

Motion by Georgina Rozeboom-Doster, seconded by Marylyn Langeance, to recommend Larry Rasmussen to fill the vacancy on the Parks Commission. Motion carried by everyone present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW RICHMOND BRIDGE PARK UPDATE- CSX, FISH REARING FACILITY

Kevin reported that he spoke with CSX when he wanted to start this project and they told him all he really needed was a construction agreement and he would be all set. Then when he got the construction agreement from URS he found out that he needed an easement agreement from CSXT as well. Kevin was concerned about this as it could hold up the bidding process. He has contacted Monica Day, our DNR Grants Coordinator, regarding this issue and she has told him that the Project Agreement for the grant cannot be finalized without the easement agreement. As it stands we have permission from CSX to build the trails but not permission to use it. Kevin has contacted Senator Patty Birkholz for assistance with the DNR Trust Fund in hopes that we can get our Project Agreement executed so we can proceed with the bidding process. We can then finalize the easement agreement while construction is taking place.

Kevin also discussed the proposed Lake Sturgeon fish rearing facility that may be constructed at New Richmond Bridge Park. He stated that while RJ Peterson, the person leading the project, wants to move forward quickly, Allegan County Parks will not agree to anything until money for construction and operation of the facility has been collected. Kevin will keep the Commission updated on this project.

2008 CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

The RFP for Littlejohn Lake Park and Silver Creek Park Master Plans has been distributed and bids are due back to Finance by the end of February. This will be a discussion item at the March Parks Commission meeting. The RFP for the purchase of a used pick-up truck to be used for seasonal parks maintenance has also been distributed.

DNR LEASES

Kevin reported that he has heard back from the DNR regarding cancellation language for the campground lease agreements. He has sent this to Administration for review. He hopes that this language will suffice and the leases can move forward for Board approval.

The equestrian trails lease is still in a holding pattern, Kevin reported. At this point it appears the DNR is waiting for the County to finalize the campground leases before proceeding with the trails lease.

NEW BUSINESS

BYSTERVELD PARK- PHASE II GRANT APPLICATION

Kevin filled out the Trust Fund application for Phase II of Bysterveld Park. The application has changed some. Kevin would like to make the first ½ hour of the March meeting dedicated to the public meeting that is required for the grant application process. New to the grant application is the requirement to solicit information and feedback from groups that represent seniors and persons with disabilities in an effort to make grant projects Universally Accessible. These efforts go beyond the federal ADA requirements. Grant applications need to be submitted by April 1, 2008. The project will require no funds in 2008, engineering funds in 2009, and construction funds in 2010.

2008 STRATEGIC PLANNING

For the 2009 budget process all departments will again be required to determine their three main issues and goals for the coming year. Kevin stated that since the March meeting agenda is already full this will be a top of discussion at the April meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Allegan County Parks Commission will be on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 8:30am in the Spartan Conference Room.

ROUND TABLE

Bob Kaarlie

Bob was questioning why the equestrian trails lease was coming through after the campground lease and Kevin said he has already tried to combine them and the State refused.

Mark DeYoung

Mark reported that there seems to be momentum in the Wayland Area with the walking and biking trail that is going through Wayland. Leighton Township is talking about open a Parks Commission so they may be contacting Kevin.

Rich Haugh

Rich said he is also on the Farmland Preservation Committee and is working with the DNR right now- trying to purchase development rights on farmland. He also, said “thanks for letting me attend the meeting.”

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

By: _____
Angel Schneider, Clerk