

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



June 7, 2017

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Cmr. **Beaman, DuBois, Edgar, Polaczyk, Price, Seitz, Shotwell, Snyder, Torres, and Way**
Ex-Officio: **Jeff Hovarter**, Parks Director
Staff: **Becky Humphrey, Kyle Lewis, Mark Vysoky**
Visitors: **Roger Gaede**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by DuBois, supported by Polaczyk to approve the June 7, 2017 Agenda as amended by adding 6b. Cascades Splash Pad Opening Schedule and 6c. Camp Teetonkah Request for Explanation Letter. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Gaede - Denton Road Bridge – at Finley’s restaurant, they have a wall mural depicting the replacement bridge and the foot bridge inside at their entrance/waiting room. It is nice to see county facilities in other areas of the community.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

May 2017 Minutes
Communications
Monthly Staff Report
Receive April 2017 Financial Report
Receive April 2017 Financial Summary Report
Approval of April 2017 Claims Report

Moved by Polaczyk, supported by Edgar to approve the June 2017 Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from Nancy Hawley, Henrietta Township
Re: Pleasant Lake County Park
2. Amended 2017 Parks Commission Meeting Schedule
3. **FFWT Board** minutes – No Regular Meeting
4. **Cascades Park Foundation** minutes of May (At meeting)
5. **Jackson County Parks Association** minutes - No Regular Meeting
6. **Champion Team** minutes - No Meeting

**Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission
June 7, 2017**

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

- The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has accepted our final request for reimbursement on the Flannery Property Acquisition (Kibby Road Trail Connector). We have been trying to close out this project for almost three years so it goods to finally see the end☺. We will be receiving a reimbursement check in the amount of \$99,390 (75% of the total acquisition cost of \$132,520).
- We received new correspondence/ documents from Mr. Jerry Brown, 4895 Wolf Lake Road, requesting the Park Board approve a permanent easement through the park drive at Little Wolf Lake Park, providing him access to his home and allowing the running of underground utilities to his home. Previous owners of this property have used the park drive to access the home for many years. There are records dating back to 1978 showing the Park Board approved granting the then owner an easement for these purposes. However, no easement documents were ever executed by the owner and nothing was ever recorded with the County Register of Deeds. The new documents are included with the June Board Communications. The Parks Board needs to discuss what its position should be on this matter and provide staff with direction on communicating with Mr. Brown.
- Significant progress has been made on the construction of the Kibby Road Trail Connector. The wetland board walk is complete and the asphalt path is being laid this week. Final grading, landscaping, and remediation/repairs to natural areas caused by construction staging will be complete by June 30, 2017. We would hope to have the path open to the public by July 4th Holiday Weekend.
- The B-Cycles Station (bike rental kiosk) was officially opened on May 19th. It is located at Falling Waters Trail/ Weatherwax Trailhead Parking Lot. A big thank you to the Hurst Foundation for providing the funds to complete this project. They donated \$34,000.
- The Cascades Splash Pad Project is behind schedule. Vortex, the equipment contractor, has been very slow to respond and the project has gotten behind schedule. In an effort to get back on track we have pushed the color coating of the concrete pad to the fall of 2017. This will not affect the operation or play value of the splash pad in any way. The pad itself was finally poured on May 31st and the play features will arrive on June 9th. We have adjusted the Donor recognition schedule once before, moving it from June 15 to June 22. We have made a decision to push the event back one more week. The Donor Recognition and Grand Opening Event will now be held on June 29th. We apologize for the situation but I do not want to hold this event until I am sure all necessary work is complete and staff has had time to complete the proper training.
- Memorial Weekend at the Cascades was outstanding in terms of attendance and revenues. The weather was very good and a large crowd was on hand for the fireworks show. We have some bugs to work out with the new single gate entrance on the north side of the Cascades but these are the growing pains that come with change. The first Family Night event will be held on June 14th.
- The Lions Club has received approval from the City of Jackson to adopt the Denton Road Bridge in Sparks Park as their community project. They plan to regularly clean the bridge, maintain flower pots, and decorate the bridge seasonally.
- There will be a private event staged at the Top of the Cascades Falls, near the large flag pole, on June 19th. The Jackson County Republican Party and State Representative Julie Alexander are hosting the event. They have completed the appropriate special events application and paid the required fees. Organizers are working with staff to finalize all details.

- Opening weekend at the two campgrounds was uneventful. The new staffing plan with three, eight hour shifts (no live on-site manager) seem to work well. Swains Lake was sold out. Pleasant Lake was about seventy percent of capacity. There were no incidents.
- I am just beginning to develop the 2018 County Parks Budget Proposal. The busy spring has caused me to get behind in preparing this document. The County Finance Director would like department budgets submitted to his office by early July. I plan to get a draft out to the Park Board by the last week of June so you can review it and call me with any questions. It is my hope we can discuss and approve the proposed budget at our July Parks Board meeting.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Replacement/Upgrade of the Cascades Audio Sound System

Moved by Polaczyk, supported by Edgar recommending to the Agencies & Affairs Committee to accept a proposal from BC Sound & Stage Audio Visual Services in the amount of \$19,989.95 to replace/upgrade audio sound equipment at The Cascades and install audio equipment for the new Cascades Splash Pad area. Motion carried.

Cascades Splash Pad Opening Schedule – Kyle Lewis - Discussion

Camp Teetonkah Request for Explanation Letter – Jeff Hovarter - Discussion

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Gaede - How many showings of the Laser Light Show? This type of display needs to be a part of the park's entertainment plans. Don't know the specifics on sound equipment; is new equipment adaptable to Laser Show equipment. The new sound system and an I.T. upgrade should a part of it.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Cmr. Shotwell – Thanks to the Parks Department for the Disposal of Flags ceremony. We disposed of over 200 flags.

Met with Friends of Camp Teetonkah and they asked if we could write a letter to Michigan Cross Roads Council, Boy Scouts of America so both groups have a clearer understanding.

We need to look at the State statute on Dog Law and look at the Jackson County Parks ordinance concerning the same and change the parks ordinance accordingly as we have more linear trail throughout Jackson County.

Cmr. Snyder – The second bullet point on Director's Report; has Mr. Brown solicited support from the Parks Board? Discussion

Cmr. Seitz – Just wanted to let someone know that the red slide at Cascades Park has cracks in it.

Cmr. Beaman – Just wanted to let everyone know that he is no longer working with the State of Michigan. He is now working for a firm in Ann Arbor.

Cmr. Price – Is Lime Lake project completed? Is it going to destroy access to Peppermint Creek? Discussion

On the July 3rd Firework night; can we extend the hours open to midnight?

Moved by Price, supported by DuBois that on the nights of the Memorial Fireworks and July 3rd Fireworks shows The Cascades stay open until midnight instead of 11 p.m. Motion carried.

Cmrs. Seitz and Price – Can we have a discussion on the one entrance of egress and ingress? Discussion

Cmr. DuBois – Please send notice to Summit Township on the new closing time for the fireworks.

Cmr. Way – There is going to be a private dinner event at the top of the falls on June 19th. There will be a tent, table, chairs and a catered dinner and this could possibly be a trial for future dinner events at the top of the falls.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 8:40 a.m.

Mike Way, Chairman

Jackson County Parks Commission