

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

February 19, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: Mike Way, Chairman at 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Cmr. **Alexander, Beaman, DuBois, Gaede, Polaczyk, Seitz, Snyder, Torres and Way**
Excused: Cmr. **Rand**
Ex-Officio: **Scott Robbins**, County Parks Director
Staff: **Mike Hoskins and Becky Humphrey**
Visitors: **Adam Brown** Deputy County Administrators

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by DuBois, supported by Seitz to approve the February 19, 2014 agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by DuBois, supported by Polaczyk to approve the January 15, 2014 Minutes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

JANUARY 2014 FINANCIALS

Moved by Alexander, supported by Torres to receive the January 2014 Financial Reports. Motion carried.

Moved by DuBois, supported by Torres to approve the January 2014 Claims Report. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from Cascades Humane Society
Re: Paws in the Park
2. Letter from Sierra Buffum
Re: 1st Annual Carter Buffum 5k
3. Letter from Dennis Niles, Grass Lake Sportsman Club
Re: 3 Annual Events at Grass Lake County Park
4. Letter to Experience Jackson
Re: Request for Sponsorship for Ad in Michigan Trails Magazine
5. Letter to Experience Jackson

Re: Request for Sponsorship for replacing/adding costumes for Family Nights

6. Letter to Experience Jackson
Re: Request for Sponsorship for GPS Units
7. Letter from Village of Grass Lake
Re: Grass Lake County Park Concession Stand
8. **Friends of the Falling Waters Trail** minutes of January 14, 2014
9. **Cascades Park Foundation** minutes of January 15, 2014
10. **Jackson County Parks Association** (Next Meeting)
11. **Cascades Inc.** (No Meeting)
12. **Revive the Pride** (No Meeting)

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Intercity Trail Connector – Four properties must be acquired to connect the Cascades Park with the Falling Waters Trail, commonly referred to as the intercity trail connector. Two of the properties are privately owned by Ms. Mary Flannery and the other two are owned by the Jackson Public Schools.

Flannery Properties – As of 2/12/14; We are working with Mr. Harry Thompson to allow us to complete the on-site survey and legal descriptions of the property and also to consider removing any easements (driveway) on the property to allow the purchase to be completed. Mr. Thomson will return from vacation February 22nd.

Jackson Public School (JPS) Properties – JPS - The Attorneys are working out language. I think they have come to agreement, but it probably means JPS will need to approve it again and we can approve it in March.

Grass Lake Concession Agreement – First contract was not accepted by Grass Lake's council. Mike Hoskins and I are meeting with Tom Nolte this week to discuss concession contract options to make sure we have the concession available to the public for this summer.

Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee - We have had 2 meeting and discussions began about how to improve the golfers experience as it relates to general course upkeep and the club house experience along with options for the upcoming future. The next meeting is February 26th, 8 a.m., Cascades Board Room.

Cascades Ad Hoc Committee – Enclosed in your packet is the Official Report for the Cascades Ad Hoc Committee. Adam Brown will be at the meeting to give a presentation.

Swains Lake – Group discussion about the process and how we will manage forward for a fall construction

Swains Lake – The Parks Association has agreed to fund the cabin project, which will include the permitting, foundation and electrical for a total of \$11,000.00. The cabin will be delivered to Swain's Lake sometime between Mid-May to Mid-June. We are currently working with the building inspector of Pulaksi Township to secure the building permit.

Director Initiation – I have met with

Kelli Hoover – City of Jackson Parks and Recreation Director

Kent Mauer - Jackson County Airport

Steve Tucker– Michigan Theater

All Department Heads and some Elected Officials

Monica Moser – Community Foundation

Senator Caswell

Kandice Karll – Jackson County Conservation District

Rod Malloy – Dahlem Center

Experience Jackson Sponsorship-

On February 5th the Parks Department submitted 3 sponsorship requests:

- Advertising funding for the Michigan Trail Magazine - \$2,330.00
- Sponsorship for replacement of existing costumes and purchasing new costumes for Family Night at the Cascades - \$3,050.33
- Sponsorship for replacement of our current GPS systems on our golf carts - \$5,712.00

We will know by February 21st if we were awarded any of the scholarships that we submitted.

Experience Jackson – Bus Tours for The Cascades – We are currently looking at working with Experience Jackson to start an historical “tour” of The Cascades. Having someone talk with the groups about the history of The Cascades. We are considering a fee of \$7.00 per person, which would include admittance and the mini tour.

Experience Jackson Board of Directors – I was elected to a one-year term on the Experience Jackson (Jackson County Visitors Bureau) Board of Directors, starting today and ending December 31, 2014. I replaced Brandon Ransom's position.

Historic Preservation Tour – On May 16th the Michigan Historic Preservation Network is doing a Jackson day and the Cascades is a part of that tour. They will be at The Cascades from 9:45 – 10:30 a.m. with Sue Weible of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network.

Great Lake to Lake Trail Update-

Parks staff met with DNR staff (Paul Yauk, Charles Dennison, Murdock Jemerson and Joseph Strach) along with Scott TenBrink from U. of M.) on February 4th to discuss the continuing effort to link Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.

As an overview: As part of the 220+ mile Great Lake to Lake Trail system, The DNR is excited to work with county and township partners to link the west end of the Lakelands Trail State Park to the City of Jackson's trail system.

Currently there is an approx. 6 mile break in the end points of these two trails.

State, City, County and Township officials plan to meet February 25th to discuss ideas to connect these two end points at the Blackman Township offices.

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

OLD BUSINESS -

Official Report Cascades Ad Hoc Committee

Moved by Snyder, supported by DuBois to support the presentation and concept presented by Adam Brown reflected of the Cascades Ad-Hoc Committee along with the 3 recommendations of 1) Engage an engineering firm for the revised Phase 1: demolition and site preparation 2) Find seed money 3) Allow the Parks Commission to initiate fundraising for the remainder of the Phase 1 cost and 4) To begin the process of identifying a "Champion" for the Cascades Renovation Project. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS –

Revive the Pride

Moved by Seitz, supported by Polaczyk to have Scott Robbins and Mike Way contact and attempt to meet with Revive the Pride to obtain their current status and future direction. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –

Cmr. Alexander – John Calhoun publicly praised the new Parks Director and complimented the Ad-Hoc Committee for their hire.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 10:02 a.m.

Mike Way, Chairman

Jackson County Parks & Recreation Commission