



Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

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November 1, 2011

Human Services Building

Zimmerman Training Room

8:30am

Minutes of a Scheduled Joint Meeting of the Allegan County Parks Commission and the Allegan County Tourist Council

A scheduled joint meeting of the Allegan County Parks Commission and the Allegan County Tourist Council was called to order by Parks Commission Chairman Robert Kaarlie on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at 8:30am in the Zimmerman Training Room in the Human Services Building, 3255 - 122nd Avenue, Allegan, Michigan.

Roll Call showed the following Parks Commission members:

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

ABSENT: None

Roll Call showed the following Tourist Council members:

PRESENT:	Jan Cushman	Betsy Hill
	Larry Johnson	Dianna Stampfler
	Stephanie Peterson	Alan Weener

ABSENT: Lue Crane Norm Smith

Also Present: Kevin Ricco, County Development Director
Kristine Allred

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Chuck Pullen, seconded by Bruce Culver to approve the October 4, 2011 meeting minutes as presented and mailed. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER TOURIST COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Al Weener, seconded by Jan Cushman, to approve the September 20, 2011 meeting minutes as presented and mailed. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kevin presented the Parks Commission and Tourist Council financial statements.

Motion by Larry Rasmussen, seconded by Bruce Culver, to accept the financial statements as presented into the record. The motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2012 BUDGET UPDATE

Kevin reported that the Board of Commissioners approved the 2012 County Budget at their October 13, 2011 board meeting. The Parks Commission increased the projected revenue for Gun Lake Park by \$4,000 and decreased total operating budget by \$1,000. The Tourist Council budget will remain the same in 2012 as it was in 2011.

2012 VISITORS GUIDE UPDATE

Kevin reported that the final copy and sidebar information for the 2012 Visitors Guide was nearly complete. A draft of the publication should be ready for review by the end of the month. He also reported that advertising sales were progressing nicely and they have exceeded sales from 2011.

NEW BUSINESS

2012 SHELTER AND CAMPSITE RESERVATIONS

Kevin stated that he and Ronda would like to change the picnic shelter and campsite reservation policy such that all reservation payments are due at the time the reservations are made. It takes he and Ronda a significant amount of time to keep track of who has paid and who has not paid. This process can take several hours during a typical week. Most reservation systems require payment at the time the reservation is made and it would make sense for us to switch to this system. He stated that the County will be using GovPay as its new credit card processor, which will give the Parks Office the ability to swipe cards in the office, take credit card information over the phone or still process on line credit card payments.

Motion by Bruce Culver, seconded by Becky Rininger, to change the campsite and pavilion reservation policy for 2012 to make all reservation payments due at the time the reservation is made. The motion carried.

2012 MEETING SCHEDULES FOR THE PARKS COMMISSION AND THE TOURIST COUNCIL

Kevin presented the proposed 2012 meeting schedules to the Parks Commission and the Tourist Council. After some discussion, each meeting schedule was approved. (see attached)

Motion by Becky Rininger, seconded by Dean Kapenga, to approve the proposed 2012 Parks Commission meeting schedule. The motion carried.

Motion by Dianna Stampfler, seconded by Betsy Hill, to approve the amended 2012 Tourist Council meeting schedule. The motion carried.

APPLICATIONS FOR VACANCIES (PARKS COMMISSION, TOURIST COUNCIL)

Kevin reported that the County had received one Parks Commission application and one Tourist Council application. There is currently one vacancy on the Parks Commission and two vacancies on the Tourist

Council. The applicant for the Parks Commission was Bruce Brandon of Casco Township and the applicant for the Tourist Council was Joseph Leverage of Allegan.

Motion by Maryln Langeance, seconded by Lenore Ryun, to recommend that Bruce Brandon be appointed to the Parks Commission. The motion carried.

Motion by Larry Johnson, seconded by Betsy Hill, to recommend that Joseph Leverage be appointed to the Tourist Council. The motion carried.

Kevin stated he would relay this information to County Administration.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Kevin reported that 10 of the 11 members of the newly created County Economic Development Commission were elected by the Board of Commissioners at their October 27, 2011 meeting. The remaining vacant position on the Commission is for an agriculture representative. Kevin asked that if anyone knew of a person that might be interested in filling the agriculture seat on the Commission to please let him know. Kevin stated that there is a definite connection between the Economic Development Commission, Parks Commission and the Tourist Council and he hopes there is a way all three of these entities can work together.

COUNTY STRATEGY MAP DISCUSSION

Kevin presented the Tourist Council and the Parks Commission with the strategy map that has been created and approved by the Board of Commissioners (see attached). Kevin stated that the Board of Commissioners, working with County Administration, have been working for some time on creating a strategic map/plan for the County and this document would help guide future County decisions. Mark DeYoung added that this has been an important process for the Board of Commissioners and the plan is meant to be dynamic, meaning it will change to suit the times. Kevin went on to say that this document will also be used as part of the decision making process for the Parks Commission and the Tourist Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dianna Stampfler reported that the letter targeting 4th grade elementary students regarding the Heritage Trail has been completed. She would like a copy of the letter, along with one copy of the Heritage Trail guidebook, to be sent to every elementary school principal in the County.

Dianna also mentioned that the deadline for the "Picture Yourself in Allegan County" fall photo contest is December 1st, so encourage anyone with good 2011 fall pictures to submit them for the contest.

Kevin reported that he had received a special event permit request from the Barry County Chamber of Commerce for the 2012 WinterFest event at Gun Lake Park. The event would take place on February 18th and clean-up would be completed by 5pm on Monday, February 20th.

Motion by Becky Rininger, seconded by Bruce Culver, to approve the special event permit request from the Barry County Chamber of Commerce for the 2012 Gun Lake WinterFest event at Gun Lake Park. The motion carried.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Parks Commission – December 6, 2011 @ 8:30am (Spartan Conference Room)

Tourist Council – December 16, 2011 @ 11am (The Belvedere, Saugatuck)

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Dianna Stampfler: She reported that the Plainwell Mill property has now been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. She also reported that the Holiday Home Tour in Plainwell will take place on December 3rd.

Larry Johnson: Larry reported that the Festival of Trees at Camp Kidwell will be taking place on December 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Jan Cushman: Jan reported that there is a new Mexican restaurant that will be opening in Otsego. She also reported that the Country Way store sold and the Otsego Christmas Parade will be taking place the first Friday in December.

Al Weener: Al reported that there will be a Sturgeon for Tomorrow fundraiser at Crane's Pie Pantry on November 12, 2011. Good food and entertainment will be provided as part of the event.

Mark DeYoung: Mark reported that the former Stan's Bar in Dorr has re-opened as AJ's. At this time only the bar portion is open but there will be a restaurant opening soon as well.

Stephanie Peterson: Stephanie reported that there is a new owner of the pizza place in Martin.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bruce Culver, seconded by Larry Rasmussen, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 10:20am.

By: _____
Kevin Ricco, Director