

**JACKSON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
1992 WARREN AVENUE  
JACKSON, MICHIGAN 49203**

January 20, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mike Way, Chairman at 8:00 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Cmr. **Alexander, Beaman, Polaczyk, Rand, Seitz, Snyder, Torres, and Way**  
Excused: Cmr. **DuBois, Lloyd**  
Ex-Officio: **Adam Brown**, Interim County Parks Director  
Staff: **Becky Humphrey, Mike Hoskins, Dan Lusty**  
Visitors: **John Tallis**, Hanover Twp. Supervisor, **Denise Geisman**, Lomar, **Connie Poisson, Jr.**  
Achievement, **Roger Gaede**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2016**

**Chairman**

Cmr. Polaczyk nominated Cmr. Way for Chairman of the Parks Board Commission.

**Moved by Polaczyk, supported by Beaman** to nominate Cmr. **Way** for Chairman. Motion carried.

**Vice Chairman**

Cmr. Alexander nominated Cmr. Polaczyk for Vice Chair of the Parks Board Commission.

**Moved by Way, supported by Alexander** to nominate Cmr. **Polaczyk** for Vice-Chair. Motion carried.

**Secretary**

Cmr. Alexander nominated Cmr. Jan Seitz as Secretary for the Parks Board Commission.

**Moved by Alexander, supported by Torres** to nominate Cmr. **Seitz** for Secretary. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by Torres, supported by Polaczyk** to approve the January 20, 2016 agenda. Motion carried.

**SPECIAL ORDER**

**John Tallis**, Hanover Twp. Supervisor – Horton Mill Pond Lighting - Discussion

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Polaczyk, supported by Seitz** to approve the December 2015 Meeting Minutes with the correction on Grant Bauman's name. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Roger Gaede** – Working on the Park Commission has been very rewarding. Even before becoming a Park Commissioner he attended most of the meetings. All of the parks need to be evaluated, Vineyard Lake Park needed help and would suggest that a Strategic Plan be looked at to see what has been done and not done.

Vineyard Lake County Park is located in 2 townships; Columbia and Norvell. It was parks staff labor and the Jackson County Parks Association's contributions was part of the improvements such as the playground and the road grading.

Please consider pumping into the sewer system. It is not currently being used and Knutson's is looking into putting in a restroom. The well out there is plugged and you will need a new one. The Parks need to look into a 2 unit toilet system.

Appreciate letting be a part of the parks.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

1. 2016 Park and Recreation Commissioners  
Re: Contact Information
2. Letter from Judith Jove, Family Service & Children's Aid  
Re: Request to do a 5k run
3. Letter from Monica Moser, President and CEO of Jackson Community Foundation  
Re: Contribution
4. Restated By-Laws of the Cascades Park Foundation
5. Email from Rick Danks  
Re: Request for 6K walk.
6. Note from Tim & Shannon Proietti, Cascades Ice Cream Co.  
Re: Best Year Ever!!!
7. Letter from Connie Poisson, President, Junior Achievement of MI Edge, Inc.  
Re: Grand Prix Race
8. Letter from Cascades Humane Society  
Re: Request for Paws in the Park
9. Email from Beth Shafer, United Way Jackson  
Re: 2016 What Floats Your Boat Request
10. Facebook note from Heather Andersen  
Re: Thank you
11. **Friends of the Falling Waters Trail** minutes of November 03, 2015
12. **Cascades Park Foundation** minutes of December 16, 2015
13. **Champion Team** minutes (Next meeting)
14. **Jackson County Parks Association** (No Meeting)

**15. Jackson Civil War Society (Cascades Inc.) (No Minutes)**

**Moved by Snyder, supported by Polaczyk** to receive the communications. Motion Carried.

**Moved by Snyder, supported by Torres** to approve use of the The Cascades parking lot for the 2016 Junior Achievement Grand Prix event with the contingency of a Park Event Agreement. Motion carried.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Trail Connector Project** – An additional \$15,000 was received for the connector project as I reported to you during the month of December.

I have been drafting the Request for Qualifications and intend to have that out by January 22, 2016.

**Cascades Champion Committee**

I began a trial enrollment of Wild Apricot, a fundraising software. Members of our champion team had recommended it, and we had not tried it yet. I imported all of our donors from Phase I plus other contacts and sent out an end of the year holiday notice and request for additional donations. This apparently did draw in some end of the year contributions.

The Cascades Champion Team met on January 7, 2016. After compiling our list of targeted donors we made specific assignments to make the sales pitch. The team also wants to hold a fundraising dinner which Mike Brown and Becky made reservations for April 14, 2016 at Cascades Manor House. We are concerned with all the large projects going on in the community at this time, so we need to get busy with the sales pitch.

**Water Trails Committee**

There have been several meetings with regard to the blue trail on the Grand River. Parks Commissioner Snyder has been a great advocate and leader. They intend to utilize Region 2 Planning collaboratively with an outside contractor to develop a blue trail. At the same time the group has been successful in advocating for the inter-city trail to connect to the Parnall end point by following the river rather than Cooper Street. I appreciate the leadership of Commissioner Geoff Snyder and Commissioner Kenny Price on this issue as I have not been able to attend all of the meetings.

**Deer Cull** – I was contacted by Eric Terrian who said they intend to begin the deer cull in the next three weeks. I was to call Superintendent Mike Hoskins to let him know the dates he would be out and also about baiting. Their number is low this year. They intend to take 48, I believe, which means it will not take as long as it normally would. They believe they will be in and out relatively quickly.

**Volunteer Recognition** – We were not able to pull together the volunteer recognition over the holidays for this months meeting, but we intend to try again in February.

**Horton Mill Pond/Snyder Park** – We continue to have ongoing talks with Hanover Township about improving safety and facilitating a partnership with the township, private donors, and the County.

**Director Recruitment** – We concluded interviews for the new Parks Director on Wednesday January 6. John Polaczyk and Joe Beaman from the Parks Commission joined us in the interview panel. We were blessed with an outstanding candidate pool to choose from, but one clearly rose to the top.

We invited one candidate back on Friday and made an offer. He has accepted the offer and has agreed to start on February 8th. His name is Jeff Hovarter and he is retiring from the City of Battle Creek where he has been Parks Director for the past 25 years. He has 37 total years as a Parks Director. He has a lot of energy and a great attitude. While in Battle Creek he ran Binder Park Golf Course, a water park, a large trail and bike system, and lured in two minor league baseball teams over a period of time. I am personally looking forward to working with him, and I hope that he can help take our parks to a new level of achievement and service.

**Bike Rental System Purchase** – I have had conversations with B-Cycles. I am working on an agreement with them based on another competitively bid government contract. This will allow us to use the pricing promised to another governmental entity, which fits within our procurement policy, while honoring the work done by the donating foundation.

**Moved by Snyder, supported by Torres** to receive the Director's report. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS -**

### **Draft of Parks Special Event Agreement**

Discussion. Having legal look at the agreement.

**B-Cycles** – Update and Discussion

### **Grass Lake Sportsman Event Requests**

**Moved by Snyder, supported by Polaczyk** to approve the February 13<sup>th</sup> and June 11<sup>th</sup> Take-A-Kid Fishing and the July 4, 2016 BBQ and Parade events contingent upon receiving the Certificate of Liability Insurance covering all three events. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Golf Cart Lease**

**Moved by Polaczyk, supported by Torres** to proceed with a new lease with Spartan Distributors for a new 54 month lease of 68 carts. Motion carried.

### **Foot Golf**

**Moved by Snyder, supported by Alexander** to make the investment to proceed with the Foot Golf project. Nay – Beaman, Motion carried.

## **DECEMBER 2015 FINANCIALS**

**Moved by Seitz, supported by Snyder** to receive the December 2015 Financial Reports. Motion carried.

**Moved by Seitz, supported by Snyder** to approve the December 2015 Claims Report. Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Connie Poisson, Jr. Achievement** – Wanted to give an update on last year’s event – Have had nothing but positive feedback from not only the participants, but the spectators as well. The work was phenomenal all the way around. They are hoping to being putting their marketing package together and was wondering if it was at all possible to get approval at this meeting for the 2016 Jr. Grand Prix? They will be using fewer tires this year as they are using interlocking barriers. Again it was a great experience and easy operation for everyone and everyone was very pleased to have the event at Cascades Park.

**Roger Gaede** – Has been a part of Jr. Achievement for many years and appreciates them. Vineyard Lake – in the past submitted a request to Michigan International Speedway (MIS) for funds for a shelter at Vineyard Lake – did not receive, but would not leave them out of consideration for donations. MIS make their decisions after the race season is over. They have been known to consider large donations.

## **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**Cmr. Torres** – Maybe we could get Jim Latham from Finance to come out and go over the financials in March or April with us. Also I am asking if the Parks Director could give the Park Commissioners highlights on the financials as to how things are going every quarter.

**Cmr. Polaczyk** – Thank you Roger for all the year of service.

**Cmr. Price** – Earth Day is coming up on April 25<sup>th</sup>, what is the procedure to get the facility reserved? Can boats legally be on the lagoons? Brandon used to worked with G.R.E.A.T. to clean up the lagoons once a year. Discussion

**Cmr. Snyder** – Would see no problem.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:55 a.m.

**Mike Way, Chairman**

Jackson County Parks & Recreation Commission