



Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

3255 122nd Avenue, Suite 102

Allegan, MI 49010

Phone: (269) 686-9088 • Fax: (269) 673-0454

Parks Web: www.allegancounty.org/Parks

Tourism Web: www.visitallegancounty.com

E-mail: parks@allegancounty.org



January 6, 2009

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 Parks Director, Kevin Ricco on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 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	Bruce Culver
Larry Rasmussen	Becky Rininger
Robert Kaarlie	Georgina Rozeboom-Doster
Kelle Tobolic	Chuck Pullen
MarylN Langeance	

ABSENT: Fritz Spreitzer

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

ELECTION OF 2009 OFFICERS (CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, SECRETARY)

A motion was made by Robert Kaarlie, seconded by Becky Rininger to nominate Bruce Culver as the Chairperson of the Allegan County Parks Commission for 2009. The motion carried by all present. A motion was made by Robert Kaarlie, seconded by Becky Rininger to close the nomination and unanimously vote for Bruce Culver as the Chairperson. The motion carried by all present. Bruce Culver will serve as the Chairperson of the Allegan County Parks Commission for 2009.

A motion was made by Mark DeYoung, seconded by Chuck Pullen to nominate Robert Kaarlie as the Vice Chairperson of the Allegan County Parks Commission for 2009. The motion carried by all present. A motion was made by Georgina Rozeboom-Doster, seconded by Becky Rininger to close the nomination and unanimously vote for Robert Kaarlie as the Vice Chairperson. The motion passed by all present. Robert Kaarlie will serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Allegan County Parks Commission for 2009.

A motion was made by Mark DeYoung, seconded by Maryln Langeance to nominate Becky Rininger as the Secretary of the Allegan County Parks Commission for 2009. The motion carried by all present. A motion was made by Chuck Pullen, seconded by Maryln Langeance to close the nomination and unanimously vote for Becky Rininger as the Secretary. The motion passed by all present. Becky Rininger will serve as the Secretary of the Allegan County Parks Commission for 2009.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Kevin had one item to add to the agenda under UNFINISHED BUSINESS 10a. Equestrian Trails Lease. A motion was made by Mark DeYoung, seconded by Becky Rininger to accept the addition of 10a. Equestrian Trails Lease and to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed by all present.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES

A motion was made by Robert Kaarlie, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to approve the minutes from December 2, 2008 as printed and mailed. Motion carried by all present.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kevin stated there were two expenditure reports printed: the 2008 year end report and a current 2009 report. While there are still a couple more items to come in for 2008, the year end report shows nothing out of the ordinary and no surprises. Kevin stated it's obviously very tight; there are maintenance items that we continue to have to defer from other accounts. No one could have predicted how much higher the fuel costs would be over the previous year, therefore last year's budget did not accommodate the increase. All activities came in within budget and the errors reported in the fall have all been straightened out for 2008. Becky asked what the action was that the Board of Commissioners took regarding the percentage of revenues that would come back to Parks. Kevin stated the BOC decided 50% of net revenue from the entrance fees and season passes will go into a restricted capital account which amounted to around \$13,000 for 2008. Although there are no expenditures yet, the 2009 report will give everyone an idea of what the budget looks like.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SILVER CREEK MASTER PLAN – REVIEW, APPROVAL

A motion was made by Robert Kaarlie, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to reopen the tabled motion of approving the Silver Creek Master Plan until further review and discussion. The motion carried by all present.

Kevin passed out a new map which is meant to be the final version of the Silver Creek Master Plan. Kevin reports the only change made to the map since December's meeting was the removal of the boulders throughout the park due to the safety issues that were discussed. Everything else that was proposed during last month's presentation is still there although nothing is set in stone even if approved by the Parks Commission. Kevin stated as each phase is done, we can reevaluate if changes to the plan are necessary. The Parks Commission expressed their satisfaction of the overall plan and their appreciation for the job well done by M.C. Smith.

