



Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

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May 3, 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, May 3, 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	Bruce Culver
	Robert Kaarlie	Kelle Tobolic
	Larry Rasmussen	Chuck Pullen
	Dean Kapenga	Mark DeYoung
	Becky Rininger	

ABSENT: Maryln Langeance

Also Present: Kevin Ricco, County Development Director
Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk
Kris Allred, Hamilton Resident
Theresa Bray, Allegan County Community Foundation CEO

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF APRIL MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Larry Rasmussen, seconded by Lenore Ryun to approve the April 12, 2011 meeting minutes as presented and mailed. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Not much change from April's financial statements.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comment at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TIMBER HARVEST – UPDATE

Kevin reports the timber harvest project will be open for bids in a couple of weeks. The RFP is done and will be sent out to a list of vendors provided by the forester, Tom Stadt. Hopefully by the next meeting Kevin will have some numbers to share; Tom has already given estimates for each park and they look pretty good. Now is a good time to do the harvest since the demand for lumber is high due to the recent destruction in Japan after the earth quake and tsunami, and also in the southern states after the recent tornado outbreak.

GUN LAKE PARK AUTOMATED FEE GATE – UPDATE

The installation of the automated fee gate will begin this week at Gun Lake County Park and should be completed by May 13th. The phone line should already be in place so the machine will be able to take credit/debit cards right away. Kevin anticipates the only complaints he will receive about the gate will be from users who have not been paying. Ronda has been distributing the swipe card to season pass holders who have indicated they use the Gun Lake boat launch. When users receive the card, they are being told to hold onto the card and not throw it away at the end of the year; at that time the card will be deactivated until they purchase a new pass for the coming year and then the same card will be reactivated. If they do lose or discard the card, they will be charged an additional \$10 replacement fee when purchasing a \$25 season pass.

For next year Kevin wants the Parks Commission to contemplate increasing the boat launch fees. Currently the fee is \$5 and once the automated gate is installed at Gun Lake Park, users without a season pass will have to pay \$2.50 to enter and launch their watercraft, and another \$2.50 to reenter the gate to take it out. Kevin also mentioned the season pass fees; they have been \$25 for 7-8 years now, so he believes that fee should be reevaluated for next year also.

LITTLEJOHN LAKE TRIATHLON – UPDATE

Kevin has nothing new to report on the triathlon since the last meeting and stated he is excited about the event.

NEW BUSINESS

WHAM RIDE REQUEST

Kevin received a request from WHAM asking if the Parks Commission would waive the daily horse trail fees for their Judged Trail Ride event at Silver Creek Park on May 21, 2011. In the past the daily fees have been waived for the benefit ride in April where all of the proceeds go to charity. In this case they do not all go to charity and Kevin doesn't think we should start a precedent. He previously discussed the request with Lenore who is also a member of WHAM, and although part of the event's takings is donated, she is in agreement with Kevin. She stated a notice should be put on the registration table letting folks know the season pass is the way to go.

A motion was made by Bruce Culver, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to deny WHAM's request to waive the daily horse trail fees for the Judged Trail Ride event being held at Silver Creek Park on May 21, 2011. The motion carried.

PARKS FOUNDATION DISCUSSION – THERESA BRAY FROM ACCF

Kevin introduced Theresa Bray from the Allegan County Community Foundation who is present to answer questions the Parks Commission has in regards to the possibility of starting a Parks fund through the ACCF. She went over the options of either an endowment or hybrid fund and explained the pros and cons of each. ACCF would manage the account and reasons were given why it would not be beneficial for Parks to start a non-profit themselves. Kevin made clear the purpose of the fund would be for capital improvement projects and not for general operations. Theresa passed out information folders about the ACCF and stated she will put all the PCs points together and draw up a mock contract for the group to review.

NEXT MEETING – JUNE 7, 2011 @ 8:30AM

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Chuck Pullen likes the new sturgeon rearing facility at New Richmond Bridge Park. He also asked what it will take to get a fee tube at the day ride parking area at Pine Point Campground so folks don't have to ride back to the park entrance to pay for their trail fees. Kevin agreed but stated the fee tubes are costly; the last one made cost around \$5000. Chuck stated he found an abandoned fee tube at the old nudist camp that is missing a plate but otherwise in working condition; it is located on state property on Swan Creek. Kevin stated he would contact Maria from the DNR to ask if the state would be willing to let us have the fee tube.

Dean Kapenga commented we should add something about family wellness to the 'Parks and Recreation' name so the two can be correlated with each other. He stated that might catch the attention of the BOC and bring more importance to the department and hopefully make them less likely to make more cuts. Teresa proposed adding a tag line to the title; Kevin suggested adding "Helping families come together since 1966".

Mark DeYoung reports the bridge that crosses over US 131 near Bysterveld County Park in Dorr is now closed while under construction. He added there are still a lot of people using the park.

Kevin Ricco has a couple more things he wants to mention. The grant from the State has been approved to expand the day ride parking area at Pine Point Campground; he cannot get price quotes until he receives the approval letter.

Next Kevin reports he met with Larry Brown from the Road Commission at Littlejohn Lake Park. He is going to get price quotes to have a tube installed to get across the creek at the park. The tube will be approximately 20' wide and be durable enough to meet the master plan requirements.

Lastly, the Parks Survey for 2011 will be available to fill out online next week through Survey Monkey; the service will also put together all the statistics for our review once the survey is finished on September 5, 2011. Kevin wants to encourage everyone to complete the survey online; any received on paper will be hand-entered online.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07am.

By: _____

Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk