

**ISABELLA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 7, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Frank Engler

OTHERS PRESENT

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda was accepted as presented (Clingan/Bruursema).

INTRODUCTIONS

N/A

MINUTES

The June 2024 Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed. **It was moved (Murphy/Bruursema) to approve the June 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 June and July 2024. **It was moved (Murphy/Clingan) to approve the credit card bills June and July 2024. Motion carried unanimously**

CAMPGROUND SUMMARY REPORT

Director Hansen gave an update on the Campground Summary Report for June and July 2024.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Employment/Volunteering

Seasonal Field Staff is wrapping up their season.

Parks

The updates to the pit toilets are almost complete. The updates include plastic risers, painting and

new roofs.

Speed bumps are going to be implemented at Herrick Recreation Area due to speeding issues this season. A few more will also be placed at Coldwater Lake Family Park.

Accident/Incident

The Director spoke about a drug use incident that occurred at Deerfield Nature Park. After this incident and after talking with Sheriff Mike Main, Assistant Parks Supervisor will be making a map of the quickest routes through the park for emergency vehicles. Parks Supervisor Kurt Burnia is working with the property owner and an engineer to get a weight limit for the covered bridge.

Programs/Events

Art From our Park will take place near the Fussman Pavilion at Deerfield Nature Park in September.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Department of Natural Resources Spark Grant

Parks Department staff had a zoom meeting with Thomas Sinclair of Sinclair Recreation to discuss plans and phasing for the HRA campground playground. They will map out the playground footprint. As of right now, a small playground is being planned with freestanding structures. This will leave more room in the project budget for the bathhouse repair.

Millage Renewal

The millage passed by 55% of voters. The Director noted that the Parks Department is very grateful the county residents passed the millage. The Director stated that now that the millage was passed by voters, there is a Board of County Commissioners meeting on August 20th. At this meeting, Director Hansen will speak to the board about levying the full .35 mills that the voters passed. **A motion was made (Murphy/Silker) to support asking the Board of County Commissioners to levy the full .35 mills. Motion carried unanimously.** Camis, the online reservation system is requesting rates for the 2025 season. Fee structure was talked about with no changes made yet.

Passing Flare at Deerfield Nature Park

The project is now complete and open for use.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Willoughby stated the season is slow right now.

Commissioner Busch noted that the Road Commission's summer projects are going well. The Road Commission secured funds through DTE that will be set aside to fix the roads during the project implementation and once the project is complete.

Commissioner Dinse noted that Hannah's Bark Park was able to transfer some of the tunnels from the old playground at Herrick Recreation Area and the dogs now utilize them at the park.

The next Parks and Recreation Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at Deerfield Nature Park in the Pond Overlook Pavilion.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved to adjourn (Murphy/Clingan) at 7:14pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Clingan, Secretary