

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

March 18, 2015

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Cmrs. **Alexander, DuBois, Gaede, Price, Seitz, Snyder, Torres and Way**
Absent: Cmr. **Polaczyk**
Excused: Cmr. **Beaman**
Ex-Officio: **Scott Robbins**, County Parks Director
Staff: **Becky Humphrey and Mike Hoskins**
Visitors: **Adam Brown**, Deputy County Administrator, **Marc Daly**, United Way, **Patrick Doher, JJR,**
Darrick Huff, Spicer Group, **Nancy Seydell, John Worden**, Summit Twp. Supervisor,

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Alexander, supported by Seitz to approve the March 18, 2015 agenda. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING – Sparks County Park/Inter-City Connector Trail Development Grant

Moved by Torres, supported by Seitz to open public hearing. Motion carried.

Public Comment –

Pat Doher, County Resident and Board Member of the Cascades Foundation-Cascades Manor House. As a county resident he fully supports the trail. As a board member of the Cascades Foundation – they would like to preserve the integrity of the Cascades Manor House and their events with the ingress and egress of the facility and would also like to be a participate in the final planning of the trail connector.

Nancy Seydell – Does not want the public meandering around the Cascades Manor House when there is an outdoor event. (i.e. weddings) This plan appears to really take care of that issue. Thank you.

Moved by Gaede, supported by DuBois to move forward with submitting the MNRTF Grant request for Development Phase of the Sparks County Park/Inter-City Connector Trail. Motion carried.

Moved by Torres, supported by Seitz to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by DuBois, supported by Snyder to approve the February 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nancy Seydell – The Parks Department needs to buy a leaf-back shredder, there is not enough employees to maintain all the parks. When the Oak Wilt comes, Jackson won't have any more trees.

What is going on with the Ice Cream Co. contract? She hopes it stays with the Prioetti Family, they have done a great job! And the ice cream store has been a great asset to Cascades Park and the community.

The Swain's Lake cabin, is there a plaque or sign on the building stating that the cabin was fully donated by the Jackson County Parks Association? If not there should be.

FEBRUARY 2015 FINANCIALS

Moved by Snyder, supported by Torres to receive the February 2015 Financial Reports. Motion carried.

Moved by Snyder, supported by DuBois to approve the February 2015 Claims Report. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Article "Questions non-operator landowners need to ask their farmers about soil health"
2. Letter from Kim St. Charles, Curriculum Specialist, ABC Academy
Re: The Cascades Tour
3. G.R.E.A.T. Newsletter
4. **Champion Team** minutes of February 4, 2015
5. **Friends of the Falling Waters Trail** minutes of February 17, 2015
6. **Jackson County Parks Association** minutes of February 24, 2015
7. **Cascades Park Foundation** minutes of February 25, 2015
8. **Cascades Inc.** (No Minutes)

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Cascades Champion Team and The Cascades Renovations-

The Cascades was voted by the readers of the Jackson Magazine as:

"The Best Place to Take Out-of-Towners" on the evening of March 4, 2015 at the Ella Sharp Museum.

The Champion Team continues to be focusing on Phase 2 funding opportunities and upcoming marketing relations with the community. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, March 19th at 3:00 pm.

The 2nd part of Phase 1 construction should begin soon and completed no later than May 19th. Baily Sand & Gravel Co. will be the lead contractor on site during this project. Please see the Champion Team Meeting Minutes in "Correspondence".

We are working with The Spicer Group to finalize the contract for the Phase 2 Engineering Services. If approved by the Parks Board and County Commissioners the engineering plans should be available within 6-8 months. Phase 2 will consist of development of the new mechanical and electrical systems within The Cascades along with the creation of 2 splash pad fountains that will be located at the base of The Cascades.

Swains Lake Campground- The quarry tile and other interior amenities such as, sinks, faucets, and restroom panel dividers, etc. are being delivered and installed. The concrete walkways will be poured and finished along with final grading and seeding later this spring.

Pleasant Lake Campground-Henrietta Township and Recreation Committee:

We had much success in working with the Township Supervisor for Henrietta Township – Andy Grimes, Recreation Committee member Nancy Hawley and local business owner Rick Zandowski who is the owner of the Pleasant Laker Pub. The local fishing event was held on Saturday, February 28th from 9-3 pm. and the weather held out to make the day very nice on the lake. There were 54 registered participants compared last year's numbers of 21 participants. I attended in the early afternoon and met with some of the participants and everything within the park was well maintained. We felt that this event was very productive and are excited for future collaborations with the community.

Fair Master Plan- The Fair Board will be meeting on March 17th with the master planning consultant J.J.R. to finalize the contract and then move forward in presenting it to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.

Cascades Golf Course and Club House- The parks department received over 50 applications for the Golf Superintendent position. The interview panel selected 6 candidates to interview during the week of March 9th. The final candidate will be selected within the next week and begin their employment as soon as possible.

The club house is going through some final renovations – New tile in the concession area, new club house furniture and T.V. will be purchased for use this spring. This should set the tone for a good golf season in 2015.

Sparks Park Inner-City Trail Connector- There will be a public meeting held during our Jackson County Parks Commission monthly meeting to discuss and review the MDNR Trust Fund Grant application process. A short presentation will be presented to show the general concept of the trail linkage from the Inner-City Trail to Kibby Road. The final application needs to be submitted prior to April 1, 2015.

General Parks Department Information-

During the upcoming year we will be working with local TV and Radio stations to better market our parks, golf courses, campgrounds, fairgrounds and special events. Currently, we are working with 970AM/105.3FM Radio, JTV and The Morning Blend Show on Fox 47 to publicize the parks and recreational opportunities within our Jackson community. The general theme will be “Rediscovering Your Jackson County Parks”

The parks staff is currently discussing capital equipment needs and public improvement projects for the parks and golf course for 2015. As we move forward this year we will bringing our purchasing and project requests before the Parks Board for approval as needed.

Volunteerism and Community Service- As we move forward in 2015 we will continue to build relationships with local service groups and clubs, schools, local communities and area businesses and agencies to allow them opportunities to give back to our parks and golf courses. Currently, we are working with Jackson Area Career Center to develop weekly/monthly maintenance programs at the golf course and The Cascades.

Other potential opportunities for community service are:

Construction of picnic pads at Clark Lake

Playground equipment rehabilitation at Pleasant Lake Park and Campground

General parks spring and summer clean up and enhancements with the Courts Community Service program and the Parole Department

Golf Course enhancements for local community members

Boy Scout and Eagle project(s) at Lime Lake/Falling Waters Trail and other park locations
Tree removal and selective pruning of trees in various parks by local contractors

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

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Cascades Renovation Phase II – Spicer Group Letter Agreement

Moved by DuBois, supported by Gaede to approve and to recommend to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to approve the Spicer Group Letter Agreement for Professional Services for The Cascades Rehabilitation – Phase II. Motion carried.

Leaf Vacuum/Shredder Purchase

Moved by DuBois, supported by Torres to purchase the Model 1000 Leaf/Mulch Vacuum from Bandit Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$6,000. Motion carried.

Letter of Intent for Trail Maintenance Agreement with Summit Township

Moved by Price, supported by Torres to approve the Parks Director to write a Letter of Intent to Summit Township to work out a Maintenance Agreement for the Horton Road path/trail of approximately 4,000 feet, and to have the Parks Director sign same agreement. Abstain, Cmr's DuBois and Way. Motion carried.

Leaf Vacuum/Shredder Purchase

Moved by Snyder, supported by Torres, to have the Parks Director solicit proposals for concessions at Pleasant Lake Campground and Swain's Lake Campground for long term leases. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nancy Seydell – If you shortened the hours for the concessions and not have 12 hour shifts, maybe one person might want to do the concessions in all the parks.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS - None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:34 a.m.

Mike Way, Chairman

Jackson County Parks & Recreation Commission