



Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

3255 122nd Avenue, Suite 102

Allegan, MI 49010

Phone: (269) 686-9088 • Fax: (269) 673-0454

Parks Web: www.allegancounty.org/Parks

Tourism Web: www.visitallegancounty.com

E-mail: parks@allegancounty.org



August 2, 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, August 2, 2011 at 8:32am 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 Maryln Langeance
 Larry Rasmussen Becky Rininger
 Mark DeYoung

ABSENT: Chuck Pullen Dean Kapenga

Also Present: Kevin Ricco, County Development Director
 Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk
 Shawn McKenney, Allegan Conservation District

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF JUNE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Bruce Culver, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to approve the June 7, 2011 meeting minutes as presented and mailed. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kevin stated there is not much to report at this time. Things are good on the expenditure side of the report with one exception; the fuel line item is either close or over budget for many of the parks due to the increase in gas prices. Good returns are coming in on the automated fee entrance gate at the Gun Lake Park boat launch; a deposit was just made that will increase the revenue to approximately \$7400 which is almost \$1000 more than the total collected in 2010. Kevin believes there is even less compliance to pay the \$5 fee at the Dumont Lake boat launch than there was at Gun Lake which is reflected in this year's revenue of just over \$2100; he is already looking ahead to the possibility of installing an automated fee entrance gate at that launch.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PARKS FOUNDATION DISCUSSION CONTINUED

Last week's subcommittee meeting was canceled and has been rescheduled for tomorrow, August 3, 2011 at 9:00am in the Spartan Conference Room.

TIMBER HARVEST – LITTLEJOHN UPDATE

Kevin reports the timber harvest at Littlejohn Lake Park is just about done. The last of the logs have been hauled out and now they must go back to smooth out the roads which will be completed by the end of this week. The timber harvest at Silver Creek Park is set to begin in November.

TRI-ALLEGAN TRIATHLON – UPDATE

The first Tri-Allegan Triathlon held at Littlejohn Lake Park on July 26, 2011 exceeded the organizers expectations; they reached their maximum goal of 200 participants almost two weeks before the event. The weather was perfect and there were plenty of spectators; everyone loved it and cannot wait to come back next year. Bob voiced concerns regarding parking availability and asked if more areas in the park could be opened up for next year's triathlon. Kevin stated he would like to meet with the organizers to discuss what can be done differently for next year; they have already indicated the number of participants may be raised to 250.

NEW BUSINESS

SWALE GARDEN AT GUN LAKE PARK – SHAWN MCKENNEY, ALLEGAN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Kevin introduced Shawn McKenny from the Allegan Conservation District who is here to propose a bioswale at Gun Lake Park; an information packet was passed out to the Commission. A bioswale is a landscaped vegetative buffer that is planted on a slope in low-lying areas and designed to filter surface runoff water. The proposed bioswale would be located along the west side of Patterson Road approximately 30' from the attendant booth. There would be no cost to the Parks Commission except for future maintenance. If approved, the bioswale would probably be planted in early September.

A motion was made by Becky Rininger, seconded by Mark DeYoung to approve the proposed bioswale at Gun Lake Park with all construction costs being paid for between the Gun Lake Improvement Board and the Swale Conservation Grant Program. The motion carried.

KAYAKS AT DUMONT LAKE PARK

This subject was also discussed last year and continues to pose problems; there are folks who would like to launch kayaks from the beach at Dumont Lake Park. For safety reasons a rule is in place that states all water craft be launched from the designated boat launch; Kevin was asked to bring the issue to the Parks Commission again to consider changing the rule. He can understand their reasoning somewhat, however it is a heavily used park and he believes if a couple people are allowed to launch from the park then everyone would want to do the same. After some discussion the Parks Commission was in full agreement not to change the rule.

STURGEON RELEASE FESTIVAL AT NEW RICHMOND

Kevin announced a Sturgeon Release Festival at New Richmond Bridge Park from 10am – 2pm on September 24, 2011; the event is being sponsored by DNR Fisheries, Sturgeon for Tomorrow, the Gun Lake Tribe, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. They are looking to make a nice event with interpretive tours of the park and hatchery, a kid's fishing derby, food and drinks, a turning of the bridge, and a sturgeon release ceremony. Volunteers are needed for setup, cleanup, and overseeing the kid's fishing derby; anyone interested can let Kevin know and he will pass on the names to Suzanne Dixon from Sturgeon for Tomorrow, who is organizing the volunteers.

NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 6, 2011 @ 8:30AM

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Larry Rasmussen asked about the plan to improve the day ride parking area at Pine Point Campground; Kevin stated he just got the grant approval letter last week. The trees have already been removed and the project will move forward either later this month or in September.

Becky Rininger got an application for a new county drain to help resolve some flooding issues in the Wind & Woods Site Condo which is located on the north side of the lagoon property near West Side Park. An informational meeting was held with the engineer and property owners. The engineer determined the issue could be resolved by creating a county drain down the natural water course and also recommends a relief drain. The property owners came out in opposition to the drain program; they want the water issue resolved but want to use the lagoon as a retention basin to hold water. Becky told them she would approach the County Board and the Parks Commission with their solution but warned them she really doesn't see how it can proceed that way. After the assessing season is over in September, Becky will get with Kevin to show him both plans.

Mark DeYoung reports you cannot get near the highway (US131) in Dorr due to the ongoing construction in the area; the project is due to be completed by September 1st. Next, friends have reported to him the bollards at the Gun Lake entrance gate are too low; someone did damage to the side of their truck. Kevin stated he has not received any complaints regarding this issue; the bollards are near the fee station for protection and if they were not there, the fee station would have been damaged instead of the truck.

Kevin Ricco announced the Parks Office will be moving down the hallway in the next couple weeks; the County has leased office space on this floor to Michigan Works to generate revenue. Current offices are being relocated; Land Information Services will be in the County Services building, Veterans and Senior Services will be upstairs in the Health Department, and MSU Extension and Parks & Tourism will combine their offices where Veterans and Senior Services were previously located. The Parks Commission meetings may also have to be moved upstairs beginning in September; Kevin will keep everyone updated.

Next he reports Kelle Tobolic is no longer a member of this body. Just as the Road Commission Chairperson is automatically a member of the Parks Commission, Kelle's seat was contingent on her being the chairperson on the Planning Commission which disbanded the end of June. Now her seat becomes at large and she decided not to continue with the Parks Commission although she still supports the parks and wishes everyone well. Kevin asked everyone to spread the word about the vacant seat and if anyone knows someone who is interested, have them contact Administration to fill out an application.

Bob Kaarlie asked if there were entrance fees at West Side Park for bicycles; Kevin stated no, only motorized vehicles are charged entrance fees at West Side Park and Dumont Lake Park.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48am.

By: _____
Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk