



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



June 2, 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 Chairman Bruce Culver on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at 8:33am 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 Chuck Pullen
Larry Rasmussen Bruce Culver
Robert Kaarlie Maryln Langeance
Kelle Tobolic Becky Rininger

ABSENT: Fritz Spreitzer
Georgina Rozeboom-Doster

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

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Robert Kaarlie, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to approve the meeting minutes from May 5, 2009 as presented. Motion carried by all present.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kevin stated there is nothing to report on the expenditure side of the financial statements. Regarding the revenue side, the grant reimbursement was received from MMRMA for the new concrete fire rings that were purchased for Ely Lake Campground. As reported last month, since Ely Lake's budget could not cover the initial cost, funds had been taken from other accounts and will now be deposited back into those accounts. The entrance attendants started Memorial Day weekend and due to the nice weather, the parks did very well. The chilly weather predicted for the next couple of weeks will most likely affect the parks attendance. Kevin stated he has a couple more items to discuss later in the meeting. A motion was made by Mark DeYoung, seconded by Becky Rininger to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion carried by everyone present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW RICHMOND BRIDGE PARK UPDATE

Kevin stated there is both good news and bad news to report on the progress at New Richmond Bridge Park. The good news is the weather has been cooperating enough for construction on the south side of the park; most of the fishing pier and boardwalk have been completed and will hopefully be finished in the next couple of weeks. Now for the bad news...although the water has receded enough to start work on the boat launch, the soil is not as solid as originally thought for the coffer dam which creates a problem for the launch. Apex will have to drill further down to reach the solid base necessary to sustain the launch which will add an additional \$20,000 to the project. Although this goes beyond our contingency, we are anticipating a reimbursement from CSX who have already received approximately \$35,000 from Allegan County. When the engineer CSX showed up on site and reviewed the plan, he stated we do not need to mess with the bridge at all therefore we should be reimbursed for the work that has been eliminated. There is only about \$10,000 left in the budget and if all else fails, Kevin may have no choice but to go to the Board of Commissioners. Kevin spoke with MC Smith yesterday on what the best approach should be to resolve this dilemma and is awaiting their response. As soon as the problem is resolved Apex will be able to jump back into the project and get it done. Kevin stated the boat launch is exceptionally busy and it needs to open as quickly as possible. After talking to some fisherman who are anxiously awaiting the launch's opening, they are very excited and thrilled by what is being done. Bruce asked when the park will reopen; Kevin reported that although the project is about 6-8 weeks behind what was originally anticipated, they should still be able to meet the deadline which is at the end of September.

EQUESTRIAN TRAILS LEASE UPDATE

Kevin reports the Equestrian Trails Lease has finally come back from the State and the Board of Commissioners has approved the FACETS (Friends of Allegan County Equestrian Trail System) agreement. The materials for the trail markers have been received and according to Bob, the President of FACETS, they will hopefully begin to mark the trails in Silver Creek sometime this week. He stated they are going to mark them right the first time and are looking at quad runners to use for the task instead of horses; they already anticipate the project will be a challenge due to much of the trails are still under water. Kevin will provide Bob with copies of the trail maps and FACETS plan to meet tomorrow to set up a schedule; some of the members know the trails very well and those are the folks who we want to do the actual marking. Kevin also stated he has been working with Sara Schaeffer who is with the DNR to apply for recreational trail grant funds from the State. Although Kevin is writing the requests for the grants, Sara must be the one to submit them. They are due on Friday and even though there is no limit to how many can be submitted, due to the time it takes to put them together Kevin stated he will be lucky to get two of them done. One of grants will be for the staging area in the parking lot of Ely Lake; this spring he got some cost estimates of around \$8000-9000. If we get this grant, along with a little cost sharing from the County and also from the DNR which they are willing to do, the project should get started soon. The other grant is for the trail markers and trail signs which are estimated to end up costing approximately \$5000. According to Kevin, the folks in Lansing are thrilled to get these grant requests for the State Game Area because they usually don't receive them for trails. He stated Sara has also been very helpful and easy to work with and since becoming involved in the trails, she is now an equestrian herself.

NEW BUSINESS

WEST SIDE BEACH DRAIN

Kevin has more bad news to report; due to the deluge of water this spring, the storm drain outlet that empties onto the beach at West Side Park has washed out occurring sometime in late April or early May. Back when the county took the park over, a new tube was put in down the slope and has held up very well until this year; now there is about a 4'-5' drop underneath where the sand has washed out. This has created a safety concern and needs to be repaired as soon as possible. Kevin talked to one contractor who estimated the drain would cost around \$2000. Because of the safety issue, there should be no problem getting the DEQ to act quickly and approve the repair. By this coming Friday, Kevin expects to receive several more bids and has also sent requests to MMRMA although he is unsure if they will help cover the cost. They have contributed during past issues and we'll have to wait and see what their decision is this time. In the interim, the repair will end up

costing us at least \$1000 and Kevin hopes to have the repair completed before the July meeting. He stated this is the problem with having such a tight budget, when an emergency arises there are not enough funds available to respond quickly. Drain Commissioner Becky Rininger stated there is a real concern about Lake Michigan being on the rise; it is much higher than it has been in recent years...16" over last year. Board of Commissioner Mark DeYoung stated the next two years will be tough on the County's budget; in fact he predicts funds will be cut.

2009 KANOE THE KAZOO REPORT

Reporting on the Kanoë the Kazoo held on Saturday, May 30, 2009, Kevin stated it was a great day and turnout. Coinciding with the Kanoë the Kazoo event was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the first segment of the Kalamazoo River Heritage Water Trail which received a lot of media coverage. There were over 50 canoes or kayaks participating; most were not repeats but were new to the event and the bus that transported them was filled over capacity so they had to resort to using an additional van. Kevin also reported the rearing facility for the sturgeon at New Richmond Bridge Park will probably not happen at this point. He believes the DNR has made their decision, although the possibility for an educational facility to house a juvenile sturgeon still remains.

NEXT MEETING – JULY 7, 2009 @ 8:30AM

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Mark DeYoung asked if the public workshop for the 5-Year Comprehensive Parks Master Plan is still set for July. Kevin confirmed the date of July 7th from 6:00 – 7:30pm in the Zimmerman Room of the Human Services Building and stated he will get the public notice and press release published soon. Mark also reported he went by Bysterveld Park recently and saw about 20 people along with a school bus; he believes the park should remain open until dusk. Mark then asked Kevin how the Boy Scouts did holding their end of the bargain helping the parks with spring cleanup. Kevin replied they fell short of expectations and even Jim Rollins, the Klondike Derby organizer, was disappointed with the troops; they kept giving excuses and Jim put in over 60 hours of the work himself. Jim has already informed Kevin the Boy Scouts will be paying for the camping fees next year and will not be asking for them to be waived.

Kevin Ricco relayed a request to the Parks Commission from a Girl Scout Troop to waive the pavilion fees for their annual picnic. The reservation is during the week for the full day using the north half of the pavilion at Littlejohn County Park and the fees have been waived in past years. A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Chuck Pullen to waive the pavilion fee of \$80.00 on Wednesday, June 24, 2009 from 8am – 9pm for the north half of the Littlejohn County Park pavilion for the annual Girl Scout picnic. The motion carried unanimously.

Bruce Culver asked if there would be a parks tour this summer. Kevin stated he is hoping to do a tour in late September or early October once New Richmond Bridge Park is completed. He suggested scheduling it on the regular meeting day in October; hold a quick meeting and then go on the tour and invite the Board of Commissioners, the Tourist Council, and anyone else interested in going. Bruce agreed and said let's work towards it and figure on having the tour after the October 6th meeting this coming fall.

Chuck Pullen informed the Commission he will be absent for the July meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25am.

By: _____
Ronda Foreman, Clerk