



Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

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March 1, 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, March 1, 2011 at 8:25am 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: Lenore Ryun Maryln Langeance
 Robert Kaarlie Kelle Tobolic
 Larry Rasmussen Chuck Pullen
 Dean Kapenga

ABSENT: Bruce Culver Mark DeYoung
 Becky Rininger

Also Present: Kevin Ricco, County Development Director
 Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk
 Kris Allred, Silver Creek Park Manager

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Dean Kapenga, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to approve the February 1, 2011 meeting minutes as mailed and presented. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kevin stated there is nothing new to report from last month on the financial statements. A motion was made by Lenore Ryun, seconded by Maryln Langeance to approve the February financial statements as presented. The motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comment at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TIMBER HARVEST – UPDATE

Kevin stated there is nothing new to report from last month. Tom has started marking the trees at Silver Creek Park. Once done, Kevin informed him that he and members from the Parks Commission want to walk it after the snow melts and before the mosquitoes get too bad.

GUN LAKE PARK AUTOMATED FEE GATE – UPDATE

Kevin reports the bids are all in for the automated fee gate at Gun Lake Park. In an effort to get the system installed before the Memorial Day weekend, he would like to get the RFA on the agenda for discussion and hopefully their approval at the Board of Commissioners meeting on March 10, 2011. Of the five bids received, four were qualified with the lowest bid of approximately \$31,000 coming from Light & Breuning, a company located out of South Bend, Indiana; Kevin will recommend they be awarded the project.

2011 STAFFING UPDATE – WEST SIDE

Kevin reports that unfortunately the West Side Park Manager, Cal Kempker, will not be returning this spring. Although he was doing a great job, he injured his shoulder and will be getting exploratory surgery in April and will be unable to work the first half of the season. If things go well, Kevin hopes Cal will be able to return for the second half of the season.

The deadline for applications was last week on Friday at 4:30pm and now Kevin will have to sort through all of them before he can start interviewing candidates for positions at Silver Creek Park, West Side Park, Bysterveld Park, Ely Lake/Pine Point Campgrounds, and Gun Lake Park. He stated the most critical park manager to hire at this time is for Silver Creek Park since that person will begin working on April 1 and there are events scheduled at the park in April, May, and June.

NEW BUSINESS

TRIATHLON – LITTLEJOHN LAKE PARK

Last week Maryln attended the Allegan Sports Booster Club meeting regarding the triathlon they propose to have at Littlejohn Lake Park this summer, possibly on Tuesday evening of July 26th. Before anything can be confirmed they have a few questions about the terms of use at the park. After some discussion, Kevin stated he will email their representative, Misty Angle, to answer their questions and let them know they must get us a written request before anything can be approved. He will also ask if she or another representative would be willing to attend our April 12, 2011 meeting to continue the discussion about the event.

NEXT MEETING – APRIL 12, 2011 @ 8:30AM

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Kevin Ricco reminded everyone the next meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of the month instead of the first Tuesday.

Lenore Ryun asked how the changes are coming along for the equestrian maps. Kevin stated most of them got done yesterday and they just have to finish tweaking the larger maps. He can provide the ones that have been completed on a disc. Chuck stated once the maps are printed he will be sure the Parks Office gets some copies.

Chuck Pullen stated FACETS (Friends of the Allegan County Equestrian Trail System) has a meeting tomorrow night; they have been working on putting together an informational flyer for the trails. Chuck asked if they can put some in one of the slots by the bulletin board at the campgrounds; Kevin stated that would be okay. Chuck also reported that for the second year in a row while vacationing in Arizona, he has run across folks who come to ride at Silver Creek Park.

Dean Kapenga stated the County has taken some hits to the budget with cuts that were made over the last two years; if what Governor Snyder proposes goes through, the County will lose approximately \$600,000. Dean is concerned not enough is being done to let the Board of Commissioners know how important the parks are to folks who use them. When the BOC is looking where to cut and they just look at the Parks budget, they will want to make more cuts but if they see how many people use the parks, they will be less apt to cut. He suggested doing a survey of the park users asking them what the parks mean to them, which everyone agrees is a great idea.

Bob Kaarlie asked Kevin about updating the ad in the trail magazine; it currently only mentions Silver Creek Park and does not mention the other two equestrian campgrounds or sixty miles of equestrian trails.

Kris Allred asked Kevin if she could come out to Silver Creek Park during the events scheduled in April, May, and June; she plans to write a letter to the campers explaining why she is not there and stated she could help pass out the park survey also. Kevin stated that would be great.

Ronda Foreman asked everyone to check and sign their first quarter vouchers and to please turn them in before leaving today.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04am.

By: _____
Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk