



Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

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August 3, 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 Vice Chairman Robert Kaarlie on Tuesday, August 3, 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: Mark DeYoung Lenore Ryun
Larry Rasmussen Kelle Tobolic
Robert Kaarlie Becky Rininger

ABSENT: Chuck Pullen Maryln Langeance
Bruce Culver Fritz Spreitzer

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

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Kelle Tobolic to approve the agenda as presented and mailed. The motion carried by everyone present.

APPROVAL OF JULY MEETING MINUTES

Lenore pointed out an error on the July minutes under the Round Table Discussion; Chuck *Pullman* should have read Chuck *Pullen*. A motion was made by Lenore Ryun, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to approve the July 6, 2010 meeting minutes as amended. The motion carried by everyone present.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kevin had a couple things to note on the revenue side of the financial report; so far this season the boat launch revenues are down at Dumont Lake and Gun Lake Parks. Although it is too soon to know for sure, he believes the decreases are due to the lack of boat launch attendants on the weekends. Ely Lake and Pine Point Campgrounds are also down for the year; the biggest complaint is regarding all of the bugs and mosquitoes that were spawned by the rain. At Silver Creek, the deer flies are so bad the organizers of the Endurance Ride are moving the event to October in 2011. Overall the pavilion and daily admits are doing well at the parks and if we could have a period where the bugs are down, the campgrounds might do better as well.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2011 BUDGET

Kevin stated the 2011 budget is still in progress; Administration has been taking suggestions from employees for ways to reduce costs. One suggestion they have implemented is a voluntary separation plan; thirteen long-standing employees have already taken advantage of the plan. Although a couple of those positions will be filled, the majority of them will be left vacant. Another idea being implemented is a voluntary hour reduction for employees, although they will be required to work a minimum of 35 hours per week to keep their health benefits. There is still a figure that will have to be cut from the budget, though it will not be as much as initially anticipated. Kevin hopes to have a better picture of what is happening by the September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Kevin has been doing some research; Maria from the DNRE has been exceptionally helpful by providing him with a list of forestry consultants. He recently met with Tom Stadt, who is a forestry consultant and has owned his own consulting business for 30 years. They walked Littlejohn Lake and Silver Creek Parks to get an idea of the standing timber, although their time was cut short due to the mosquitoes and deer flies. Once Tom goes back out and does his final evaluation, he will provide an overall timber management plan not only for the forest, but also in perspective of the wildlife. He would get 10% of the sales although at this time, Kevin does not know if that is a high or low figure and will meet with one or two other forestry consultants for additional estimates.

The Parks Commission would have to make recommendation to the Board of Commissioners for their approval. Initially, the goal of doing a selective harvest was to use the revenue generated to set aside for us to use as matching funds for grant and capital improvement projects. Now, depending on how the budget plays out, it may have to be used to augment our own operations for 2011. As Kevin gets more information, he will make recommendation to this group.

PARKS HISTORY PROJECT

During last month's Tourist Council meeting, the owner's of Baker Allegan Studios in Allegan were in attendance to discuss bringing artists in the area together. They asked about the history of the County's parks of which little is known at this time. As time allows, Kevin wants to take each park and find out as much as possible about its history and make a timeline of progression to where we are today. He believes it is important to tell the story since the parks have been around for a long time. He asked the Commission to share any information they may know; Becky stated she recently gave a box of past information she found to Judy Nance in Administration and believes it is still sitting by her desk.

NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 7, 2010 @ 8:30AM

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Mark DeYoung hopes the election goes well today; he has had great community support. He also wanted to inform the Commission the bridge located on 142nd Street near Bysterveld Park will be torn out and reconstructed next year; the exit ramps will also be closed for construction during the same period. Mark suggested posting alternative routes of how to get to the park on the website.

Kevin Ricco had a couple things to mention; the first being a project that involves the doors that go into the restrooms at West Side Park. They do not have deadbolt locks or automatic door closers and will swing and stay open, which has caused problems with bugs, birds, dirt, leaves, etc. in the restrooms. It is hard to keep them clean and in the winter the doors have to be completely boarded up to secure the buildings. Kevin has a

gentleman who is going to install deadbolt locks and closers; the south restroom should be easy since the doors already open the correct way. With the north building, the frames will have to be switched around so the doors open out before the deadbolt locks and closers can be installed. Ultimately, it will help keep the restrooms cleaner.

Next, the Kalamazoo Water Festival is being held on Saturday, August 14 from noon until 11:30pm at the Arcadia Creek Festival Site in Kalamazoo. Kevin asked if anyone would be willing to man a table during the festival to give out information regarding Allegan County Parks and Tourism, etc; please let him know as soon as possible if interested.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 am.

By: _____
Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk