



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 7, 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 Parks Director Kevin Ricco on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at 8:34am in the Spartan Conference Room in the lower level of the Human Services Building, 3255 - 122nd Avenue, Allegan, Michigan.

Roll Call showed the following members:

PRESENT: Mark DeYoung Lenore Ryun
Kelle Tobolic Chuck Pullen
Becky Rininger Maryln Langeance (via telephone)

ABSENT: Robert Kaarlie Bruce Culver
Larry Rasmussen
Fritz Spreitzer

Also Present: Kevin Ricco, Parks Director
Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk
Pam Brown, Allegan (Pleasure Riders Secretary)

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

The quorum has not been met.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The quorum has not been met.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kevin stated the financial statements are not much different than last month. He will be placing an order soon for half of the 2011 park supplies to utilize some of the remaining funds from this year's budget.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Pam Brown, Pleasure Riders Secretary, is in attendance to request the Parks Commission waive the \$25 fee for the special use permit for the benefit ride in April. Pam also mentioned there are issues with the picket lines at Silver Creek Park and after the benefit ride the Pleasure Riders would like to donate a percentage of the

proceeds to have the problem addressed. Kris Allred got some quotes to have 80 different low areas filled in with sand and Tri-County Excavators was by far the best priced. The group would also like to level a hump that is in the picket line so they may end up needing even less sand than what was originally quoted. They would like to pay Tri-County Excavators directly; Kevin stated he would have them send the invoice right to the group. Kevin thanked Pam and the Pleasure Riders group for their proposed donation stating it is much appreciated.

With Maryln Langeance via teleconference to meet the quorum, a motion was made by Lenore Ryun, seconded by Kelle Tobolic to approve the request to waive the \$25 fee for the special use permit issued to the Pleasure Riders for their benefit ride at Silver Creek Park on April 16, 2011. The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SELECTIVE TIMBER HARVEST

Recently the Board of Commissioners approved the proposed selective timber harvest; Tom Stadt was chosen as the consultant forester to help with the project. Tom will spend the next few weeks evaluating and marking the trees to be harvested. Kevin made him aware of the areas to stay away from and will go back to check once the trees have been marked. He stated there is no way the harvest can be done this winter; it will have to be a project for the winter of 2012. At this time there is no estimate of the possible proceeds however Kevin hopes the price will get better by next winter. It is stated in the resolution the revenue will go towards the Parks Department capital improvement fund to be used for grant matching funds.

PARK FEE MACHINE AT GUN LAKE PARK – UPDATE

Last month this Commission approved a sealed bid process for an automated gate once financing is secured. Since then Kevin has spoke to David Vanderovaart in Finance who is now working on a plan. A portion of the cost is already available from season pass and entry fee revenue and David sees no problem coming up with the remainder of the cost. After the first of the year Kevin will send out for bids. Ideally the gate should be installed by the beginning of April, but may not happen until the end of that month.

STURGEON REARING FACILITY AT NEW RICHMOND

Kevin met with Craig Smith from DNR Fisheries last Wednesday regarding a sturgeon rearing facility at New Richmond Bridge Park. On the north side of the park Consumers Energy recently created an open space after removing a fairly wide area of trees next to the parking lot. DNR Fisheries are requesting the Commission's approval to setup a portable trailer (approximately 12' X 24') in that open space for a sturgeon rearing facility. They would also need to put in a well; everything would be fully paid for by DNR Fisheries.

With Maryln Langeance via teleconference to meet the quorum, a motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Mark DeYoung to approve the cleared open space next to the parking lot on the north side of New Richmond Bridge Park for the purpose of DNR Fisheries installing a portable sturgeon rearing facility (approximately 12' X 24') and a well. The motion carried.

Kevin stated an agreement with DNR Fisheries will be signed for liability purposes.

NEW BUSINESS

2011 GUN LAKE WINTERFEST

Kevin received a written request from Barry County to hold their 2011 Gun Lake Winterfest at Gun Lake County Park on Saturday, February 19, 2011; set-up to begin on Thursday, February 17, 2011; clean-up to be completed by Monday, February 21, 2011. Although there have been problems with the Gun Lake Winterfest in year's past, last year was trouble-free and the same activities are planned for the coming year.

With Maryln Langeance via teleconference to meet the quorum, a motion was made by Chuck Pullen, seconded by Lenore Ryun to approve the special use permit for Barry County to hold their 2011 Gun Lake Winterfest at Gun Lake County Park on Saturday, February 19, 2011. The motion carried.

OTHER 2011 SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT REQUESTS

Kevin informed the Commission three groups took advantage of the new policy for early special event permit and campground reservation requests; the Pleasure Riders for their benefit ride at Silver Creek Park on April 16, 2011, WHAM for their judged trail ride event at Silver Creek Park on May 21, 2011, and AERC Oak Leaf Run for their endurance ride at Silver Creek on October 22 and 23, 2011.

2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

The proposed 2011 meeting schedule is included in today's agenda handouts. The meetings are all scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month with the exception of April when the meeting is scheduled on the 12th (Kevin will be at the Brownfields 2011 Conference on the first Tuesday). Also, the November 1, 2011 meeting is a scheduled joint meeting with the Tourist Council. Mark DeYoung will not be in attendance for the March 1, 2011 meeting; Lenore Ryun will not be in attendance for the July 5, 2011 meeting; Kelle Tobolic will probably not be in attendance for the January 4, 2011 meeting.

With Maryln Langeance via teleconference to meet the quorum, a motion was made by Chuck Pullen, seconded by Kelle Tobolic to approve the Parks Commission 2011 meeting schedule as presented. The motion carried.

NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 4, 2011 @ 8:30AM IN THE SPARTAN CONFERENCE ROOM

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Chuck Pullen is still concerned about Silver Creek and asked how we can proceed with the proposed trail link with a new equestrian bridge across 134th Street for safety purposes. Kevin stated the first step would be to pinpoint exactly where it would cross and have a professional engineer draw up the specifications. Once done, that would tell us the site, how it would have to be built, and how much it would cost. At that point if we have the funds to move forward, the next step would be going through the DEQ permitting process in order to have it constructed and put into place. Chuck suggested asking for volunteers to help with the construction and for donations for the cost. Kevin stated the engineering would probably be around \$1000-\$1500 and would have to be done first before we can calculate how much the whole project would cost. He would prefer not to take the cost for the engineer out of Silver Creek's operating budget since it is already taking another 10% reduction next year; if we are able to come up with the cost through some other means we could then go forward.

Mark DeYoung stated the Wayland Casino will open on February 14, 2011. He was able to tour the inside and stated it is not very big but it is beautiful, warm, and inviting.

Kevin Ricco stated everyone is aware of the \$10 State Park stickers that were implemented this year. As part of the program, 10% of the revenue is going into a trust fund for grant projects for local parks; there will still be the 25% match component. The funds cannot be used for land acquisitions but is intended for parks already in existence that have not been able to be upgraded due to a lack of funds. Kevin stated we may want to consider a project; applications are still due April 1st.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16am.

By: _____
Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk