



Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

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January 5, 2010

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 5, 2010 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
 Kelle Tobolic Maryln Langeance

ABSENT: Fritz Spreitzer

Also Present: Kevin Ricco, Parks Director
 Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk
 Kris Allred, Silver Creek Park Manager
 Lenore Ryun, City of Allegan

ELECTION OF 2010 OFFICERS (CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, SECRETARY)

A motion was made by Robert Kaarlie, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to nominate Bruce Culver as the Chairperson of the Allegan County Parks Commission for 2010. The motion carried by all present. A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Chuck Pullen 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 2010.

A motion was made by Chuck Pullen, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to nominate Robert Kaarlie as the Vice Chairperson of the Allegan County Parks Commission for 2010. The motion carried by all present. A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Maryln Langeance 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 2010.

A motion was made by Robert Kaarlie, seconded by Maryln Langeance to nominate Becky Rininger as the Secretary of the Allegan County Parks Commission for 2010. The motion carried by all present. A motion was made by Mark DeYoung, seconded by Chuck Pullen 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 2010.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Kevin requested an addition to the agenda under New Business, Item 11a. Boy Scout Klondike Derby at Silver Creek. A motion was made by Larry Rasmussen, seconded by Kelle Tobolic to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to approve the December 1, 2009 meeting minutes as presented and mailed. The motion carried by everyone present.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kevin stated there are two expenditure reports printed: the 2009 year end report and a current 2010 report that includes the \$50,000 budget cuts. All activities came in within budget on the expenditure side and the revenues aren't much different than last month. As expected, 2009 was down compared to the previous year due to the bad weather and economy; with a good summer in 2010 revenue should turn around. Kevin had one item to note; the Tourist Council activity under account 774 is zeroed out and about \$2900 under parks advertising is preserved for the Tourist Council. The group will still exist and hope the Board of Commissioners will reconsider the budget cuts and reinstate their funding. In the meantime, they are looking at ways to generate more revenue.

A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Robert Kaarlie to approve the 2009 year end and current 2010 financial reports as presented. Motion carried by all present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two visitors are present to observe the meeting; Kris Allred and Lenore Ryun, both from the City of Allegan. Chuck asked if anyone has reserved Silver Creek Park for the annual charity ride in April; Kevin stated no. Chuck then requested the Park Commission's approval to hold the event at Silver Creek Park on April 17, 2010 and also waive the daily rider fees and special use permit fee. Kevin stated if the special use permit fee is waived, liability insurance naming Allegan County will still be required. A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Robert Kaarlie to approve the use of Silver Creek Park on April 17, 2010 for the charity ride, and to waive the \$5/per horse day rider fees and the \$25 special use permit fee on the day of the event. The motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – PARKS AND RECREATION 5-YEAR MASTER PLAN

Kevin stated the public hearing is a requirement by the State of Michigan for master plans. For the past 30 days the master plan has been available for the public to view in the Parks office and notice of the hearing has been posted in local newspapers. The hearing is for any final thoughts on the master plan and Kevin asked if anyone has any comments or questions; Mark stated he does not want to lose sight of Phase II of Bysterveld Park. The Resolution of Adoption was handed out to the Commission for their approval before the master plan can go to the Board of Commissioners for their adoption.

A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Robert Kaarlie to approve the resolution of adoption of the 2010 - 2015 Allegan County Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The motion was carried by everyone present.

2010 PARK USER FEES

As discussed during the last meeting, Kevin reports the proposed increase in campground and horse trail fees went before the Board of Commissioners and was approved as recommended. Mark fought hard to have the

issue heard before the end of 2009 so the increases could be implemented for the 2010 season. Reservations commenced at midnight, January 3, 2010 with the new fees in place and Kevin has not received any feedback, positive or negative. The news of the increased fees has been out there a while, so most folks were aware of them ahead of time. Bruce commented that in Kalamazoo County, their season pass rates are based on whether or not the person is a county resident. Kevin stated he does not support a two-tiered system stating it is difficult to enforce and we don't want any non-residents to opt against purchasing a season pass because they are charged a higher rate. Allegan County has a lot to offer that other counties don't have and we want non-residents to come.

EQUESTRIAN TRAILS UPDATE

Everyone received a copy of the new Pine Point and Ely Lake Campground maps that show where the equestrian sites will be located. In preparation for adding the sites in the spring, it has been determined some trees will have to be removed. Kris Allred, the Silver Creek Park Manager, may be asked to come and help decide where the picket posts should be located at each new site. As depicted on the maps, Kevin stated he wanted a separation between the equestrian and non-equestrian sites. He does not want to make all of the sites equestrian since both campgrounds are used by non-equestrians; after the 2010 season ends the sites will be reevaluated to see if more equestrian sites should be added, especially at Ely Lake. Kevin has heard a lot of excitement from equestrians who are looking forward to using the two campgrounds and adjacent horse trails; it's nice to provide the resources to those who want to use them. Kevin is still waiting to hear if the grant he applied for is approved to help clear the staging areas, which are entirely based on getting the grant. Bob would like to have numbers placed on the posts along the trails that would relate back to the trail maps for convenience and safety reasons. Kevin is concerned about putting additional numbers on the posts since they are already marked with trail identifiers; he suggested separate posts for this purpose. He anticipates there will be many ideas and suggestions of ways to improve the trails as we go along.

NEW BUSINESS

TOPICS FOR JOINT MEETING IN FEBRUARY

Kevin reminded everyone of the joint meeting with the Tourist Council on February 2, 2010, and asked if anyone has topics for discussion between the groups. Kelle asked about the casino and if they are a source that could help fund the Tourist Council; Kevin stated this is a good topic for discussion. If anyone has more suggestions, please let Kevin know before the next meeting.

BOY SCOUT KLONDIKE DERBY AT SILVER CREEK

Kevin was contacted by Todd Connors who is the new representative for the Boy Scout Klondike Derby and is familiar with all the previous issues surrounding the annual event. The group has decided they will pay for their camping instead of having the fees waived in lieu of volunteering for the county parks spring clean-up, although Todd stated the boy scouts will still volunteer for the clean-up at Silver Creek Park. They have requested to use Silver Creek Park for the Klondike Derby on February 5 and 6, 2010, for approximately 150 – 200 scouts. Most are coming for the day and just one night, although one troop will probably camp on Friday night too. Kevin explained to Todd that there are no group sites at Silver Creek; each site is limited to four people that would include at least one adult. It is up to the Parks Commission if they want to alter the rules, although Kevin recommends sticking to the rules as to not set a precedent. Kris asked about the scouts building fires in the woods behind the sites and by the trails; she has found evidence of this after the fact and wants to ensure they will clean-up after themselves. Kevin stated they should build fires in designated fire pits only.

A motion was made by Robert Kaarlie, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to approve the special use permit requested for the Klondike Derby and to accept the terms of the agreement set forth by Kevin Ricco and Todd Conner on behalf of the Boy Scout troops. The motion carried by everyone present

NEXT MEETING – FEBRUARY 2, 2010 @ 8:30AM (WITH TOURIST COUNCIL)

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Becky Rininger will be absent for the February meeting. She also asked about the vacant seat on the Parks Commission and wondered if anyone knows someone who would be interested in joining the group, preferably from the north/west area of the county.

Kris Allred stated she decided last fall to make an effort to attend the Parks Commission meetings throughout the winter; as Silver Creek Park manager she believes it is her duty to attend the meetings and understand what the PC does. She also informed the group about a conversation she had with Maria from the DNR regarding a group out of Lansing who are against the trail lease. Kevin stated he does not foresee any problems as long as we continue to do what is expected and ensure folks who use the trails follow the rules and take care of their trash.

Lenore Ryun asked Kevin if the date has been changed on the agreement between FACETS and the Parks Commission; he stated he is still waiting to receive it.

Mark DeYoung stated he appreciates Kris Allred and Lenore Ryun for attending today's meeting.

Kevin Ricco stated it is not too early to start thinking about the ribbon-cutting ceremony for both New Richmond Bridge Park and the equestrian trails. He stated this might be a good topic to discuss at the joint meeting next month with the Tourist Council; the date, who should speak, and any other activities should be determined. Chuck suggested Bill Nelson as the speaker, the gentleman who previously helped turn the bridge.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52am.

By: _____

Ronda Foreman, Clerk