

**ISABELLA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 5, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Ann Silker, Bob Busch, Bob Willoughby, Craig Clingan, Frank Engler, Jeremy Murphy, John Dinse, Randy Vasold and Ruth Barrett

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Jordan Bruursema

OTHERS PRESENT

Director Alexis Hansen, Parks Supervisor Kurt Burnia, Parks Assistant Supervisor Emma Vanacker, Administrative Assistant Nichole Manley and Park Staff Member Kathy Vanderkolk

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda was accepted as presented (Dinse/Willoughby).

INTRODUCTIONS

N/A

MINUTES

The May 2024 Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed. **It was moved (Murphy/Barrett) to approve the May 2024 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Director presented the invoices and credit card bills for April and May 2024. **It was moved (Murphy/Clingan) to approve the credit card bills April and May 2024. Motion carried unanimously**

CAMPGROUND SUMMARY REPORT

Director Hansen gave an update on the Campground Summary Report for April and May 2024.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Employment/Volunteering

Seasonal Park Staff has started, however, there are still positions to be filled. A Night Ranger for Coldwater Lake Family Park is being hired.

Park

Parks Supervisor, Kurt Burnia, stated that Park Staff is working on updating the pit toilets at the parks. The pit toilets will receive new paint, steel roofs and plastic risers on the toilets.

Accident/Incident

The Director updated the board about an incident that occurred with a seasonal camper regarding the short-term boat launch parking area.

Other

The Director noted that the Parks Rules and Ordinances updates are going to be pushed back. The hope is to have them updated prior to the 2025 season starting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

North (Beach) Side Playground at Herrick

The project is complete. There will be a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 1:00pm in the West Pavilion to celebrate the new upgrades.

Department of Natural Resources Spark Grant

There was a meeting on May 15th with the contractor who is working on the design process. The Director noted it is still in the beginning stages of planning.

Millage Renewal

The proof of the ballot has been approved. The Director is attending many meetings to speak about the millage. The Coldwater Lake Association made a motion at the last meeting to formally support the Isabella County Parks Millage Renewal.

Passing Flare at Deerfield Nature Park

The project is well underway and is supposed to be completed by the end of this month.

NEW BUSINESS

The Director noted that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the State of Michigan Parks are having "Three Free Weekend." For State of Michigan Parks, that means that fishing licenses, fees for off road vehicles and fees for all state parks are waived. The Director noted that it would be nice to offer our visitors something similar. **A motion was made (Murphy/Clingan) to allow free day passes and free watercraft passes for Saturday, June 8, 2024 and Sunday, June 9, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Engler noted he has been attending many meetings regarding the county millage renewal. Phase 1 of the radio tower project is almost complete. The Conservation District's Hazardous/Electronic Waste pick up is this Saturday at the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Willoughby stated the Drain Commission is currently working on a few projects.

Commissioner Busch noted that the Road Commission's summer projects have started. There is a solar project going in in Isabella Township and the Road Commission is working with DTE to set

aside funds to fix the roads once the project is complete.

Commissioner Silker stated that the Planning Commission approved DTE's application for a solar project at their meeting last week.

The next Parks and Recreation Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at Herrick Recreation Area in the West Pavilion.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved to adjourn (Willoughby/Murphy) at 7:20pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Clingan, Secretary