Approved:

ISABELLA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 5, 2026

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT
Ann Silker, Bill Hauck, Bob Willoughby, Craig Clingan, Jeremy Murphy, Randy Vasold, and Jordan Bruursema.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT
Bob Busch, Ruth Barrett and Steven Weber.

OTHERS PRESENT
Director Alexis Hansen, Parks Supervisor Kurt Burnia, Assistant Parks Supervisor Emma Vanacker, Administrative Assistant Brady Falardeau, seasonal park staff member Kathy Vanderkolk, and the attached list of members of the public.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA
Agenda was accepted as presented (Silker/Clingan).

INTRODUCTIONS
The Board Members and Staff were Introduced to the members of the public attending the meeting.

MINUTES
The June 3, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed. **It was moved (Hauck/Bruursema) to approve the June 3, 2026 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
Randy King is concerned about the upcoming price increases and the affects that will have on campers.

Emily McPhall is concerned with the drama that happens in the park; noting that they believe the rules have changed mid-season and are enforced without proper notification, motorized vehicles still being an issue around the park, and the speed limit not being followed.

Greg Hall shared that the firepit placement on sites at Herrick Recreation Area is something that needs to be addressed, noting that many are placed in a way that makes them inconvenient to the usage of the site with larger modern campers. Greg also mentioned that Herrick Recreation Area's site #35 has a mound in the middle of the site which needs to be leveled for proper use. Additionally, Greg mentioned that he is paying into our millage and only sees a discount if staying 30+ nights.

Janel Shaner shared her concern about campers and other park guests use of marijuana in the park, specifically in the bathhouse.

Mark Little shared their concern over the enforcement of the mooring rules and how the park staff has started to enforce them more, additionally stating that everyone has to sign the camping waivers agreeing to the rules and should be following the rules.

Paul Faber shared that they believe that adding a couple more mooring poles to the mooring section for day use only may fix some of the issues park staff is having.

FINANCIAL REPORTS
The Director presented the bills for June and July 2026. **It was moved (Murphy/Clingan) to approve the Financial Summary Report for June and July 2026.**

CAMPGROUND SUMMARY REPORT
Director Hansen gave an update on the Campground Summary Report for June and July 2026

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Employee/Volunteers
The seasonal staff at the parks have been instructed to get their schedules put together for the ending of the season to make sure we make it through Labor Day weekend with a full staff and working with some of the seasonal staff to make sure they can stay after Labor Day to keep the parks operational.

Parks
The Pere-Marquette Rail Trail Historical Trail Signage is being finalized and is hopefully going to be installed before the ground freezes.

The Fishing Platform at Deerfield Nature Park is planned to be removed this month based on the requirement of the removal permitting through EGLE.

The Mural at Coldwater Lake Family Park has been finalized, the artist has been hired and the mural is actively being painted. The Mural will be installed later this month and, when installed, it will be coated with a vandalism proof cover and a winter cover will be provided.

The Herrick Bathhouse Project has been finalized, the retainage to Isabella Corporation has been paid and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Spark Grant Retainage is expected to be received before the end of the Fiscal Year.

The MPARKS statewide funding program with Game Time has been approved by the Isabella County Board of Commissioners and the playground has been ordered. Additionally, the bidding process for the ADA sidewalk is underway.

The way-finding signs for the Meridian Park Trail Project funded by the $5,000 grant from the Mt. Pleasant Convention and Visitors Bureau have been received and will be installed before the end of the season, and the brochures have been received and distributed to the parks as well.

Programs/Events
The Director is still working with Jay's & Webber Wildlife and Education Center to get an Outdoor Education Program scheduled for some time this season.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
Campground Fees
Based on the preliminary nightly rates set at the May Meeting, Director Hansen presented potential rate updates for the full-season and long-term stay rates. After some discussion, **it was moved (Hauck/Willoughby) to approve the proposed campground fees for submission to the Isabella County Board of Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS
Commissioner Resignation
Due to not being able to attend meetings, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Bob Busch has submitted his resignation to the commission. After some discussion, **it was moved (Murphy/Bruursema) to accept the resignation of Parks and Recreation Commission Member Bob Busch. Motion carried unanimously.**

Rules and Ordinances Updates
Director Hansen presented to the board updates to the current Parks Rules and Ordinances that are meant to help fix many of the issues the parks staff have run into during this camping season. After some discussion, **it was moved (Murphy/Willoughby) to approve the submission of the suggested rules and ordinance revisions to the Isabella County Board of Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously.**

Campground Policy Revisions
Director Hansen presented to the board a new 14-night maximum for the regular nightly camping reservations at Herrick Recreation Area and limiting the 30+ night reservations to be made before the February prior to that camping season. After some discussion, **It was moved (Murphy/Silker) to approve the 14-night maximum and the proposed limitations on the 30+ night stays for Herrick Recreation Area. Motion carried unanimously.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Commissioner Willoughby shared that the Drain Commission is less busy due to going into the warm and dry season.

Commissioner Silker didn't have an update.

Commissioner Hauck shared that the Road Commission is working on spreading the message about the placement of signs within 200ft of an intersection being illegal. Road Commission is going to be repaving two miles of the west end of Vernon Road, which they are hoping to save money by doing the work themselves.

The next Parks and Recreation Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at the Pond Overlook Pavilion at Deerfield Nature Park.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved to adjourn (Willoughby/Murphy) at 8:35 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Clingan, Secretary

Isabella County PARKS and RECREATION

COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Date: _____

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