



## Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

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Parks Web: [www.allegancounty.org/Parks](http://www.allegancounty.org/Parks)

Tourism Web: [www.visitallegancounty.com](http://www.visitallegancounty.com)

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**September 6, 2011**

Human Services Building

Karl Zimmerman 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, September 6, 2011 at 8:40am in the Karl Zimmerman Training Room on the main level of the Human Services Building, 3255 - 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Allegan, Michigan.

Roll Call showed the following members:

PRESENT:                      Lenore Ryun                      Bruce Culver  
                                     Robert Kaarlie                      Maryln Langeance  
                                     Larry Rasmussen                      Chuck Pullen  
                                     Mark DeYoung

ABSENT:                      Dean Kapenga                      Becky Rininger

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 AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Larry Rasmussen, seconded by Bruce Culver to approve the August 2, 2011 meeting minutes as presented and mailed. The motion carried.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kevin stated there is nothing to report on the financial statements at this time. A motion was made by Larry Rasmussen, seconded by Maryln Langeance to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion carried.

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **PARKS FOUNDATION DISCUSSION CONTINUED – THERESA BRAY**

Theresa Bray, Allegan County Community Foundation CEO, is in attendance to continue the discussion regarding the possibility of creating an Allegan County Parks Community Foundation Fund. She gave a brief summary of the August 3rd subcommittee meeting while distributing a couple handouts that are still works in progress; the first being a fund development plan and the second outlines some goals and objectives. Theresa put the documents together using ideas and information from the subcommittee meeting. She stated it's something folks never think about but if the funding is not there, public parks can be shut down so we need to make them sustainable for future generations.

Theresa was asked to clarify the differences between the funds and their benefits, and also any risks that may be involved. After much discussion she stated the Parks Commission has to make a decision whether they want to start the fund; if so the next step would be to move ahead with developing the plan. Bruce is not sure this is a good idea and wonders if now is the right time to start an endowment fund with the economy the way it is. Theresa believes it is the right time; when developing the plan goals should be set that are realistic and attainable. She is not hearing any comfort level from the Commission; perhaps in the next year or two the group can proceed with putting on some events to see if the revenue is there to substantiate the fund. She stated with or without the endowment she will still help with planning the events and be a part of the subcommittee. Mark would like to go through the next season before making a decision; we need to prove to ourselves we can actually do these events.

A motion was made by Mark DeYoung, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to postpone making a decision on whether or not to start an endowment fund until the Parks Commission meeting in September of 2012. Over the course of the next year the Parks Commission will proceed with various events at the parks to see if enough revenue can be generated to substantiate the fund. The motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2012 BUDGET UPDATE**

Kevin stated the 2012 budget is still in progress. Administration is approaching it the same way as last year by offering a voluntary separation plan for early retirement and looking at other ways to cut costs. Bottom line is Parks will have less funding for next year but not by much; Kevin stated that \$1000 will be cut from the 2011 parks budget for 2012. He believes the county is close to having a balanced budget and it will be presented to the Board of Commissioners on September 8, 2011.

### **NEXT MEETING – OCTOBER 4, 2011 @ 8:30AM**

If available, Kevin directed Ronda to move the remaining 2011 Parks Commission and Tourist Council meetings to the Zimmerman Training Room on the main floor of the Human Services Building.

## **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

**Kevin Ricco** asked if anyone else saw the complaint letter to the editor last week in the Allegan County News regarding Pine Point Campground. The paper's editor, Ryan Lewis, contacted Kevin about the comments and subsequently wrote an article that commented on the original letter. Kevin explained the trees were removed to prepare for the expansion of the day riding parking area; the project is being done to allow more room for folks to move around with their trailers and should be completed by the beginning of October.

Next Kevin reminded everyone of the Sturgeon Release Festival at New Richmond Bridge Park from 10am – 2pm on Saturday, September 24, 2011. Volunteers are still needed to help with setup, cleanup, and overseeing the kid's fishing derby; anyone interested can email [kazoosturgeon@gmail.com](mailto:kazoosturgeon@gmail.com).

**Larry Rasmussen** camped in Pine Point Campground last weekend and had no problems.

**Mark DeYoung** reports the bridge to Dorr is now open and there was an impromptu walk across the bridge yesterday morning. He also went to Silver Creek Campground to ride the trails and the campground was full.

**Bob Kaarlie** wanted to support the earlier comment regarding the parks disappearing; we have to do whatever is necessary to keep the parks open.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:34am.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Ronda Foreman, Parks and Tourism Clerk