

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

December 17, 2014

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Cmr. Alexander, Beaman, DuBois, Gaede, Polaczyk, Price, Seitz, Torres, and Way
Excused: Cmr. Snyder
Ex-Officio: Scott Robbins, County Parks Director
Staff: Mike Hoskins and Becky Humphrey
Guests: Adam Brown, Deputy County Administrator, Jim Latham, Finance, Mark Ott, Friends of the Falling Waters Trail President, Rick Sigers, Jackson County Parks Association

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Polaczyk, supported by Torres to approve the December 2014 agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Seitz, supported by Price to approve the November 19, 2014 Minutes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick Sigers, President, Jackson County Parks Association – The Jackson County Parks Association Craft Show brought in approximately \$200. They hosted a retirement gathering for Scott Bradford and there was about 51 people that were there. Took 200+ canned goods to the Salvation Army and helped with the coffee, donuts and provided the hot chocolate December 15th for the demolition of The Cascades Wall and counted approximately 77 people. These are just a few of the things that the Jackson County Parks Association participates in.

Mark Ott – The FFWT Wildlife Marathon that has been going on for 6 years is having some major changes. We are dropping the full marathon and going to a 5k, 10k and ½ Marathon. We are going to start at Concord High School and it will take place 1 week earlier.

November 2014 FINANCIALS

Moved by Seitz, supported by Torres to receive the November 2014 Financial Report. Motion carried.

Moved by Polaczyk, supported by DuBois to approve the November 2014 Claims Report. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Postcard from Jackson Christian School
Re: Thank-you for the contribution to the annual auction
2. Letter to Bruce Weir of Weir Farms
Re: Letter of intent to publicize a Request for Proposal
3. Clark Lake Invasive Species Committee Informational Meeting December 10, 2014
Re: Agenda
4. Promotional Flyer – Designed by the Spring Arbor Marketing Students
Re: The Cascades Ceremony and Demolition Event – December 15, 2014 at 8:00 am
5. **Jackson County Parks Association** minutes of November 17, 2014
6. **Friends of the Falling Waters Trail** minutes of November 18, 2014
7. **Cascades Park Foundation** minutes of November 19, 2014
8. **Cascades Inc. n/k/a Jackson Civil War Society** (No Meeting)

Moved by Price, supported by Alexander to receive the communications for November 2014.
Motion Carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Swains Lake Campground- As of my last visit the concrete floor and roof trusses are installed and the interior walls are now being constructed. Interior painting should begin on or about December 22nd. Weather permitting the outside perimeter concrete walkways will be constructed. Jones Construction will be receiving the 3rd financial draw on the contract this week. Staff continues to meet on site with the contractors to review the project construction schedule.

Lime Lake Breech-

ASTI Environmental has submitted the construction plans to MDEQ for review and approval of the final phase of the restoration process. The review process will be approximately 30 – 60 days. The RFP process can then begin, along with opportunities to secure grants (Aquatic Habitat Funding) and alternative funding sources. The entire project must be completed by September 26, 2017 according to permit we currently have in place.

Clark Lake-

On November 13, 2014, I met with the Clark Lake Spirit Foundation and lake residents about the opportunity to pilot an Integrated Plant Management Program for Clark Lake to manage Eurasian Watermilfoil. Professional Lake Management Company would be the contractor to administer the program. A Lake Management Plan was conducted and drafted in the summer of 2014 and will be the outline/structure for the treatment plan. The recommendation was to select several sites on Clarklake as pilot sites. Our county park shoreline would be one of those pilot sites. Other sites

would include residential sites just west of our park, the Dunigan/Eagle Point property and the Yacht Club.

Dr. Carley Kratz – Program Director of the Raisin River Watershed Council provided an overview of the program to our Board of Park Commissioners on November 19, 2014. The Parks Board approved the recommendation to be a pilot site for this program. On Wednesday, December 10, 2014, I attend

(a panel guest) an informational presentation (see attachment) at Columbia High School to provide the community and residents all of the information that had been collected about the opportunity to pilot a treatment program. All of this information is currently on the Clark Lake Spirit Website. Approximately, 85 people attend and the “straw poll vote” was 95%+ in favor of an Integrated Plant Management Program for Clark Lake in the spring of 2015. The parks department will look to provide funding for the 1.3 acres of area at Clark Lake County Park. Cost estimate for the parks department is approximately \$600.00 - \$800.00 for the 2015 year.

Cascades Champion Team- The Champion Team has secured grants in the amount of \$100,000 from Weatherwax, Sigmund and Jackson Community Foundations. Also, an additional challenge grant of \$10,000 was offered from the Jackson Community Foundation during the month of November.

The Champion Team raised a matching \$10,000 + that will bring our total grant allocations to \$120,000. The Dunigan’s, The Baily’s and Lester Brothers have agreed to provide “in kind” services for the demolition of the wall and leveling of the amphitheater. Our last Champion Team meeting was 12/2/14. **The Ceremony and Demolition for Phase 1 will begin on Monday December 15th at 8:00am.**

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

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

2015 Parks Board Schedule

Moved by Gaede, supported by Polaczyk to approve the 2015 Parks Board Schedule. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –

Cmr. Price – 1) The golf club house is empty during the winter months, couldn’t we contact a non-profit group to host BINGO, using the facility to make money for the parks. 2) Photo Contest – Do a photo contest open to everyone for all the different parks and give a gift of some sort and have the pictures shown in all park facilities. 3) July 2015, the wall is down, people can see everything, how are we going to entice people to pay to come in?

Cmr. Gaede – Check the Master Plan in reference to **Cmr. Price’s** third comment.

Cmr. Alexander – District 6 – 6A of the Friends of the Falling Waters Trail meeting minutes, would like to know when that might be completed. Discussion.

Cmr. Gaede – Mrs. Gaede was at Monday’s demolition event and commented on how nice the new LED sign was.

Cmr. Beaman – This is his 1 year anniversary and he has learned a lot about the parks. We should use more social media to recognize donors. We should contact Google, Hotwire for park donations.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:25 a.m.

Mike Way, Chairman

Jackson County Parks & Recreation Commission