



Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

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May 6, 2008

Human Services Building

Spartan Conference Room- West

8:30am

Minutes of a Scheduled meeting of the Allegan County Parks and Recreation Commission

A scheduled meeting of the Allegan County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by the Chair Bruce Culver on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 8:30am in the Spartan Conference Room in the lower level of the Human Services Building, 3255 122nd Ave, Suite 102, Allegan, Michigan.

Roll Call showed the following members:

PRESENT: Mark DeYoung Georgina Rozeboom-Doster
 Bob Kaarlie Fritz Spreitzer
 Larry Rasmussen Becky Rininger
 Bruce Culver

ABSENT: Chuck Pullen Maryln Langeance

Also Present: Kevin Ricco, Parks Director
 Angel Schneider, Parks and Tourism Clerk

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES

Motion by Becky Rininger, seconded by, Fritz Spreitzer, to approve the April 1, 2008 meeting minutes as printed and mailed. Motion carried by all present.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Expenditures- parks supplies for the year have been ordered and paid. Bruce Culver asked if the garbage contract was up this year. Kevin replied that the parks have Allied Waste garbage service and this is the 3rd year of a 3 year contract. The next contract the parks will join the county wide waste removal contract, assuming it is a lower price. Revenue from the Silver Creek charity ride is entered in. The ride had a good turn out with 50 less horses than last year and still made within \$18 of last year's total. The Memorial Day weekend there are only 2 sites that have not been reserved and they are non horseman sites. Surveys for Silver Creek Park are coming in and will be collected through May.

Motion by Fritz Spreitzer, seconded by Larry Rasmussen, to place the April 2008 Parks budget on record. Motion carried by everyone present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW RICHMOND BRIDGE PARK UPDATE- CSX, FISH REARING FACILITY, TRUST FUND GRANT

Dan Murphy from the real estate department at CSX e-mailed Kevin and said the agreement has been sent to field staff for review. There is nothing new to report at this time.

There is a group that has formed to get a 501c3 for the Sturgeon rearing facility. Kevin has received calls weekly about the project and there is not even a site chosen yet or money for the project. There is nothing more than a concept right now and the Parks Commission agrees with the concept but that is it so far, this is what Kevin is telling the callers. There are a few of these facilities around the state of Michigan Kevin said.

Trust Fund Grant - Kevin has asked MC Smith to send the plans and bid documents to the grant folks in Lansing so that we can be all ready once the easement agreement with CSX is completed. Deadline of July 31st has been set by the State. Dan Murphy from CSX stated that he thought the agreement would be done much sooner than July 31st

LITTLEJOHN LAKE AND SILVER CREEK MASTER PLAN BIDS

Moving forward on the master plan projects, Kevin met with the engineers M.C. Smith last week and walked each of the parks. The middle to end of June there should be a public work shop for each of the park plans to get public suggestions and comments.

NEW BUSINESS

GUN LAKE WINTERFEST

Kevin showed numerous pictures of the damage done to the park from the pony rides, broomball tournament, and snowplowing that took place at the Gun Lake Winterfest this year. Kevin then went on to outline the numerous problems caused by the event over the past two years. Because of these problems Kevin suggested that something different needed to be done for the 2009 event. He wanted to discuss this now because the damage and repairs are fresh. He stated that the Parks Commission had several options: we can increase the permit fee to cover damage repairs, we can charge a deposit fee to pay for repairs with the difference being refunded, or we could choose not to permit the event. Kevin said that he supports the community nature of the event but the lack of cooperation with the event organizers and the damage done to the park at a time when it is closed for the season makes him wonder if it is worthy of our support. After much discussion, Fritz Spreitzer suggested that Kevin write the Chamber a letter about the issues surrounding the event to see if they can offer any suggestions.

Motion by Becky Rininger, seconded by Fritz Spreitzer, to authorize the Parks Director to notify the Barry County Chamber of Commerce about the problems being caused at Gun Lake Park due to the WinterFest event. Motion carried by everyone present.

Bruce Culver would like to see our policy regarding special events updated to reflect the possible addition of a deposit fee. Kevin said he would work to create a draft of an updated policy.

DOUGLAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PICNIC AT WEST SIDE

The Douglas Elementary School will be conducting their annual end of the year picnic at West Side Park this year on May 30th. They are asking that the Parks Commission waive the entrance fees for the school buses and teacher cars, but cars driven by parents would still have to pay the required entrance fee. Kevin stated that we did this for them last year.

Motion by Becky Rininger, seconded by Georgina Rozeboom-Doster, to allow the Douglas Elementary School buses and teacher cars into West Side Park on May 30, 2008 without them having to pay the park entrance fees. Motion carried by everyone present.

KANOE THE KAZOO

Angel handed out a brochure on the Kanoe the Kazoo to everyone. The Parks Commission and Allegan Conservation District trip is about a 2.5 to 3 hour trip, on May 31st. Trip goes from 126th Avenue to New Richmond. Plan is to be in the water by 9:30. Cost is \$5 per boat.

PARKS COODINATOR

Kevin wanted to let everyone know that Jim Hoover the Parks Coordinator has bladder cancer and had surgery last week and will be off for 2 weeks and then he goes back to the doctor May 12th to get the results.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Allegan County Parks Commission will be on Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 8:30am in the Spartan Conference Room.

ROUND TABLE

Bruce Culver

Bruce thinks we need to make sure everyone gets the pictures of the Gun Lake Winterfest who should have.

Mark DeYoung

The Grand Rapids Press talked about the horse trails at Pigeon River and the DNR is closing the trails. Most of the State forest area is open to horse back riding- the DNR just does not advertise it.

Kevin Ricco

Kevin will be making the decision about which entrance attendants to hire by the end of week.

Kevin also reported that he has received several e-mails from Sara Schaefer, the SW District Supervisor with the DNR Wildlife Division, regarding the equestrian trails lease. It appears that the process is moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

By: _____
Angel Schneider, Clerk