Section Manager, then Real Estate and then their Unit Manager. The easement of Meridian Park “bump out” expires July 31, 2023.

Deerfield Nature Park Turn Lane

Brian Atkinson did a site visit to Deerfield Nature Park to see if updated signage could be of help. We are not eligible to receive any safety funds for this project however Brian is trying to get Maintenance Funds approved for a passing flare heading west that would be placed in front of the park entrance. If approved, the flare would be completed by the end of September 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

Deerfield Pavilion

The new pavilion at Deerfield Nature Park was approved in the 2023 budget. The pavilion will be located near the main disc golf parking lot. Request For Price Quotes will go out soon on the County's website with a project completion date of September, 30, 2023.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner O'Neil noted that the last Planning Commission meeting was cancelled.

Commissioner Busch stated that 47 miles of gravel will be applied to roads this summer. He also noted that Rosebush Road from US-127 to Loomis Road will be repaved.

Commissioner Engler noted that the Board of County Commissioners will now have their work session meetings start at 5:30p.m. Commissioner Engler also gave an update on the Recycling Center.

Commissioner Hutchinson noted that the ground work is starting for the jail project. He also stated that they were able to save money on the construction portion of the project already.

The next Parks and Recreation Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at Deerfield Nature Park – Pond Overlook Pavilion.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved to adjourn (Clingan/Murphy) at 6:39 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Clingan, Secretary