



## Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

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**July 6, 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, July 6, 2010 at 8:32am 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  
                                         Maryln Langeance                      Lenore Ryun

ABSENT:                      Kelle Tobolic                      Fritz Spreitzer

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

#### ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

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

#### APPROVAL OF JUNE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Bob Kaarlie, seconded by Lenore Ryun to approve the June 1, 2010 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried by everyone present.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kevin stated he has nothing specific to report on the financial statements and asked if there are any questions. He reported the weather was great for the holiday weekend and expects good returns. Bruce asked if there has been a reduction in revenue at the boat launches since attendants are no longer staffed on the weekends; Kevin stated it is too soon to know but anticipates they will be down. Ultimately, if the total boat launch revenue is

down but if the difference compared to last year is less than what the attendants would have been paid, it will be a wash.

A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Bob Kaarlie to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion carried by everyone present.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Pam Brown and Joanne Coy are here for the next item on the agenda, Advance Campsite Reservations for Special Events.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **ADVANCE CAMPSITE RESERVATIONS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS**

Kevin stated this was part of last months' meeting discussion when he was directed to write a rough draft to amend the Park Commission's Special Use Policy regarding special events that are held at the campgrounds. He passed out copies of the draft and stated this is just to get this group started. He directed everyone to the second page under the second item, **PROCEDURE FOR CAMPGROUNDS**, where it talks about written requests. The amendments were derived from suggestions taken at the last meeting and are as follows:

- Written requests for special use permits, along with organizers' campsite reservations, will be accepted in the Parks Office between November 1 and 30 for the following year.
- Requests are subject to approval by the Parks Commission.
- Number of campsites reserved in advance shall not exceed ten.
- Campsites requested for advance registration must be specified by campsite number.
- Contact information for the responsible party who will be staying at each campsite will be required.
- Two-night minimum stay for each campsite reserved in advance.
- Deadline is December 15th to return the signed use permit and \$25 payment, the certificate of liability insurance naming Allegan County Parks as being insured (when applicable), and full payment for all campsite reservations made in advance.
- Failure to meet the deadline will result in the cancellation of all campsites reserved in advance.
- Once paid, all fees are non-refundable.

A motion was made by Mark DeYoung, seconded by Bob Kaarlie to approve the amendments to the Allegan County Parks and Recreation Special Events Use Policy as presented. The motion carried by everyone present.

## **GUN LAKE PARK BOAT LAUNCH**

Kevin reports the Gun Lake Park boat launch repair turned out really nice and we have received a lot of positive feedback; notification of the repair had been posted ahead of time to inform users of the five-day closing. Hopefully the repair will last a few years until it gets to the point when it will have to be completely replaced. Kevin also noted the sea wall using native plants turned out very nice as well.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2010 RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT FOR ETS**

Kevin reminded the Commission that last year he submitted applications for grants which were approved and have been completed; one for the parking lot at Ely Lake and the other for the message board signs. Another project we really wanted to get to was improving and expanding the parking area at Pine Point Campground. After working with the DNRE, a request for a grant has been submitted and if the funds are received by early fall, the improvements could still be completed this year. Kevin has proposed to take out the center line of shrubbery and trees that are located on the road just beyond the parking area, and then fill with gravel similar to how the Ely Lake parking area was done.

Bob and Larry report folks are disappointed with how the Ely Lake Campground day riding parking area has turned out; after one inch of rain most of the lot is flooded and the surface needs to be elevated to a higher level.

#### PARK FLOODING

Kevin stated after all the recent heavy rains there are campsites that are underwater at Ely Lake Campground and also nearly everything at New Richmond Bridge Park. Fortunately, the river has been receding and the boardwalk and boat ramp are now above water again although, the ditch along Old Allegan Road needs to be excavated for the third time. One-third of Gun Lake Park and areas at Dumont Lake Park were also flooded, along with a lot of the equestrian trails.

#### POTENTIAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION – CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to move to a closed session to discuss the potential property acquisition. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to move to an open session to continue the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Bob Kaarlie, seconded by Lenore Ryun to table the potential property acquisition discussion to a future meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

#### NEXT MEETING – AUGUST 3, 2010 @ 8:30AM

#### ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

**Bob Kaarlie** reports he has only one loop of the equestrian trail system left for someone to adopt in the Adopt-A-Trail program.

**Chuck Pullen** reports Dr. Connell, who is a local veterinarian, has donated color maps for the equestrian trails and they have been distributed to the campgrounds; 200 to Silver Creek Campground, and 100 each to Ely Lake and Pine Point Campgrounds.

Chuck also informed the Commission he will be absent for the August 3, 2010 Parks Commission meeting.

**Maryln Langeance** stated she will be helping out during the election on August 3, 2010 and will not be in attendance for the meeting either.

**Kevin Ricco** received an email request from Janice Goodwin whose parents are Russ and Vi Shoemaker; the Shoemaker's were very instrumental in helping with the Bysterveld Park campaign and they knew the Bysterveld's very well. Janice and her family would like to plant a dedication tree at the park, along with a plaque, for Russ and Vi.

A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Mark DeYoung to approve the planting of a dedication tree and plaque in honor of the Shoemakers at Bysterveld County Park; Kevin Ricco to select the species of the tree and the location it will be planted. The motion carried with a unanimous vote

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.

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