

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

September 21, 2016

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Cmrs. **Alexander, Beaman, DuBois, Lloyd, Polaczyk, Price, Seitz, Snyder, Torres, and Way**
Director: **Jeff Hovarter**, County Parks Director
Staff: **Becky Humphrey, Kyle Lewis, Dan Lusty, Mark Vysoky**
Visitors: **John Collis**, Zorbing, **Steve Duke**, Region 2 Planning Commission, and **Roger Gaede**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by DuBois, supported by Seitz to approve the September 21, 2016 agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Price, supported by Torres to approve the August 2016 Meeting Minutes with change to attendance – John Polaczyk and Amy Torres were not present. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Gaede – Years ago when we looked at the Parks Master Plan we looked at the underground pumping system; the confined space entry-safety harness & tether, 2 people, 2 way radio etc., this needs to be a part of the fund raising process, it is a necessary part of the Phase II project at The Cascades.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Information John Collis
Re: Zorbing
2. Thank you note from Bob, Dianne & Amber
Re: Pleasant Lake County Park
3. Note from Mary Orlos
Re: Parks
4. Thank you note from Kelli J. with Make-A-Wish
Re: Clark Lake County Park
5. Thank you note from Stephanie and United Way Staff
Re: 2016 Cardboard Boat Race
6. Pamela Thurston – Customer Survey
Re: Pleasant Lake Campgrounds
7. Customer Survey

Re: Pleasant Lake Campgrounds

8. MLive Article
Re: New Splash Pad in Cascades Park
9. Cascades Phase II Development Update
10. Email Conversations-Phil Hoffman, Julie Alexander, Jeff Hovarter, Mike Way
Re: Memorial Request
11. **Champion Team** minutes of June 28, 2016
12. **Friends of the Falling Waters Trail** minutes of August 9, 2016
13. **Cascades Park Foundation** minutes of August 16, 2016
14. **Jackson County Parks Association** minutes of September 12, 2016

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Both of the new County Parks Managers are on board now. Mark Vysoky began on September 6th and Kyle Lewis came on board on September 12th. Just as a reminder, Mark will be overseeing all of the county parks maintenance activities and park planning/ design activities. Kyle will be handling special events in-take, coordination, and support in all county parks; marketing and communications; and will oversee retail operations at the golf course, Cascades, and the campgrounds.
2. A construction contract for the Lime Lake Wetland Restoration has been approved and we will begin staging that project in the near future as weather allows us.
3. Fundraising for Cascades Phase II Project Development/ Splash Pad Aquatic Center has reached the \$500,000 plateau. The budget for the project is \$675,000. Construction drawings for the pump house, new well, and site excavation work are complete and project bidding has begun. We expect to open bids on September 30th and will seek final approval of a contractor at the October 18th County Commission meeting. This is the first of a two part bidding process. We will seek bids for the actual spray features and the surfacing for the pad once we know the cost of the part of the project outlined above.
4. The Blackman Trail Feasibility Study is under way. Staff has had a couple of meetings with the planning committee (Spicer Engineering, Blackman Twshp. Supv. and the City Engineer, plus our staff). We have also walked the various possible routes to get a path under I94 in to Blackman Twshp. From the City; across the Grand River a couple of times; and across an active railroad. But other than that it is an easy project☺.
5. A Clock Tower that was proposed by the Rotary Club of Jackson and approved by the Park Board in 2015 will be installed in the next thirty day at the north parking lot of Sparks Park. Cascades along the trail that leads from the parking lot to the Cascades.
6. The Pleasant Lake Bath House Renovation Project is now under way. There is a \$100,000 budget in the 2016 parks capital budget. Spicer Group is the architect of record. Design is in progress and we plan to bid the project in October with renovations starting no later than December 1st if all goes as planned.

