

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

June 17, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: Mike Way, Chairman at 7:59 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Cmr., **Alexander, DuBois, Gaede, Polaczyk, Price, Torres, and Way**
Excused: Cmr. **Beaman, Seitz, Snyder**
Ex-Officio: **Adam Brown**, Deputy County Administrator
Staff: **Becky Humphrey and Mike Hoskins**
Visitors: **None**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Torres, supported by DuBois to approve the June 17, 2015 agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Torres, supported by Price to approve the May 2015 Meeting Minutes, with correction of the amount of The Cascades/Sparks Park Mower of \$16,209.04. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mike Hoskins – Josh Hunt has placed 3 picnic tables with umbrellas in the grassy area at The Cascades and he will be placing 3 more. We are talking about opening The Cascades from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

MAY 2015 FINANCIALS

Moved by Polaczyk, supported by DuBois to receive the May 2015 Financial Reports. Motion carried.

Moved by Price, supported by DuBois to approve the May 2015 Claims Report. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from Kriss Giannetti, Energizing Education Manager, JPS Communications Director
Re: Thank you
2. **Cascades Park Foundation** minutes of May 20, 2015
3. **Spicer Group Phase II Progress** notes from June 10, 2015
4. **The Champion Team** minutes (at meeting)
5. **Cascades Inc./Jackson Civil War Society** (No Minutes)

Moved by Price, supported by Gaede to receive the communications. Motion Carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Cascades Champion Team and The Cascades Renovations-

The Champion Team continues to be focusing on Phase 2 funding opportunities. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, June 17th at 3:00 pm.

We recently hosted a year end employee gathering at The Cascades for the Jackson Public Schools. We had The Cascades up and running and everyone had a catered lunch, music and a wonderful time.

There will be an “After Hours” Gathering with the Chamber of Commerce members and others on June 18th.

On June 24th the Jackson Community Foundation will host a Scholarship Reception for students who have received scholarship funding through JCF and those individuals will also have a chance to meet the donors of their scholarship.

We continue to receive many positive comments on the new renovations.

The Parks staff met with the Spicer Group on **Phase 2** on June 10th. The discussion revolved around the future splash pads that will be part of the Phase 2 construction. The engineering plans should be available within 6-8 months. **Phase 2** will consist of development of the new plumbing, mechanical and electrical systems for The Cascades along with the design of 2 splash pads that will be located at the base of The Cascades.

County Parks- The staff is continuing maintenance activities on all of the grounds, building and facilities for the parks. Michigan Department of Corrections paroles are now performing park and golf course clean-up for the summer on a limited basis.

Swains Lake Campground – The restroom and bathhouse are up and function very well and we are receiving very positive comments on the new facility

Pleasant Lake Campground- The rehabilitation of the concession stand is under way and we look to be open prior to the 4th of July weekend.

Fair Master Plan – The Master planning process is underway and the next stakeholder meeting is planned for July 1st. More information to follow.

Cascades Golf Course and Club House- Mark Jackson will be leaving us on June 12th to take on a new position with the golf department at the Huron Clinton Metro parks. He will be missed and we truly appreciate his leadership and the course improvements that have been seen over the past few months.

Sparks Park Inner-City Trail Connector-The application is administratively complete and has now moved into the “Evaluation Site Visit” stage. After the site visit and preliminary scoring by grants staff, we will have the opportunity via MiRecGrants to strengthen our application.

General Department Information-

The past weeks special events were outstanding with the Paws in the Park drawing 173 registered dog owners and 350 attendees to take the hike around the lagoon.

The Junior Achievement Grand Prix Race was a real success (number not available at this time) also and received a tremendous amount of compliments about the parks and the race setting. So, we hope to be able to host it again next year.

Lastly, we hosted a DreamWorks Night this past Wednesday for our Family Nights at The Cascades. It was amazing the amount of people that came out to see and interact with the characters from the movies Frozen, Despicable Me and Shrek. Our staff did a great job of setting this up and advertising it through our Facebook. We got 46240 hits, 836 shares and the lines of people proved it was a huge success!!! Our total entrance fees and concessions were \$4540.00.

Ted Wilson and other adults from the Cascades District Boy Scout Troops / Cub Scout Pack Association will be hosting an educational and fun Scout/Pack camping experience at Sparks Park on August 14th and 15th. This experience will assist and help facilitate young Cub Scout Pack members to “crossover” to the Boy Scout experience and hopefully lead them to obtaining their Eagle Scout certification in their senior year of high school.

The overnight experience will be an evening of activities, food and camping for all the participants. The event will be held on the same site as where the Civil War Muster campers stay during their special event.

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

OLD BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS- None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –

Cmr. Price – Not meaning to brag, but I am going to tell you some information. I posted on Facebook the synchronized lighting of The Cascades and I got 49,000 views and reached 113,000 people.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 8:32 a.m.

Mike Way, Chairman

Jackson County Parks & Recreation Commission