

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



April 5, 2017

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Cmr. **Beaman, Price, Seitz, Shotwell, Snyder, Torres, and Way**

Excused/Absent: Cmr. **DuBois, Edgar and Polaczyk**

Ex-Officio: **Jeff Hovarter**, Parks Director

Staff: **Becky Humphrey, Dan Lusty**

Visitors: **Roger Gaede, Mike Overton** – Jackson County Administrator

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Price, supported by Seitz to approve the April 5, 2017 Agenda as amended. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Gaede

- Denton Road Bridge: Current bridge is what I call Version 2.0. Original bridge required replacement. City was proposing a standard type bridge with four lanes. The walking bridges added. Also to realign roads through Sparks Park. There were several public meetings with the result being the replacement would be similar to the original. Repainting the bridge would be questionable; there is enough expertise so it should not be a problem. Finley's restaurant has a wall mural that has a depiction of the bridge including the foot bridge.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

March 2017 Minutes

Communications (Moved Jon Van Tiem Letter to Business 6D)

Monthly Staff Report

Receive February 2017 Financial Report

Approval of February 2017 Claims Report

Denton Road Bridge/ Jackson Host Lions Club (Moved to Business 6C)

Moved by Torres, supported by Price to approve the April 2017 Consent Agenda as Amended. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from Mike Brown, Jackson Host Lions Club
Re: Denton Road Bridge
2. Email from John Van Tiem, Grass Lake Resident
Re: Hydroplane Races on Grass Lake
3. **FFWT Board** minutes of March 7, 2017

4. **Champion Team** minutes of March 21, 2017
5. **Cascades Park Foundation** minutes of March 21, 2017
6. **Jackson County Parks Association** minutes of March 28, 2017

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

- ✓ The Lime Lake Wetland Restoration/ Fin Restoration is complete. Re-planting of the native plants on the Fin will be done as soon as weather permits. Pictures are attached to this report for your review.
- ✓ To date we have raised \$565,108 of private capital for the Cascades Splash Pad construction. The County has approved/ set aside \$282,114 in the 2016 & 2017 Capital Improvements budget for the project. We still have three private donor requests pending totaling \$65,000. We are optimistic we will receive these funds to support the project. The total splash pad project cost is estimated to be \$834,775. This includes renovation of the north entrance to the Cascades and the relocation of the 911 Memorial and the Victims Memorial currently located at the north entrance. As you know the well and pump house have been constructed. We are finalizing the splash pad features/ equipment design this week and will place the order for the equipment immediately. We are still on schedule to have a Donor Recognition/ Ribbon Cutting event on Thursday, June 15, 2017 and the Grand Opening on Friday, June 16, 2017.
- ✓ Kibby Road Trail Connector construction will be getting started in the month of April. We did have a few issues with the MDEQ permitting process and received some minor concerns during the public comment process. The concerns primarily related to wetland impact. The concerns have been satisfied from MDEQ's perspective and the final permits were issued last week. We are also working with the Jackson City Engineer and their design firm, Mannik Smith, to insure our half mile of connector trail merges well with the City's Kibby Road reconstruction design and the trail section the City will be building from our trailhead over to Denton Road (Sparks Park).
- ✓ The Cascades Golf Course is now open daily for the season. Play has been very good despite some rain.
- ✓ The B-Cycles Station is slated to be installed on May 2nd. We plan to have some type of opening ceremony or event surrounding so we can recognize those who have contributed to the cost of buying and installing the six bike rental station. May is National Bike Month.
- ✓ As mentioned above, we are relocating the 911 Memorial and the Victims of Violence Memorial. We have designated an area along Randolph Street (inside Sparks Park), near the SBC Communications tower, along the walking trail, for the development of a new meditation garden. It will be in this area we will place future memorials gifts such as benches, trees, and recognition plaques. The communications tower is being removed this spring. This area has a great overlook view of the lagoon; is visible from Randolph Street, and easy to access from the walking trail. We hope to engage the community in developing and maintaining the gardens that developed within this meditation area of the park.
- ✓ We have received a letter from the "Friends of Grass Lake" regarding their concerns with the Hydroplane Races held each summer on Grass Lake (a copy is located in your board packet under correspondence). I wanted you to be aware of their concerns. We just received the letter this week. I will reach out to the group as well as township representatives in the next couple of weeks. Please be aware, the Park Board only has jurisdiction of the county park located on Grass Lake. Noise ordinance enforcement on the lake; use or active on the lake; and environmental impact of various uses of the lake are all controlled/ enforced by the State of Michigan. The Park Board's powers of enforcement are limited in this regard.

Moved by Snyder, supported by Torres to have the Parks Director provide notice to Phil Hoffman that the 911 Memorial stay in Cascades Park. Nay-Way. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Splash Pad/ Vortex Contract – Change Order #1

Moved by Snyder, supported by Shotwell to approve forwarding Change Order #1 Splash Pad/ Vortex Contract to the County Board of Commissioners for consideration to approve the Vortex Midwest contract to incorporate additional elements for design/ construction of the Cascades Splash Pad for an additional \$25,000.00 to the project. Motion carried.

Board Meeting Locations – Summer 2017 - Discussion

Denton Road Bridge/ Jackson Host Lions Club

Moved by Snyder, supported by Shotwell to have staff work with the Jackson Host Lions Club to prepare a proposal to the City of Jackson for the Denton Road adoption request. Motion carried.

Dr. Jon Van Tiem's Letter regarding Hydroplane Race on Grass Lake

Moved by Snyder, supported by Shotwell to have the Parks Director respond to the letter as discussed. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Gaede –

- Grass Lake – There may be volunteers with Michigan Lake and Stream and Michigan DNR/ DEQ. If so there will be annual analysis of various parameters that would provide effects of the boat races.
- Memorials – The first project was the Victims of Violence because of the available lighting, benches, and flag pole. In addition, to Mr. Hoffman, Bob Michaels of Jackson Magazine was involved with obtaining the beam.

Mike Overton – Happy Birthday to Kenny Price!

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Comr. Shotwell – The trail to the north, what is the status? Discussion

Comr. Snyder - The trailhead to the north trail should be at the Bluewater Trail and Trail Crossing. Discussion

Comr. Beaman – Really likes the Parks new branding. With the failure of the YMCA millage; are we engaged with the YMCA? Discussion

Comr. Price – Thank you for the Parks Reference Manual. I would like to request that ya'll print pages on each of the parks; information and pictures to add to the Reference Manual. I am also requesting for 2018 entertainment a Mexican Conjunto band and a Polka band.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:00 a.m.

Mike Way, Chairman

Jackson County Parks Commission

Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission

April 5, 2017