

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

February 1, 2017

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Cmrs. **Beaman, DuBois, Polaczyk, Price, Seitz, Shotwell, Snyder, Torres, and Way**
Ex-Officio: **Mark Vysoky**, Manager of Park Planning & Operations
Staff: **Becky Humphrey, Dan Lusty**
Visitors: **Roger Gaede, Nancy Seydell**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Price, supported by DuBois to approve the February 1, 2017 agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Torres, supported by Price to approve the January 2017 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nancy Seydell – Glad to see the County Board Chairman made it to the best Board in the County! Nancy is from Tompkins Township; she has worked in and been a part of Minard Mill County Park for 33 years. Has been a part of the Jackson County Parks Association since its beginning in 1998 and is currently the President of that organization. Philip and Monette Thorrez have donated money to Minard Mill County Park every year for over 10 years now. For 2017 they donated \$600.00. Who sends a Thank you? Where does the money go and how much is there? The bridge out at the park needs work. Thank you.

Roger Gaede – The Deer Cull has been cancelled for this year. Kelli Hoover, the City Parks Director is looking into why we are and do we still need to do the Deer Cull. She wants a new study done to see if the area needs to be expanded for the cull or if we need to do one at all. I support Kelli Hoover's decision to hold-off on the deer cull pending on a new study and obtaining MDNR data.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. City of Jackson, Neighborhood & Economic Operations
Re: Reconstruction of Kibby Road
2. Letter and Email from Larry Lloyd
Re: Resignation from Parks Commission Board
3. Facebook Comment from Daniel Klee
Re: The Cascades
4. Press Release from Jackson County Administrator
Re: Filling Vacancies on various boards and committees

5. **FFWT Board** minutes of January 3, 2017
6. **Cascades Park Foundation** minutes of December 20, 2016 & January 17, 2017
7. **Champion Team** minutes of January 19, 2017

Moved by Polaczyk, supported by Seitz to receive the February Communications. Motion carried.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

1. **Deer Cull Cancelled:** The City of Jackson has decided to cancel the annual deer cull that was to occur at the Cascades Golf Course and Ella Sharp Park. City Parks Director, Kelli Hoover, recommended the postponement to the City Manager because she felt that they need to look at the deer population throughout the City limits and revisit working with the DNR to do a fly over and recount. The deer cull was to be funded by the City of Jackson and Summit Township, and the County was simply supplying land.
2. **Splash Pad Update:** Work is moving along on the mechanical system installation and the completion of the pump house building. We are awaiting an estimate from the contractor to expand the concrete seating area around the splash pad to accommodate seating for parents that will have pool style seating.
3. **Lime Lake Wetland Restoration:** We met the contractor on site last week to discuss the game plan for getting started. We have had a difficult time with responsiveness of this contractor so this was an important meeting. We stressed the importance of this project to the county, the local residents, and the grant schedule. He assured us that he would be able to start his work by next week. If he continues to be unresponsive to his responsibility, on February 1st we will start calling him on a daily basis for an update on his mobilization. We have placed signs to inform the public of the possible interruption along the trail due to equipment from Teft Road to Lime Lake.
4. **Sparks Park Trail Connector Update:** We have a project agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to construct the Sparks Park Trail Connector (connecting the Sparks Park Trail to the City trail system and the Falling Waters Trail). The bidding process has begun and a bid opening is scheduled for February 17. We will bring the project to the March Park Commission meeting for approval. Construction needs to be completed by June 30th to secure a 100k pledge from the Weatherwax Foundation. The remaining funding comes from a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant.
5. **Jefferson Road/Columbia Township Property:** County Parks' staff met with Cindy Hubbell from the Brooklyn-Irish Hills Chamber of Commerce, and other members from their Legacy Board, on January 20th to talk conceptually about a potential partnership to develop a new County Park on Jefferson Road. Jackson County already owns land that would be suitable, and there may be opportunities to write a grant to potentially acquire additional parcels. A portion of the land could potentially serve as the location for three projects that the Legacy Board is working on, a trail connector, a skate park, and a community center.
6. **B-Cycle Update:** We are on track to install and open our B-Cycle bike share station at the Weatherwax Trailhead of the Falling Waters Trail this spring. Funding is provided by the Hurst

