

**ISABELLA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 2, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vasold at 6:01 pm.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Hauck, Bob Busch, Bob Willoughby, Craig Clingan, Jeremy Murphy, Jordan Bruursema, Randy Vasold, Ruth Barrett and Steven Weber

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Ann Silker

OTHERS PRESENT

Director Alexis Hansen, Administrative Assistant Nichole Manley and Parks Supervisor Kurt Burnia

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda was accepted as presented (Busch/Bruursema).

INTRODUCTIONS

N/A

MINUTES

The February 5, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed. **It was moved (Barrett/Willoughby) to approve the February 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Clingan noted that the 16th Annual Frigid Doe Ice Bowl held at Deerfield Nature Park in February raised \$2,100 for EightCAP. The commissioner also thanked park staff for their help.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Director presented the bills for February and March 2025. **It was moved (Murphy/Clingan) to approve the Financial Summary Report for February and March 2025.**

CAMPGROUND SUMMARY REPORT

Director Hansen gave an update on the Campground Summary Report for February 2025.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Professional Development

Director Hansen attended the Michigan Recreation & Parks Association (MPARKS) Conference in March. Much of the discussion at the conference was cost recovery plans. Over the winter of 2025, the Director would like to work on a formal cost recovery plan for Isabella County Parks.

Employee/Volunteers

The Director stated that a paid intern will be starting early this summer to complete a 15-week internship.

Applications for seasonal employment are still being accepted for Gate Attendant and Park Manager.

Parks

All rail-trail gates created by Bill's Custom Fab have been installed. The new gates have a swing arm that will allow for emergency access if needed. The Director noted it was Parks Supervisor Kurt Burnia's idea to utilize the existing bollards and adding a swing arm to them. Signage is being created that will be attached to the swing arm gates. The signage, gates and locks were covered by two grants, one through the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation and the other through Destination Development grant from the Mt. Pleasant Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

The Director reminded the Parks Board Members that they are able to receive their one free Annual Vehicle Permit at Deerfield Nature Park when a Gate Attendant is present.

The Memorial School Forrest lease was renewed with Mt. Pleasant Public Schools.

All seasonal, 30-45 night and 46-90 night slots at Coldwater Lake Family Park are full and completely paid.

Director Hansen updated the board that she is still continuing research into re-zoning sites at Coldwater Lake Family Parks.

The parks submitted a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Recreation Passport Grant to update the cabins at Herrick Recreation Area. This would include updating the outside of the cabins, a few updates inside, native plantings around and making 1 cabin ADA accessible.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Department of Natural Resources Spark Grant

Isabella County Parks and Recreation is now under contract with Isabella Corp. for the project. Site plans have been submitted to Community Development to be reviewed. There will be a pre-construction meeting in June. The contract is for \$393,000, with \$31,000 going towards engineering and architect. Project total is \$405,850, the DNR Sparks Grant will cover \$319,000 and \$105,000 from the parks fund. \$1.3 million is currently in the parks fund.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Willoughby stated that the Drain Commission is currently waiting on a few EGLE permits for drains.

Commissioner Weber did not have an update at this time.

Commissioner Hauck noted that there is a house bill going before the senate that would allot for \$3.1 billion for road building projects with 80% going to local roads. Commissioner Hauck also noted that the Road Commission building was officially paid off. The Road Commission has been fielding a lot of questions regarding the solar projects tearing up the roads. There is a \$500,000 contingency to repair the roads. There are 3-4 Road Commission employees retiring soon.

Director Hansen will be sending a note to the seasonal campers at Coldwater Lake Family Park to let them know that there is a regularly scheduled Parks Board Meeting there in May if they would like to attend.

The next Parks and Recreation Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at Coldwater Lake Family Park in the Lakeview Pavilion.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved to adjourn (Murphy/Busch) at 6:46 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Clingan, Secretary