



Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

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November 4, 2008

Human Services Building

Spartan Conference Room

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, November 4, 2008 at 8:31am 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
 Larry Rasmussen Becky Rininger
 Fritz Spreitzer Robert Kaarlie
 Kelle Tobolic Chuck Pullen
 Bruce Culver

EXCUSED ABSENT: Maryln Langeance

Also Present: Kevin Ricco, Parks Director
 Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

A motion was made by Robert Kaarlie, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to approve the minutes from October 7, 2008 as printed and mailed. Motion carried by all present.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kevin stated there is not a lot to report from the last meeting. The errors in the report discussed during the October meeting still have not been corrected by the Finance Department and Human Resources. The figure of \$1500 shown for Bysterveld on page seven and eight is incorrect; and Jim Hoover and the park manager salaries are also done wrong. Although Kevin has repeatedly made Finance aware of the problem, the reports are still wrong. Bruce suggested the financial statements be tabled again until they can be corrected. A motion was made by Fritz Spreitzer, seconded by Bob Kaarlie to postpone approving the financial statements and the

problem must be cleared up before the next meeting in December. Motion carried by all present. Once the November meeting minutes have been completed, Bruce will send a copy to Dave Vanderroovaart in Finance to ensure this happens.

As for the revenue report, Kevin reported everything has been collected for the year at this point. As reported last month, the boat launch and season pass revenues were down for the summer. On the bright side Kevin stated Silver Creek, West Side, Ely, and Bysterveld Parks exceeded expectations in light of the high gas prices, and Pine Point was very close. Bruce questioned Kevin on how future funds are affected if we take in less revenue than projected. Kevin explained the revenue projections are done in June for the following year and in his opinion, falling short on last year's projections should not cause problems to next year's budget.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LITTLEJOHN AND SILVER CREEK MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Kevin updated the Commission on the Silver Creek Master Plan by informing them M.C. Smith will be back in December with the requested changes and final cost estimates. At that time, the final draft will be presented and the group can decide if they will accept the plan. The public will receive notice and copies of the plan will be available prior to the meeting.

Kevin reported receiving a long email from an opposer of the Silver Creek plan, Cindi Van Nostrand, that contained 23 questions, many of which had been answered during M.C.'s presentation in October. Kevin contacted Bruce to get his input on how to proceed before responding to the email. With Bruce's approval, Kevin spent over two hours responding to the questions and replied to Ms. Van Nostrand, along with everyone on her CC list. He immediately received responses back thanking him for the great job he did answering the questions with some giving their full support of the proposed changes. Kevin stated he has received several emails since the October meeting containing misinformation, some being completely false. Through the grapevine, information is being omitted from what is being proposed at Silver Creek and as the facts come out, a new group of supporters is emerging. Kevin is hopeful there will be representatives from both sides at the December meeting.

Kevin had nothing new to report on the Littlejohn Lake Master Plan.

NEW RICHMOND BRIDGE PARK UPDATE

Kevin passed out the bids opened on October 21 for the New Richmond Bridge Park. Although 23 or 24 plan sets were purchased, we ended up with 11 bids with the high being \$736,000 and the low coming in at \$389,000, received from Apex Contractors. The second lowest bid came in from Rivertown contractors at \$403,000, although it turned out this figure did not include the insurance costs. M.C. Smith was consulted who reported working with these contractors in the past and found them both good and easy to work with. Kevin reports the Trust Fund mandates the lowest bid be accepted unless there is good reason to go with a higher bid. Therefore, since Apex Contractors turned in the lowest bid, we will be awarding the contract to them.

With that, Kevin has submitted the RFA to the Board of Commissioners recommending we go with the lowest bid. Anticipating questions from the Board, Kevin asked if Fritz Spreitzer or Mark DeYoung, who are members on the Board of Commissioners, would be willing to approach other Board members prior to their November 13 meeting and ask them to take action on the RFA at that time. Both agreed saying they see no problem getting action from the Board during the December meeting.

Although Kevin gave vendors until the end of September, 2009 to complete the job, M.C. felt that date was too vague. Apex informed M.C. they anticipate finishing perhaps by the end of July if everything goes well. If not,

they will still be held to the end of September if necessary. Kevin reiterated the boat ramp will be the first step of the project and there will be no way around closing it for 30 days. They still project starting sometime late in the winter season, although this depends on the weather and other factors. A motion was made by Chuck Pullen, seconded by Becky Rininger, to accept the bid obtained from Apex Contractors for the New Richmond Bridge Park project. Motion carried by all present.

BOY SCOUT KLONDIKE DERBY

Kevin contacted Jim Rollins, who oversees the Boy Scout Klondike Derby, and the troops have agreed to the terms set forth by the Commission during the October meeting. The only exception was Kevin extended the deadline for them to work at the parks until May 15 instead of the end of April due to the parks not opening until May 1. A schedule has been set with specific dates and park locations as follows:

- April 11 and 12: Silver Creek Park
- May 2: Dumont Lake Park
- May 3: Littlejohn Lake Park
- May 9: Ely Lake Campground
- May 10: Pine Point Campground

It was also agreed upon that if the above volunteer work schedule is not met, the Boy Scouts of America will reimburse the Allegan County Parks Commission for 50% of the camping fees waived at Silver Creek Park during the February 6-9, 2009 Klondike Derby, and all future derbies will be required to pay 100% of camping fees. According to Kevin, Jim Rollins expressed the problem that occurred last year was due to it being left up to the individual troops to uphold their end of the agreement. Kevin reminded Jim of the importance of teaching responsibility to the scouts by following through on agreements they have made. A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Bob Kaarlie, to allow the special permit requested for the Klondike Derby; and to accept the terms of the agreement set forth by Kevin Ricco and Jim Rollins on behalf of the Boy Scout troops.

NEW BUSINESS

PIER COVE PARK

Kevin reported to the Commission there has been some undercurrent by folks from Ganges Township and the lakeshore requesting the County take over the management of Pier Cove Park. The request arises from the park not being properly cared for. Unless the Township wants to give the park to Allegan County, Kevin has informed them it is not our responsibility. Pier Cove Park has been compared to the neighboring county owned West Side Park, with insinuations that no one comes to West Side. Kevin states this is a complete fabrication, noting West Side Park is the busiest it has been in five years. Kevin ended the discussion by stating he just wanted to let the Commission know this request was out there.

2009 MEETING SCHEDULE

Kevin reports the proposed 2009 meeting dates are all scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. He also brought to attention he has been questioned by a couple individuals involved in the Silver Creek Park and Littlejohn Lake Park Master Plans why meetings are not held during the evening hours or weekends. Becky replied we have tried holding meetings at different times in the past and never had increased public participation. Kevin agreed and said the participation is the same, if not better, during daytime meetings and remembers previous evening workshops and meetings where only the Parks Commission members were in attendance. A motion was made by Becky, seconded by Georgina, to approve the 2009 meeting schedule as presented. Motion carried by all present.

The next meeting of the Allegan County Parks Commission will be on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at 8:30am in the Spartan Conference Room.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Robert Kaarlie reminded everyone to vote in today's election.

Georgina Rozeboom-Doster asked about the Leaders Marine property since she had to leave before the discussion took place during the October meeting. Kevin informed her that the Commission had voted against obtaining the property.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

By: _____

Ronda Foreman, Clerk