Foundation for the station, which will include six bikes for rental. A partnership has been worked out with On Two Wheel bike shop to assist with route maintenance on the bikes. Our project manager from B-Cycle/Trek travelled to Jackson on January 26 to work with parks staff on implementation and marketing details. Weather dependent, we will plan for a “soft launch” in mid-to-late April and a grand opening ceremony in May to coincide with National Bike Month.

7. Michigan Recreation and Parks Association (MParks) Annual Conference and Trade Show: Jeff Hovarter and Kyle Lewis are attending the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association annual conference and trade show from Jan 31 – February 3rd in Grand Rapids.

Moved by Torres supported by Beaman to receive the Monthly Staff report. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS -

County Parks Memorials, Monuments, and Recognitions Policy – Discussion. Tabled until March meeting.

Golf Equipment Purchases

Purchase of Fairway Mower for Cascades Golf Course and Cascades Short Course

Moved by Shotwell, supported by DuBois to concur with the Staff Recommendation and move recommendation to the Board of Commissioners for approval of the purchase of a Toro Reelmaster 5410-D (36.8 Hp Tier 4 Diesel, All Wheel Drive) Fairway Mower from Spartan Distributors in the amount of \$58,203.27. Motion carried.

Purchase of a Greens Mower for Cascades Golf Course and Cascades Short Course

Moved by DuBois, supported by Torres to concur with the Staff Recommendation and move recommendation to the Agencies and Affairs Committee for approval of the purchase of a Toro Greens master 3150-Q Greens Mower from Spartan Distributors in the amount of \$32,244.22. Motion carried.

DECEMBER 2016 FINANCIALS

Moved by Seitz, supported by Polaczyk to receive the December 2016 Financial Reports. Motion carried.

Moved by Torres, supported by DuBois to approve the December 2016 Claims Report. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Gaede –

- Skate Park is a skate board type of facility, not an ice skating park.
- Spirit Trail passes through the Clark Lake County Park.
- It is Irish Hills Chamber of Commerce rather than Brooklyn Chamber.

Nancy Seydell –

- All these years, 33+, did not know there needed to be approval for memorial trees.
- Almost all of the time when a tree is damaged it is not because of vandalism, it is from the mowers. They cut too close the trees and end up making irreparable damage to the tree.
- If a donated bench is damaged by Parks staff, then Parks should repair.
- Also, Jackson County Parks Association stipulates that all of the funding they donate needs to be used for all of the out county parks.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Cmr. Seitz –

- Would like to thank the Parks staff for the notification regarding the dead fish and the notice of the Memorial Policy to be ready to discuss and for any particular item on any agenda. Really appreciate the information.

Cmr. Snyder –

- Kibby Road notification – is the Parks going to be taxed for the Special Assessments?
- Lime Lake project – what is the status on that project?

Cmr. Beaman –

- Really appreciates the expanse of and vision of the parks.
- Appreciates that we are looking forward, but we still need to get current projects completed.
- Milfoil at Clark Lake, where are we at with that?
- Is working with the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force and there is going to be a play called “Among the Darkest Shadows” that is playing Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 1 p.m., both times at the Wharton Center in Lansing, MI.

Cmr. Shotwell –

- The Kibby Road project – The County Administrator and Jackson County Department of Transportation (JCDOT) is involved.
- Lime Lake project has had another delay because of weather and it is still delayed. The Men’s Garden Club is have a meeting regarding How you can control invasive species and also on the results of Round-Up; will invite the Parks Board when he has the date of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:20 a.m.

Mike Way, Chairman

Jackson County Parks Commission