



## Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

3255 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite 102

Allegan, MI 49010

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

Parks Web: [www.allegancounty.org/Parks](http://www.allegancounty.org/Parks)

Tourism Web: [www.visitallegancounty.com](http://www.visitallegancounty.com)

E-mail: [parks@allegancounty.org](mailto:parks@allegancounty.org)



**June 1, 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 Chairman Bruce Culver on Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 8:34am in the Spartan Conference Room in the lower level of the Human Services Building, 3255 122<sup>nd</sup> 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
	Lenore Ryun	Fritz Spreitzer

ABSENT: None.

Also Present: Kevin Ricco, Parks Director  
Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk  
Pam Brown of Allegan

#### ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

A motion was made by Bob Kaarle, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to approve the agenda as presented and mailed. The motion carried by everyone present.

#### APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Bob Kaarlie, seconded by Becky Rininger to approve the May 4, 2010 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried by everyone present.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

There is not a whole lot for Kevin to report. Regarding the two grants received from the DNR Recreational Trails Program for the equestrian trails project; one was for the message center signs which have already been done and we have been reimbursed. The other was for the day ride parking area at Ely Lake which is also done; once the invoice is received it will be processed. The State was really quick with the turn-around on the reimbursement taking only one week, which was nice since we have to pay for it first before getting reimbursed.

Ronda stated reservations are up for the year. On Memorial Day weekend, Silver creek was completely reserved and the manager at Ely Lake and Pine Point campgrounds reported they were also very busy.

A motion was made by Maryln Langeance, seconded by Kelle Tobolic to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Pam Brown of Allegan

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **NEW RICHMOND BRIDGE PARK – RIBBON CUTTING UPDATE**

The ribbon cutting ceremony is just a few days away and the weather is looking uncertain with a 40% chance of rain. Kevin suspects that if the weather is decent, there will be a lot of people in attendance for the ceremony. He reminded everyone to bring beverages and he will bring a tub of ice. Kevin and Ronda has been looking into decorations but it all depends on the weather and will wait until Friday night to decide. Unless it rains, the ceremony will still be held on the middle of the bridge starting at 10am, Saturday, June 5. Kevin is borrowing the same podium that was at the Equestrian Trail System ribbon cutting and MSU Extension is allowing the use of their American flag. Crane's Orchards is providing the apple cider and donuts, and Esther Ricco is bringing homemade goodies. In the case of rain the ceremony will be shortened and held under umbrellas. Kevin stated the mosquitoes are bad at the park but not so much on the bridge. Before last week, the dock was under water but is okay now. All in all, if the bad weather holds off, the ceremony should be a huge success!

### **EQUESTRIAN TRAILS UPDATE – RIBBON CUTTING UPDATE**

Kevin stated the weather was dicey at first but ended up quite nice for the event despite the mosquitoes. Reporter Tim Doty from FOX 17 News did really nice coverage of the trails for their 6pm and 10pm news; they arrived just as the ceremony ended and they spent time interviewing speakers and equestrians at the park that included Bob Kaarlie and Mark DeYoung. Tim Doty does not work on Saturday's so the crew will not be in attendance for the New Richmond Bridge ceremony.

### **GUN LAKE PARK BOAT LAUNCH**

Kevin stated the Gun Lake Park boat launch repair project is going forward; the launch will be closed beginning Monday, June 14 through Friday, June 18, 2010. On that Monday, the concrete slab will be poured and will take until Friday to cure before the launch can be reopened.

### **JOINT MEETING WITH TOURIST COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 21ST**

As everyone may recall, last month there was a request from the Tourist Council who would like to hold another joint meeting with the Parks Commission; at that time it was suggested to wait until the fall. The TC has now proposed a joint meeting on the 21st of September at 10am. Kevin stated it is up to this group to accept their proposal or counter with another date, possibly in October or November. After some discussion, the Tourist Council meeting on November 9 at 10am was agreed upon; Kevin will ask the Tourist Council at their next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

For the last couple of years, Kevin has been working on Economic Development on an interim basis, which is now more permanent and part of what he does. At the Equestrian Trail ceremony, Mark threw out some statistics that showed how much Parks, Recreation, & Tourism is tied together with economic development; Kevin stated other BOC members do not make the connection. He has a formula to calculate the number of visitors per year; based on the period of May through Labor Day in 2009, there were 175,000 visits to the parks, which is a conservative estimate. Although there are repeat visitors, that is a large volume of people who are not all from Allegan County and would be easy to calculate the economic dollars that is generated.

## CAMPSITE RESERVATION REQUEST – PLEASURE RIDERS

Kevin received a letter from Pam Brown requesting the organizers from the Pleasure Riders be allowed to make camping reservations for their event prior to January 1. They need approximately 17 or 18 centralized sites to put on the event and with the current policy; they have trouble getting them all together due to the sites getting reserved too quickly. Kevin stated the main issue is we would have to allow all other event organizers the same privilege; if approved, the entire reservation should be executed before the beginning of the year, including full payment. Bruce stated it is customary in event planning to give organizers the first choice of spots and does not think the request is out of the ordinary. Chuck feels it would be alright as long as the sites are for event workers, although there should also be a minimum amount of days they must reserve. Bruce asked Kevin to put something together to bring to the next meeting for the Parks Commission to review and approve.

## NEXT MEETING – JULY 6, 2010 @ 8:30AM

### ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

**Bob Kaarlie** stated the volunteers are going to need more paint, stakes, and number 1 stickers for the equestrian trails; Kevin will get them ordered.

**Lenore Ryun** asked about the trail maps and how much they would cost to have colored maps printed; there may be an individual who will donate money to print them. Kevin has not priced the cost to print more maps due to the lack of funds in the Parks budget, but could get a price if someone wants to donate to have them printed. He stated there are maps available online for folks to print before they come to the park; Lenore stated not everyone has a computer or they forget to print before coming.

**Chuck Pullen** asked if we could put up large colored maps of the trails at the parks; Kevin stated this has already been done at Silver Creek and there will be some posted at Ely Lake and Pine Point Parks soon.

**Pam Brown** has a suggestion; in various locations on the trails in Ionia there are maps posted with an arrow stating “You Are Here”. Kevin stated this has been previously discussed and are planned for certain intersections along the ETS but has not been priced yet; we are still working on getting the trails marked. Pam stated there are wet areas that are impassable and asked if the trail could be moved slightly in these instances. Kevin stated he is aware some areas are wet, although not always; we will be working with the DNRE in the future to address these areas. Next, Pam asked if donations can be made that are earmarked for a certain item. Kevin stated if it is for the trail system the answer is yes; for other donations, things have to be done in sequence according to the Master Plan.

**Mark DeYoung** stated Bysterveld Park has been busy; people are there bright and early in the morning to enjoy the park.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:49.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk