

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

March 19, 2014

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Cmrs. **Alexander, Beaman, DuBois, Gaede, Polaczyk, Rand, Seitz, Snyder, Torres and Way**
Ex-Officio: **Scott Robbins**, County Parks Director
Staff: **Phil Fischmeister, Mike Hoskins and Becky Humphrey**
Visitors: **Adam Brown** Deputy County Administrator, **Jim Lathan**, Finance Director, **Stephanie Shiro and Beth Schaffer**, United Way and **Rick Sigers**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add an additional item under New Business – **Vandercook Lake Mowing Contract**
Moved by Rand, supported by Polaczyk to approve the March 19, 2014 agenda. Motion carried.

SPECIAL ORDER

Moved by DuBois, supported by Seitz to approve the 3rd Annual “What Floats Your Cardboard Boat” Race Friday, September 6, 2013 for United Way. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Snyder, supported by Polaczyk to approve the February 19, 2014 Minutes with the adjournment time changed to 10:02 a.m. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

FEBRUARY 2014 FINANCIALS

Moved by Rand, supported by Snyder to receive the February 2014 Financial Reports. Motion carried.

Moved by Rand, supported by DuBois to approve the February 2014 Claims Report. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter to Jule Stafford, MDNR
Re: Sparks County Park Trail Connector
2. Letter to Dennis Niles, Grass Lake Sportsman’s Club
Re: Grass Lake 2014 Events
3. Letter to Cascades Humane Society

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Re: Paws in the Park

4. Email from Scott Robbins
Re: Lime Lake Support Letter
5. Letter to MDNR from Scott Robbins, Parks Director
Re: Lime Lake Restoration Project
6. Letter to MDNR from Friends of the Falling Water Trail
Re: Lime Lake Restoration Project
7. Letter to MDNR from Jackson County Park Commission
Re: Lime Lake Restoration Project
8. Letter to MDNR from G.R.E.A.T.
Re: Lime Lake Restoration Project
9. Letter to MDNR from Dahlem
Re: Lime Lake Restoration Project
10. **Cascades Inc. n/k/a Jackson Civil War Society** minutes of February 18, 2014
11. **Cascades Park Foundation** minutes of February 19, 2014
12. **Friends of the Falling Waters Trail** (No February Meeting)
13. **Jackson County Parks Association** (No February Meeting)

Moved by Alexander, supported by DuBois 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 3/7/14, we are working with Mr. Harry Thompson and his lawyer Mr. Thomson to solidify a purchase agreement. The on-site survey and legal descriptions of the property is underway with the assistance of Tim Van Gieson Land Surveys. See attached staff report.

Jackson Public School (JPS) Properties – JPS – The purchase agreement for the property was approved by the Agencies and Affairs Committee to go to the full Board of Commissioners for approval on March 18, 2014. The purchase price is \$40,000 and will be paid for from the Falling Waters Trail fund. See attached staff report.

Grass Lake Concession Agreement – First contract was not accepted by Grass Lake's council. Mike Hoskins and I with Tom Nolte to discuss the concession contract and currently a new contract is being drafted for review prior to being submitted to Mr. Nolte.

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Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee - We have had 4 meetings and discussions have continued about how to improve the golfers experience as it relates to the course appearance and playability and the club house experience.

Cascades- Agencies and Affairs and Personnel and Finance Committees have both approved the budget appropriation of \$100,000 to go before the full Board of Commissioners for approval. This appropriation along with the sufficient remaining funds from the original appropriation will allow an engineering firm to begin the demolition and site restoration drawings for Phase 1 of the Cascades renovation project, seek non county funding sources to cover the remaining Phase 1 costs and identify a “Champion” of the Cascades that will lead the fund raising efforts moving forward. See attached staff report.

Swains Lake Campground–The cabin is currently being built and 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.

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 **March 21st**, if we were awarded any of the scholarships that we submitted.

Great Lake to Lake Trail Update-

Parks staff again met with DNR staff (Paul Yauk, Charles Dennison, Murdock Jemerson and Joseph Strach) along with Scott TenBrink from U. of M.) and Pete Jancek from Blackman Township and Eames Groeneeler from the Michigan Department of Corrections on March 4, 2014 to continue discussions with the efforts 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.

Upcoming meetings will be set once the weather improve for site visits to future trail locations.

Jackson County Fairgrounds – Agencies and Affairs and Personnel and Finance Committees have both approved the budget appropriation of \$50,000 to fund the Master Plan Development for the Fairgrounds to go before the full Board of Commissioners for approval. 2013 year-end carryover funds would be used for this master planning process. See attached staff report.

Cascades Tree Project- Stan Mazur, Secretary/Treasurer of the Kiwanis Flowering Tree Project has requested parks staff to review Phase 2 – Conceptual Projected Planting landscape drawings. The parks staff is in the process of reviewing Phase 2 drawings at this time.

Parks Department Current Budget Update – Will be discussed at the meeting.

Moved by DuBois, supported by Torres to receive the Director’s report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS -

2014 Golf Course Rates

Moved by Polaczyk, supported by Torres to approve the 2014 Cascades Golf Rates. Motion carried.

Cascades Golf Course Liquor License

Moved by Rand, supported by Polaczyk to recommend to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners the approval of a Liquor License for Cascades Golf Course. Motion carried.

Revive the Pride - Tabled

NEW BUSINESS –

Vandercook Lake Mowing Contract

Moved by Snyder, supported by Polaczyk to award C.P.M. Complete Property Maintenance as recommended by parks staff the 2014 Vandercook Lake Mowing Contract and to allow the Parks Director to execute said contract. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –

Comr. Seitz – Happy 90th Birthday to Russ Youngdahl from the Jackson County Parks & Recreation Commission.

Comr. Gaede – The Michigan Historic Preservation Network will be coming to Jackson and The Cascades on May 16th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:25 a.m.

Mike Way, Chairman

Jackson County Parks & Recreation Commission