



Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

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January 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 Director Kevin Ricco on Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at 8:30am 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
Robert Kaarlie	Chuck Pullen
Becky Rininger	Maryln Langeance
Larry Rasmussen	Bruce Culver
Dean Kapenga	

ABSENT: Kelle Tobolic

Also Present:

Kevin Ricco, Parks Director
Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk
Kris Allred, Silver Creek Park Manager

ELECTION OF 2011 OFFICERS (CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, SECRETARY)

A motion was made by Chuck Pullen, seconded by Becky Rininger to nominate Bob Kaarlie as the Chairperson of the Allegan County Parks Commission for 2011. The motion carried by all present. A motion was made by Bruce Culver, seconded by Maryln Langeance to close the nomination and unanimously vote for Bob Kaarlie as the Chairperson. The motion carried by all present. Bob Kaarlie will serve as the Chairperson of the Allegan County Parks Commission for 2011.

A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Lenore Ryun to nominate Maryln Langeance as the Vice Chairperson of the Allegan County Parks Commission for 2011. The motion carried by all present. A motion was made by Chuck Pullen, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to close the nomination and unanimously vote for Maryln Langeance as the Vice Chairperson. The motion passed by all present. Maryln Langeance will serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Allegan County Parks Commission for 2011.

A motion was made by Robert Kaarlie, seconded by Chuck Pullen to nominate Becky Rininger as the Secretary of the Allegan County Parks Commission for 2011. The motion carried by all present. A motion was made by Maryln Langeance, seconded by Lenore Ryun to close the nomination and unanimously vote for Becky Rininger as the Secretary. The motion passed by all present. Becky Rininger will serve as the Secretary of the Allegan County Parks Commission for 2011.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Lenore Ryun, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to approve the November and December regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kevin stated there are two sets of financial reports included in everyone's handout; 2010 year-end and the 2011 beginning reports. There may be a couple more invoices that will trickle in for 2010 but will not make much difference from what is shown. He pointed out on page three of the 2010 expenditure report there is a negative \$946 under the Gun Lake line item activity; Finance did not transfer over money from the capital improvement fund for the repair that was done at the boat launch. However, there are enough remaining funds within the Parks 2010 budget so the funds can be transferred over from another activity rather than taking from the capital improvement fund. Being the end of the year, the final revenue report looks similar to what it has been for the past couple of months.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TIMBER HARVEST UPDATE

Kevin stated there is not much to report; since last month when the Board of Commissioners gave their approval to move forward with the timber harvest, Kevin has met with the forester Tom Stadt who has been out marking the trees. Once he's done, Kevin will go back out to approve and sign-off on the trees, which are being selected based on location, topography, type, size, and health of the tree. The master plans for both Silver Creek and Littlejohn Lake Parks are also being considered and the trees will be marked for removal. The harvest will happen next winter 2012 and there is no estimate of what the proceeds might be. Kevin stated there isn't enough time to get everything together this year and holding off will allow for better planning. He asked if anyone is interested in going out with him to check the trees once the forester is done; Chuck, Maryln, Dean, and Larry would all like to go.

GUN LAKE PARK AUTOMATED FEE GATE – UPDATE

Kevin has been working simultaneously with Finance and Purchasing to get funds to purchase the automated fee gate for the Gun Lake Park boat launch area; there is not enough in our capital improvement fund to pay for it outright which will be around \$35,000. Kevin stated when we do the bidding process he will send it out to many different companies. Due to the layout of the Gun Lake boat launch, users will be required to enter the automated gate twice; once to launch their watercraft and a second time to take it out. It has been recommended the automated gate be set-up for 'whole dollars' only, therefore the \$5 boat launch fee should be increased to \$6 (which would be \$3 each time a user enters the gate) and Kevin asked if the Parks Commission would want to increase the fee at all of the boat launches. He added the gate would be set-up to accept coins, cash, credit card, or a season pass (card) and would return change in dollar coins only. He hopes to have the gate installed sometime in May and as soon as he gets the go ahead, he will send out for bids.

NEW BUSINESS

WHAM REQUEST

Lenore sent a letter on behalf of WHAM (Walking Horse Association of Michigan) who put on the annual judged trail ride at Silver Creek Park in May; the campground usually fills to capacity and the majority of the proceeds go back to the parks, 4-H Clubs and other organizations. They are requesting the Parks Commission waive the \$25 special use permit fee for their event.

A motion was made by Chuck Pullen, seconded by Mark DeYoung to waive the \$25 fee for the special use permit for WHAM to hold their judged trail ride event at Silver Creek Park and Campground on May 20, 2011. The motion carried.

2011 STAFFING CHANGES

Kevin wanted to inform the Commission of changes in staff at four of the facilities for the upcoming 2011 season; due to budgetary reasons the season will be split at Gun Lake Park, Bysterveld Park, Silver Creek Park and Campground, and Ely Lake & Pine Point Campgrounds (managed together). Instead of having one park manager for the entire season the season will be split in half, with one manager working the first half of the season and a different manager working the second half. The employees that managed these facilities in 2010 will be given the option of working the second half of the season in 2011. The park that will be most affected will be Silver Creek Park and Campground since two large events are there in April and May and the park is full for Memorial Weekend. Kevin has already had some interest in the positions from retirees who prefer not to work the entire summer.

NEXT MEETING – FEBRUARY 1, 2011 @ 8:30AM

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Dean Kapenga asked about the concern Chuck had last month regarding the equestrian trail link and bridge to cross 134th Street at Silver Creek Park. Kevin stated it cannot be done yet due to the lack of funding; the first step is we need to have an engineer draw up the specifications before it can be estimated what the cost would be to build it.

Maryln Langeance asked Kevin to email her the contact name for the triathlon at Littlejohn Lake Park this summer; she has someone who is interested in the event.

Ronda Foreman reported there are only a handful of campsites unreserved for the benefit ride at Silver Creek in April; the 2011 reservations were first available to reserve as of midnight yesterday.

Bob Kaarlie has a couple things to mention; the group who had trail maps printed last year would like to supply us with them again this year but asked if there were changes that should be made. Also Bob asked if the ad that is in the trail riding magazine could be revised to include information on all three of the equestrian campgrounds and the sixty miles of equestrian trails.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17am.

By: _____
Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk