



Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

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June 7, 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, June 7, 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:

Lenore Ryun	Bruce Culver
Robert Kaarlie	Kelle Tobolic
Larry Rasmussen	Chuck Pullen
Maryl n Langeance	Mark DeYoung
Becky Rininger	

ABSENT: Dean Kapenga

Also Present:

Kevin Ricco, County Development Director
Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk
Theresa Bray, Allegan County Community Foundation CEO

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Bruce Culver, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to approve the May 3, 2011 meeting minutes as presented and mailed. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kevin recapped the June financial statements with the Commission. Nothing is out of the ordinary on the expenditure side of the report; just routine maintenance. Park entrance fees are already showing positive numbers on the revenue side. Kevin stated numbers have not yet come back from the Gun Lake Park automatic gate system installed at the boat launch last month but he believes the group will be pleased with the results.

A motion was made by Chuck Pullen, seconded by Becky Rininger to approve the June financial statements as presented. The motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PARKS FOUNDATION DISCUSSION CONTINUED – THERESA BRAY FROM ACCF

Last month's meeting discussion regarding the possible creation of an Allegan County Parks Community Foundation Fund continues with Theresa Bray from the Allegan County Community Foundation; the ACCF would oversee the fund. She passed out handouts that include a mock contract and a spreadsheet that compares the growth potential and benefits between the different types of funds and how they are used.

Ultimately, the deciding factor of which type of fund would be best depends on what this body wants to do with the funds, whether it is for capital improvement projects or maybe smaller projects like a new roof on a maintenance building or new pavilion. Theresa stated the Commission needs a fund development plan to help figure out which way would be the most beneficial for their needs and suggested a subcommittee be formed to come up with the plan. Kevin agreed and asked who would be interested in being on the subcommittee. Lenore, Maryln, Chuck, and Bob all volunteered; Kevin will send an email to set up the date and time for the subcommittee to meet.

TIMBER HARVEST – UPDATE

Kevin reports the bids for the timber harvest came in a couple weeks ago. Out of 15-16 packets mailed only 5 bids were submitted with numbers better than expected. The highest bid for Littlejohn Lake Park is \$43,850 from Walnut Street Hardwoods, Inc. out of South Bend, Indiana, and the highest bid for Silver Creek Park is \$65,001 from Tri County Logging, Inc. located in Clinton, Michigan; they will go before the Board of Commissioners with recommendation for their approval this coming Thursday.

As previously mentioned, at Littlejohn Lake Park a tube needs to be installed in order to cross the creek. Kevin has been working with Bob Kaarlie and Larry Brown from the Allegan County Road Commission. Larry has an old concrete culvert that he is willing to donate to the park and even went out and solicited bids to have the work done. The lowest bid came back from Weick Bros., Inc. out of Hopkins for approximately \$3700 to put the culvert in place; the cost will come out of the harvest revenue. Once the BOC gives their approval Kevin will have the tube installed and will inform Walnut Street Hardwoods they can start the project at Littlejohn Lake Park at any time.

GUN LAKE PARK AUTOMATED FEE GATE – UPDATE

As mentioned during the financial statements discussion, Kevin stated the gate has been up and running for less than two weeks now and has nothing to report at this time. Kelle stated she has received feedback that there is not enough room for folks to move their trailers around once inside the gate. Kevin stated there is no less room than there was before the gate was installed; the exit gate pops open once a vehicle is within 8' of the gate.

LITTLEJOHN LAKE TRIATHLON – UPDATE

The plans for the triathlon at Littlejohn Lake Park are moving right along. The only question that has come up is, in order for it to be a sanctioned event the organizers need e-coli testing done at the swimming beach. The test is performed by the Health Department and their program started a couple weeks ago. Littlejohn is on their sampling list but Kevin is unsure if the test would be done soon enough for the event in July. If not the group asked if Parks would be willing to pay for the additional testing and he told them probably not. If they want the test performed outside the scope of the Health Department's test, they would be responsible for paying to have it done.

NEW BUSINESS

HOLIDAY WEEKEND REPORT

Kevin gave a quick update on the Memorial Day weekend; two of the three days were not very good although Monday turned out to be quite nice. For the most part there were good camping numbers in spite of all the mosquitoes and wet weather.

2011 USER SURVEY

The parks survey is now online and there is a link to the survey on the County's Park webpage and facebook. So far there have been close to two hundred responses and from what Kevin has seen, the comments have been good. He is glad folks are taking the time to give feedback and in July, he will print a report just to see how it is panning out.

NEXT MEETING – JULY 5, 2011 @ 8:30AM

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Chuck Pullen stated the picnic tables have been delivered to Pine Point and Ely Lake campgrounds and hopefully have been chained and secured. He also asked if it would be possible to attach an "Equestrian Camping" sign to the Silver Creek Park sign on M-40 so folks are aware of the overnight opportunities. Kevin stated M-40 is a state highway and the signs are very regulated; we would have to pay to have it posted. He was asked to check on the cost to place the sign.

Lenore Ryun stated she will not be in attendance for the July meeting.

Mark DeYoung took his grandkids to Bysterveld Park last weekend; they enjoyed feeding the fish which were very hungry. He stated there must have also been a party of some sort going on; there were approximately 30-40 cars in the parking lot.

Kevin Ricco reports the trees that were flagged at Pine Point Campground have all been cut down; there are still a couple of stumps that will have to be ground out. There are not as many trees marked at Ely Lake Campground and they will be removed next. Bob asked about the funding for the day ride parking area at Pine Point; Kevin is still waiting for the approval letter from the Federal Government. He stated we are going to get it but cannot do anything until we receive the approval letter; the application was sent to the wrong place and is taking a lot longer to get done.

Bruce Culver asked if there are still problems with mudslides at New Richmond Bridge Park. Kevin stated no but the ditch is full of sediment. The dock is completely underwater and was so high that last week part of the parking lot was underwater too. Next Bruce asked if there is a timetable for the next round of improvements at Bysterveld Park. Kevin stated not at this time; the park is getting a lot of use as is. Littlejohn Lake Park really needs help; this group will have to decide the order in which they want projects done.

Bob Kaarlie stated at the last FACETS meeting they discussed the tickets that are issued to folks who have not paid the equestrian trail day riding fee; no one wants to put their name on the citations. He asked Kevin if they could get a rubber stamp of his signature. Kevin stated no; whoever writes the ticket needs to at least put their initials so in case he gets a call, he knows who to question.

ADJOURNMENT

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

By: _____
Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk