

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

August 19, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mike Way, Chairman at 8:02 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Cmrs., **Alexander, Beaman, DuBois, Gaede, Polaczyk, Price, Seitz, Snyder, Torres, and Way**

Ex-Officio: **Scott Robbins**, Parks Director

Staff: **Becky Humphrey, Mike Hoskins**

Visitors: **Adam Brown**, Deputy County Administrator, **Daniel Klee**, Swain's Lake Campground Manager, **Mark Ott**, Friends of the Falling Waters Trail, **Rick Zdanowitz**, PLP Ice Cream, Pleasant Lake Park

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by Seitz, supported by Snyder** to approve the August 19, 2015 agenda as amended by adding Jackson Magazine correspondence and under New Business add Dunigan Family donation. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Price, supported by Torres** to approve the July 2015 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Rick Zdanowitz** – PLP Ice Cream has been opened since July 29<sup>th</sup>, Friday – Sunday. Rick handed out information that he would like to see addressed for the future. (See Hand out attached.) The gates are always closed in the winter; how would you get a firetruck in if there was a fire in any of the buildings? They would also like to see the Ice Fishing Tournament become an annual event. Discussion.

**JULY 2015 FINANCIALS**

**Moved by Polaczyk, supported by Snyder** to receive the July 2015 Financial Reports. Motion carried.

**Moved by DuBois, supported by Polaczyk** to approve the July 2015 Claims Report. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Letter from **Connie Poisson**, President, Junior Achievement of Michigan Edge, Inc.  
Re: Thank you
2. Note from **Mary Orlos**
3. Letter from **Austin Bell**, JTV, Inc.
4. **Cascades Park Foundation** minutes of July 15, 2015
5. **Friends of the Falling Waters Trail** (No Minutes)

6. **The Champion Team** next meeting August 19th
7. **Jackson County Parks Association** - no meeting in July
8. **Cascades Inc./Jackson Civil War Society** (No Minutes)

**Moved by Seitz, supported by Snyder** 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 Wednesday August 19 at 3:00 pm.

The Parks staff met with the Spicer Group on **Phase 2** in the end of June. The discussion revolved around the future splash pads that will be part of the Phase 2 construction. The final draft of the engineering plans should be available in September.

### **The Cascades-**

Disney Extravaganza this past Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> drew over 1600 visitors and we sold over \$4,000 in admissions, concessions and gift shop sales. 22 new characters were on hand along with Karen Kidder and the Alibi Band to entertain the families.

We will be hosting another Community Sponsorship Event this Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> and that will allow the Cascades to be open FREE to the public for the music and light show. The Jackson Civil Wars Society (aka Civil War Muster) is sponsoring the event and will have re-enactors there to promote the Civil War Muster which will be held August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at Sparks Foundation County Park.

**Swains Lake Campground** – Overall, the new Bathroom/Restroom facility looks very nice and we met with the contractor to review the final punch list. Currently the contractors are working on the punch list and everything needs to be finished by October 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Parks Board Meeting – Wednesday, August 19, 2015**

*In an effort to have the Parks Commissioners visit some of our wonderful parks, we will be hosting the next Parks Commission Board Meeting at **Swains lake County Park and Campground**.*

*We will all meet there at **8:00 AM** on site and hold our board meeting at:*

***Lakeside Shelter  
Swain's Lake County Parks and Campground  
7400 Pulaski Road  
Concord Township, Michigan 49237***

*After our board meeting we will tour the new Cabin that was donated by the Parks Association and then the new Bathhouse and Restroom facility that was built with funding from a Recreational Passport grant, additional funding from the Park Association and the County of Jackson.*

**Fair Master Plan** – The Master planning process is underway and the next steering committee meeting will be on August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Fair Grounds at 6 PM.

**Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission  
August 19, 2015**

**Cascades Golf Course and Club House-** Currently we are cleaning and clearing the parking overgrowth of shrubs and invasive in preparation for seal coating and line stripping of the parking lot which will be scheduled for the month of August/September.

On July 15<sup>th</sup> we hosted the Golf Association Junior Amateur Qualifier and the winner went on to the Michigan Junior Amateur which was held at the Polo Field Golf Course in Ann Arbor.

On July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> we hosted the County Open- Mike Brochie was the Champion among the 75 participants.

Recently, we hosted Mercer Junior Tour on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and had 95 kids (ages 8 – 17) participate.

Currently, this past week we hosted the City Championship Tournament which will concluded on Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup> with 2 golfers competing in a 36 hole match play final round.

**Sparks Park Inner-City Trail Connector-** We recently applied for a \$40,000 Community Development grant to assist in the trail development. This will complement the \$173,000 grant we applied for with the DNR Trust Fund and the \$50,000 we have secured with Weatherwax. The projected trail cost is a total of \$267,000.

I recently attended a trails meeting in Detroit that was hosted by MDNR. The topic of meeting was how we can continue to build on the current efforts to finish the Iron Bell Trail. This effort is strongly supported by the Governor and the Falling Waters Trail acts as the ‘spine’ of that trail through Jackson County. We are also the spine of the Lake to Lake Trail that will eventually travel between Lake Huron and Lake Michigan. The following week, I met with the local advocates of Blackman Township, the City of Jackson and other parties and continued discussions on we can collaborate together the complete our sections of trail within the County of Jackson.

**Lime Lake-** I met with Paul Rentschler from Asti Environmental on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> of August to review and plans for submitting our letter of intent to the DNR requesting funding to be able to finish the repairs and enhancements to the breach between North and South Lake. The letter of intent is due no later than August 28<sup>th</sup>. This year the review and approval process will look to include Lake Shoreline and habitat restoration. The project also will include site monitoring/evaluation and habitat management for a minimum of 3 years after the project is completed. The DEQ permit which we have secured has a 3 year life span. The proposed grant will be approximately \$70,000. Prior to the meeting with Paul, I completed a site visit to the coffer dam that is in the breach and everything was intact and there was no vandalism to the dam or signage.

**Falling Waters Trail** – Friends of the Fallings Water Trail and the Parks Department hosted the Young Professionals and the Amazing Race Team on Tuesday August 4<sup>th</sup> at the Teft Road Trail Head. Fun activities were provided to challenge the men and women and afterwards a short bike ride and hike along the trail was provide by the Falling Water Board members to introduce them to Lime Lake. The actual Amazing Race event will be on Saturday, August 15 and will host over 15 teams.

FFWT members and PlayMakers (a promotional running company) is working with the Parks Department to host a free 5Kfun Run/Walk out at the Concord Trail Head on Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. We are expecting approximately 500 run/walkers. This event occurs in other counties and it is an opportunity to promote local parks and trails. Both Ingham and Eaton County Parks have hosted such events.

**Horton Pond** –The aquatic invasive plant control program has been a success and we will continue to monitor this program throughout the season. I inspected the pond on Wednesday, August 12th and had conversation with James from PLM Lake and Land Management and we agree that there has been a dramatic improvement in invasive aquatic plant control efforts.

**Vineyard Lake-** We met with the DEQ (Jeff Pierce), Asti Environmental (Paul Rentschler) and the Knutson's on August 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the options for opportunity to provide an ADA Fishing pier to Vineyard Lake County Park along with general DNR/DEQ requirements. More information will follow in the upcoming months as it relates to permitting, pier location, design and funding options.

**Grass Lake County Park-** I was contacted by Tom Nolte from the Village of Grass Lake and the students will not be selling any candy and soda products for the 2015 season from our concession stand. Mr. Nolte did indicate he is still looking to work with Grass Lake High School teachers for the potential opportunity to develop a business/entrepreneurship program for their student in the future.

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Pleasant Lake**

**Moved by Snyder, supported by DuBois** to give the Director the ability to work out the details to a winter event at Pleasant Lake County Park according to policy. Motion carried.

**Cmr. Beaman** – We need to address contracts with outside organizations to host large events in any of the county parks.

**Cmr. Snyder** – What is the status on the Clark Lake Community Center expansion? Discussion

**Cmr. Alexander** – There was a Pulaski Township meeting on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, concerning the sewers. Did anyone attend? Discussion

## **NEW BUSINESS-**

### **Donation of Stone Bench**

Tao and Janie Uhlie would like to donate a stone bench constructed by Tao (like the memorial bench for Karen Dunigan) by the boardwalk, across the road from The Cascades.

**Moved by Alexander, supported by Price** to accept the generous donation of the stone bench for Cascades Park. Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT** –

Mark Ott, President of the Friends of the Fallings Waters Trail wanted to thank the parks crew that cleaned up an incredible number of trees that came down in the storm that passed through the area. Thank you!

## **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS** –

**Cmr. Seitz** – After the Pleasant Lake presentation by Rick of PLP, we need to look at all the county parks and the needs of each park are.

**Cmr. Beaman** – To piggy back on what Cmr. Seitz said, we need to look at our revenue generating areas and opportunities. We should support the community in attempts to enhance not only the revenue generating parks but all of our parks.

**Cmr. Way** – Try to rally community support for our parks. Challenge the Parks Board to go out and get community support.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 8:58 a.m.

**Mike Way, Chairman**

Jackson County Parks & Recreation Commission