A motion was made by Larry Rasmussen, seconded by Robert Kaarlie to approve the Silver Creek Master Plan as presented. The motion carried by all present.

NEW RICHMOND BRIDGE PARK UPDATE

Kevin reported that due to the winter weather conditions, Apex Contractors was unable to do much during the month of December. They were supposed to begin the preliminary staking which Kevin says would have been disastrous had they been further along before all the snow hit. New Richmond Bridge Park is in the flood plain and Kevin has seen it under water at least three times in the last year.

Another item to report on, Kevin had to renew the agreement with CSX because the old one expired on December 31, 2008. After contacting them in October and November, Kevin finally received the new agreement in December and discovered they had raised their hourly rate, increasing the cost of the project by approximately \$3000.

BYSTERVELD PARK – LAND OPPORTUNITY UPDATE

Kevin attempted to contact Dennis Van Dam regarding the Bysterveld Park property and, although he has left a couple messages for him, Dennis has not returned his call.

EQUESTRIAN TRAILS LEASE

Kevin reported he was asked to attend a Natural Resource Commission meeting in Lansing on December 4th. They were presenting the final version of the equestrian trails lease and asking the Natural Resource Commission for approval. The lease is for 25 years and there are 54 miles of trails designated for equestrian, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Although the item was initially near the beginning of the agenda, it was bumped to the end along with all of the other Director Action items. Kevin sat through the meeting for four hours before all of the Action items on the agenda were approved at once. Since the meeting, Kevin has submitted the final draft of the lease to County Administration and is hopeful it will go before the Board of Commissioners for their consideration and approval within the next couple weeks. Similar to all the other leases we have signed, it will not cost the County anything and there are no additional operational expenses on our part. Any cost that will be incurred to get the trails up and going will have to be funded from contributions and volunteer labor. Once approved, the trail markers will need to be ordered and since the trails are already pretty much done in Silver Creek Park, hopefully we can begin there in the spring. Next would be the trails at Ely Lake and then Pine Point. Chuck asked if we can get a copy of the proposed trails and Kevin said he would bring maps of the trails to the next meeting. Bruce wondered if the trail system is set in stone; what if there is an issue of where the trail should be while placing the markers? Kevin stated that as long as the trail is within a couple of feet of the proposed layout, it would be okay to conform to the landscape; any discrepancy over a few feet would require getting approval from the State.

Chuck informed the Parks Commission the annual Charity Ride at Silver Creek Park is planned for April 18, 2009. He asked the Commission for their approval to use the facility for the event and have the Special Use Permit fee and the \$2 daily fee for non-campers waived on April 18. As it stands, the group will have to get a permit for approximately \$200 from Plainwell. A motion was made by Chuck Pullen, seconded by Becky Rininger to approve the request to hold the Charity Ride at Silver Creek Park and to waive the Special Use Permit fee and the \$2 daily fee for non-campers on Saturday, April 18, 2009. The motion carried by all present.

NEW BUSINESS

LAKE MICHIGAN LAND OPPORTUNITY

Kevin requested to go to a closed session of the meeting. A motion was made by Robert Kaarlie, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to move to a closed session. Motion carried by all present.

A motion was made by Robert Kaarlie, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to move to an open session of the meeting. Motion carried by all present.

After an agreed consensus, Bruce stated that on behalf of the Parks Commission there is a desire and interest to pursue the Lake Michigan Land opportunity discussed during the closed session.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Allegan County Parks Commission will be on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at 8:30am in the Spartan Conference Room.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Chuck Pullen

Chuck asked if there is cross-country skiing at Littlejohn Lake Park and if so, are the trails marked? Kevin replied that although there is cross-country skiing at the park, the trails are not marked. He went on to say the parking lot is regularly snow plowed and a lot of people are still fishing at the park.

Kevin Ricco

Kevin announced that Ronda is officially hired as the Allegan County Parks, Recreation and Tourism Clerk and the Commission all offered their congratulations to her.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46am.

By: _____
Ronda Foreman, Clerk