7. The B-Cycles Station installation has now been put on hold until next spring. The timing of acquiring the FCC license to transmit wireless financial data securely along with the required training needed to be able to upload user information (again a security issue), met that we would not have been able to put the station on line for use until early October, 2016. Given the weather likely would have us shutdown the system two weeks or so later lead me to decide to wait until spring when we can make a large splash PR wise with the new bicycle station system.
8. As we begin the discussions regarding a memorial, recognition, and naming rights policy for our county park system, I have put a hold on any future tree planting by the Kiwanis Tree Planting Committee. This is not a popular decision with Stan Mazur or the Committee but we need to get control/ develop a plan for development before we plant trees in areas where future development may take place. As comprehensive look at our parks and future park development is needed so we can determine the best location for tree plantings rather than letting the public decide.
9. The Camp Teetonkah Acquisition & Operations Proposal was submitted to the Michigan Crossroads Council on July 14, 2016. They made a request for clarification on a few items in the proposal in early August. I sent a response to their follow up questions on September 3rd. We do not have a timeline yet for when the MCC will respond to our proposal. Their representative that I have been interacting with on this project, Frank Reigelman, has been transferred back to the BSA national Office in Texas.
10. I will be working on several initiatives for the Fairgrounds this fall. We hope to issue a design/ build RFQ for construction of a new events & conference center in the next sixty days. We also plan to complete a couple of major renovations involving new ADA accessible seating in the grandstand and removal/ excavation of a portion of the south end of the horse track to open the infield up for use as the fairgrounds midway. The grandstand and track renovations are being conceptualized currently and will need approval to move forward.

Moved by Polaczyk, supported by Seitz to receive the Directors Report. Motion Carried.

Presentations:

Steve Duke, Region 2 Planning Commission presented information regarding the Jackson County Non-motorized Transportation Plan.

John Collis presented his idea for an activity called “Zorbing” at Sparks Park.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Ralph & Joan Hoffman Recognition Bench at Sparks Park

Moved by Alexander, supported by Seitz to approve the request of a fieldstone bench built in honor of Ralph & Joan Hoffman and placed at a location and landscaping agreed upon by the Parks Director and staff. Motion carried.

Establishment of a Formal Policy for Applying/Approving Requests for Recognition, Memorials, and Naming Rights to be placed in Jackson County Parks.

Moved by Beaman, supported by Lloyd to put a moratorium on acceptance of memorials, naming rights, recognitions for, in any of the Jackson County Parks until such time that a policy has been set for these items. Motion carried.

Grand River Paddle Trail – Blue Water Trail

Moved by Snyder, supported by Torres to approve that Jackson County Parks Director be authorized to sign various applications to various Foundations with Geoff Snyder for funding of the Grand River Water Trail/ Facilities. Motion carried.

Resolution of Support, Jackson County Non-Motorized Plan

Moved by Torres, supported by Beaman to approve the Resolution of Support for the Creation of a Jackson County Non-Motorized Plan by Region 2 Planning Commission. Motion carried.

August 2016 FINANCIALS

Moved by Lloyd, supported by Snyder to receive the August 2016 Financial Reports. Motion carried.

Moved by Lloyd, supported by Torres to approve the August 2016 Claims Report. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Gaede

- Falling Waters Trail – Non-motorized DNR Requirements. Exemptions: Motorized Wheelchairs and H.C. Scooters – No unauthorized Vehicles, Snowmobiles, 4 wheelers, motorcycles, etc.
- JJR & Spicer – Cascades Phase II – Info for projects elimination of risks and improve reliability. Reports or presentation materials.
- A Laser Light Show would increase public interest and use beyond the falls.
- For the Zorbing balls, they need protection during the three fireworks events due to the falling hot embers. . . boat covers – burn holes.
- No recollection of a restriction of motorized boats on Clear Lake.
- Naming Rights was in the Master Plan to implement various features that would be able for installation at any time.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Secretary at 10:00 a.m.

Jan Seitz, Secretary

Jackson County Parks & Recreation Commission