



Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

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October 4, 2011

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 Commission Chairman Robert Kaarlie on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 8:30am in the Spartan Conference Room on the lower level of the Human Services Building, 3255 - 122nd Avenue, Allegan, Michigan.

Roll Call showed the following members:

PRESENT:	Lenore Ryun	Bruce Culver
	Robert Kaarlie	Marylne Langeance
	Larry Rasmussen	Chuck Pullen
	Mark DeYoung	Dean Kapenga

ABSENT: Becky Rininger

Also Present: Kevin Ricco, County Development Director

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Lenore Ryun, seconded by Dean Kapenga to approve the September 6, 2011 meeting minutes as presented and mailed. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kevin shared the current parks financial statements. He stated that with the day use parks closed for the season most of the big expenditures have been accounted for. He also stated that the plan was to use some of the remaining budget dollars to replace some old small pieces of equipment and purchase lumber for 20 new picnic tables for 2012. He also stated that revenues at Pine Point and Ely Lake continue to decline and perhaps a discussion about their future would be warranted.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2012 BUDGET UPDATE

Kevin reported that the 2012 budget had been presented to the Board of Commissioners in September and was set to be approved at the October 13th Board meeting. For 2012, Parks projected an increase in revenue at the Gun Lake Park boat launch of \$4,000 and also took a \$1,000 budget cut to be spread out over all activities.

NEW BUSINESS

2011 ENTRANCE FEES COLLECTED

Kevin shared the entrance fee totals collected for 2011. While the numbers were slight down from 2010, they were mostly on par with what was expected. The weather at the beginning of the season was wet and cool which lead to a slow start. This is most likely the reason for the slight decrease from 2010.

2011 PARK USER SURVEY RESULTS

Kevin shared the results of the 2011 parks user survey, including the comments. He stated that a link to the results was also posted on the County's Web site and this link was shared on the County's Facebook page.

2012 PARK USER FEES

Kevin presented the Commission with his recommendations for changes to park user fees for the 2012 season. After some discussion, the results are as follows:

Littlejohn Lake Park – Motion by Chuck Pullen, seconded by Dean Kapenga, to eliminate the half shelter rental option at Littlejohn and make only the full shelter available as a rental option. Motion carried by everyone present.

Boat Launch Fee – Motion by Maryln Langeance, seconded by Mark DeYoung, to increase the boat launch fee from \$5/launch to \$6/launch beginning in 2012. Yes: 6 votes; No: 2 votes Motion carried.

Bysterveld Picnic Shelter Rental – Motion by Larry Rasmussen, seconded by Dean Kapenga, to increase the half day shelter rental from \$50 to \$80 and to increase the full day shelter rental from \$80 to \$150. Yes: 6 votes; No: 2 votes Motion carried.

2012 TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION

Kevin asked the Commission if there would be any interested I submitting a DNR Trust Fund grant application as part of the 2012 grant cycle. Trust Fund grant applications are due April 1st and take a substantial amount of time to complete, so Kevin wanted to bring this up for discussion now to be ready to proceed after the first of the year. Kevin stated that with the revenue from the selective timber harvest at Littlejohn Lake and Silver Creek parks we now have the necessary matching funds available to submit a Trust Fund application, which requires a minimum 25% local match.

There was plenty of interest in submitting an application in 2012, but there was much discussion about which project to select. Most of the discussion centered around the approved master plans for Littlejohn Lake and Silver Creek and there was also some discussion about overnight camping at West Side Park on Lake Michigan. It was decided that Commission members should give this some thought and be prepared to make a decision at the December meeting.

NEXT MEETING: November 1, 2011 @ 8:30am in the Zimmerman Room (with Tourist Council)

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Larry Rasmussen – He wanted to make sure that there was no group camping on sites 46, 47 and 48 at Silver Creek. Kevin stated that there is no group camping at these sites but because of their close proximity to one another they worked well for campers wishing to be on sites next to each other.

Chuck Pullen – He stated that there was a great turnout for the Lake Sturgeon release celebration at New Richmond on September 24th. Kevin stated that there were over 600 in attendance and the event was a smashing success. Pictures from the event can be found on the Parks Facebook site.

Maryln Langeance – She stated she will not be at the November meeting because of an election.

Bruce Culver – He asked if the people using the boat launch at New Richmond were paying. Kevin stated that, for the most part, users of this launch are not paying, with the exception of out-of-towners. Bruce also wanted to know about the possibility of getting a booth at the Allegan County Fair to distributed park information. Kevin stated that this is a good idea but it will depend on the cost.

Bob Kaarlie – He wanted to comment on the concern that the Silver Creek Park neighbor had regarding how the selective timber harvest would impact deer hunting in that area during November. He stated that it was really not much different than farmers harvesting or working in the fields during this time of year and is only a one-year issue.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bruce Culver, seconded by Larry Rasmussen, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.

By: _____
Kevin Ricco, Director