



Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

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April 12, 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, April 14, 2011 at 8:29am 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 Mark DeYoung
 Becky Rininger

ABSENT: Bruce Culver

Also Present: Kevin Ricco, County Development Director
 Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk
 Kris Allred, Silver Creek Park Manager
 Carrie Lovett, Tri-Allegan Triathlon

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF MARCH MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Larry Rasmussen, seconded by Lenore Ryun to approve the March 1, 2011 meeting minutes as mailed and presented. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kevin stated there is not a lot of change from last month on the financial statements except for some additional revenue collected from reservations and season passes. A motion was made by Chuck Pullen, seconded by Lenore Ryun to approve the March financial statements as presented. The motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comment at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TIMBER HARVEST – UPDATE

Kevin and some members from the Parks Commission walked the two parks with the forester Tom Stadt where he has finished marking the trees to be harvested; approximately 480 at Silver Creek Park and 380 at Littlejohn Lake Park. He did not mark several trees that were too close to the boundary; the rest were marked with nice spacing between the trees.

There are two issues Kevin wants to point out. The first one is getting across the creek at Littlejohn Lake Park; we need to install a tube to stabilize the banks. The second issue is at Silver Creek Park off 134th Avenue; a staging area needs to be cleared so the trucks are able to turn around and haul off the logs. The best solution is to get an agreement from the turkey farmer to the east but he is not returning Kevin's calls.

In the next week or two Kevin will finish the RFP packets that will be sent to reputable harvesters and get posted on the website. Tom thought it would be more appealing to harvesters if they were able to start in one area before winter therefore, the harvesting will begin in July at Littlejohn Lake Park towards the back and away from park users. Kevin stated the pricing is good right now with a lot of international demand.

GUN LAKE PARK AUTOMATED FEE GATE – UPDATE

Kevin met with the vendor onsite; the ground work of how the gate will operate was laid out. Installation will begin the end of April and once started, it will only take a couple of weeks to complete. The only thing that may not be up and running at that time is the credit card payment option (which will only accept Visa and MasterCard); we have to wait for the telephone company to put in a phone line.

LITTLEJOHN LAKE TRIATHLON – UPDATE

Kevin introduced Carrie Lovett, a representative for the first annual Tri Allegan Triathlon which is being put together by the Allegan Sports Booster Club. The event will be held on July 26, 2011 at Littlejohn Lake Park and will include a 5K run, 12 mile bike ride, and 500 meter swim. It will be open to both teams and individual participants; they would like 100 participants but are shooting for 200 and are still looking for volunteers. Kevin thinks this is a terrific opportunity and stated Parks will help promote the event. Anyone interested in either participating or volunteering can contact Carrie Lovett or visit the website at www.triallegan.com.

NEW BUSINESS

PARKS USER SURVEY

A parks user survey is included in everyone's agenda packet for their review; Kevin asked if anything is missing or if anyone has a comment. The survey will be distributed at the Silver Creek Park benefit ride this weekend and all of the parks throughout the summer; it will also be posted online at Survey Monkey. Kevin would like to capture as many park users as possible. Bob suggested putting an end date on the survey so folks know when to turn it in; everyone agreed Labor Day should be the deadline.

PARKS FOUNDATION DISCUSSION

Continuing from last month's meeting where an Allegan County Parks Foundation was discussed, Kevin stated we need a grass roots effort where people can come together to create a separate, nonprofit organization that would take donations to help support the county parks. It would be its own private entity and those types of funds are untouchable by the Board of Commissioners. Becky suggested working with the Allegan County Community Foundation; Kevin stated they could add a fund to accept county park donations and it would be to our advantage since so much is required of a nonprofit group. He is in frequent contact with Theresa Bray, Executive Director of ACCF, and will talk to her about the possibilities. He will invite her to the next meeting so the Parks Commission can ask her questions.

NEXT MEETING – MAY 3, 2011 @ 8:30AM

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Larry Rasmussen wanted to give a heads up; he heard from Jan at Wild West Ranch that they are in the process of buying the Triple R Ranch which is right on the horse trails by Ely Lake Campground. The ranch also has 25 campsites and they may be using our trails. Kevin stated he knows there was a problem in the past and will contact her to see what's up.

Chuck Pullen asked if there is a way to get a line item under the Silver Creek account that is designated for donations; he believes more would donate if they knew the funds were being used for specific improvements. Kevin stated yes, that is possible and it is called a restricted fund.

Mark DeYoung reports the 142nd Avenue bridge near Bysterveld Park in Dorr is coming out beginning this Friday, April 15; the whole interchange will be closed for the summer while MDOT replaces the bridge. Travelers can still get off at the southbound exit but not the northbound exit; folks going north will have to get off at the Wayland exit.

Maryln Langeance stated she will not be in attendance for the May 3 meeting; she will be working the election.

Becky Rininger has a friend who hikes the walking trails at Silver Creek Park. He informed her some "No Horses" signs were ripped off the trees and asked if he can remount them. Kevin stated those signs are hung by the DNR so as long as they go back up in the right spot, they can be remounted.

Kevin Ricco wanted to mention the sturgeon rearing facility at New Richmond Park has been set up; Consumers Energy was there yesterday putting in the power.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14am.

By: _____
Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk