



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



December 1, 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, December 1, 2009 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:	Chuck Pullen	Mark DeYoung
	Larry Rasmussen	Bruce Culver
	Robert Kaarlie	Becky Rininger
	Fritz Spreitzer	MarylN Langeance

ABSENT: Kelle Tobolic

Also Present:

Kevin Ricco, Parks Director
Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk
Kris Allred, Silver Creek Park Manager
Lenore Ryun, FACETS Representative

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Fritz requested an addition to the agenda under Unfinished Business, Item 9a. 2010 Parks Commission Per Diem and Mileage Reimbursement. A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed with a seven to one vote.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 1; Absent – 1; Abstain – 0

Y Chuck Pullen	N Mark DeYoung
Y Larry Rasmussen	Y Bruce Culver
Y Robert Kaarlie	Y Becky Rininger
Y Fritz Spreitzer	Y Maryln Langeance

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Fritz Spreitzer to approve the November 3, 2009 meeting minutes as presented and mailed. The motion carried by everyone present.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kevin stated he does not have anything specific to comment on for this month's financial statements. Becky asked how the revenues turned out for the year; Kevin replied the best way to assess them is to look at each individual park. All of the county parks were either the same or down over last year with the exception of West Side Park, which was slightly up. A motion was made by Larry Rasmussen, seconded by Chuck Pullen to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion carried by everyone present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In attendance for today's meeting is Kris Allred, the Silver Creek Park Manager, and Lenore Ryun representing Friends of Allegan County Equestrian Trail System (FACETS). Bob stated they are here to request an amendment to the FACETS contract with the County. The current contract is through the end of the year 2009 and they would like it amended to be valid for the entire length of the 25 year lease agreement the County has with the State, including a 30 day pull-out option for both sides. Bob gave Kevin a letter from an attorney who is representing FACETS that spells out the request and the reasoning behind it. Kevin stated this is a reasonable request; it is the same contract but instead of renewing it annually, it will be valid for 25 years.

A motion was made by Fritz Spreitzer, seconded by Maryln Langeance to accept the amendment to the contract between the County and FACETS, extending the length of the contract to 25 years with a 30 day pull-out option for both sides. The motion passed by everyone present.

Bob updated the Commission, stating there is still work to be done on the trails in the upper area of Silver Creek; the lower portion is completed with the exception of some signage that will be installed in the spring. Bruce stated FACETS has done a great job on the trails; the project was a huge undertaking and the volunteers far exceeded expectations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW RICHMOND BRIDGE PARK UPDATE

Kevin reported that as of last week, New Richmond Bridge Park is done including the punch list; he will meet with the engineer on Thursday for the final inspection. The only item that will wait until spring are the placement of the remaining signs. The park looks great and Kevin has been getting some positive feedback although some are upset with the \$5 boat launch fee that will begin on April 1, 2010. Hopefully with all the improvements to the boat launch and park, folks won't feel too bad paying the fee. There are two signs that will be hung on the information board at the park next week; one to notify individuals of the upcoming fee and the \$25 season pass that can be used towards all of the County Parks' boat launches, entrance fees, and horse trail fees. The second sign is to notify commercial users of their requirement to obtain a Commercial Launch Permit to use the launch (\$300 annually). Chuck asked if a permit is necessary if they use the park as a take-out point only; Kevin stated whether they put-in or take-out, the permit is a requirement. Bruce asked if the same is true for individuals; Kevin said technically yes, that is the case.

EQUESTRIAN TRAILS UPDATE

Bruce asked if there is anything else to discuss since the update was heard earlier under Public Participation. Chuck asked if the Parks Commissioners can go next week when the equestrian sites are chosen at Pine Point and Ely Lake Campgrounds. Kevin stated yes they are welcome to come, although the general area where the sites will be located are already known; once the sites are selected, they will have to determine which trees will have to be removed. Chuck and Bob both stated they would like to attend; Kevin replied it may be short notice.

PROPOSED PARK FEES FOR 2010

Kevin asked for a timely response from the Board of Commissioners to the proposed 2010 park fee increases approved by the Parks Commission last month, but did not get it. Instead, the decision has been postponed until the BOC, Administration, and the Finance Department have a chance to review the fee survey conducted on the parks earlier this year, and then come up with their own recommendation; as reported last month, the results of

the survey gave no fee recommendations. What disturbs Kevin is it will not be presented to the BOC until the end of January and then it will take some time before they decide, most likely not until the end of March; by then he feels it will be too late for changes to the 2010 fees. Although Kevin was told by Administration and Finance the fees can be changed at any time, there are many reasons why he does not want to increase them mid-season. First, it would be unfair to the park users who did not make their reservations until after the increase; the Parks Office would be bombarded by complaints and rightfully so. Also, there is a lot to be done if the fees change; the online reservation system would have to be revamped to accommodate the number of horses for the equestrian sites, forms would have to be revised, brochures with the new pricing would have to be printed, and public notice would have to be given. Fritz stated he could get it on the BOC's agenda this month; Kevin stated he will leave that up to Fritz but he would have to know their decision by December 10 to allow enough time to do the changes before the 2010 reservations begin on January 1. Fritz stated he will email Administration and see if he can get it presented to the BOC at their meeting this week, Thursday; he will have an answer for Kevin by the end of that day. Kevin reiterated he is okay with leaving the fees as they are, but does not want to change them mid-year. Fritz stated he would like to attempt to get it done before the end of this year instead of waiting until 2011.

A motion was made by Fritz Spreitzer, seconded by Bob Kaarlie to have the proposed park fees for 2010 presented to the Board of Commissioners for their approval at their next meeting on Thursday, December 3, 2009. The motion passed with a seven to one vote.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 1; Absent – 1; Abstain – 0

N Chuck Pullen	Y Mark DeYoung
Y Larry Rasmussen	Y Bruce Culver
Y Robert Kaarlie	Y Becky Rininger
Y Fritz Spreitzer	Y Maryln Langeance

2010 PARKS COMMISSION PER DIEM AND MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

Fritz stated that since there were members absent from last month's meeting, he would like to revisit the decision to eliminate the 2010 Parks Commission paid per diems and mileage reimbursements. Upon reflection, he now believes that the amounts paid and reimbursed to the Commission to attend meetings will not make a huge difference to the Parks budget; even though he voted to forego them, he is now inclined to change his mind. Others agreed, stating it puts undo burden on those who want to attend meetings and must travel from a far distance; they do not believe it is unreasonable to ask for per diems and mileage reimbursement. Mark disagreed with the rescission. Kevin stated it is up to the group but if the decision is reversed, there will be no funds available to have boat launch attendants at Gun Lake and Dumont Lake parks for the 2010 season.

A motion was made by Fritz Spreitzer, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to rescind the motion made last month to forego their paid per diem and mileage reimbursement to finance the two boat launch attendant positions at Gun Lake and Dumont Lake parks for the year 2010 with each member receiving a 2010 season pass. The motion passed with a six to one vote.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 1; Absent – 1; Abstain – 1

Y Chuck Pullen	N Mark DeYoung
Y Larry Rasmussen	Y Bruce Culver
Y Robert Kaarlie	A Becky Rininger
Y Fritz Spreitzer	Y Maryln Langeance

NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW OF PARKS MASTER PLAN DRAFT

A copy of the Parks 5-Year Master Plan Draft was distributed to the Parks Commission members. Kevin will not read page by page today; he would like everyone to take time to review the plan before the next meeting. He stated the required 30-day notice will be published in the local newspapers this week and the public hearing will be at 8:30 a.m. on January 5, 2010 at the Parks Commission meeting.

NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 5, 2010 @ 8:30AM

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Chuck Pullen was wondering if we have stop signs on the trails to warn equestrians of the highway ahead. He also wanted to mention that along some of the trails in Yankee Springs, they have signs that state no motorized vehicles allowed. Kevin remarked quads and off-road vehicles are not allowed by the State and they would be the ones to enforce the rule. Regarding the stop signs, he believes this is a good idea; Mark stated he may have some signs in his garage. Kevin stated he could also contact the Allegan County Snowmobile Club and ask where they get their signs. Mark will look for his signs and will inform Kevin if he can't find them.

Bruce Culver thanked Kris Allred and Lenore Ryun for attending the meeting and for all of their hard work on the equestrian trails.

ADJOURNMENT

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

By: _____
Ronda Foreman, Clerk