

JACKSON COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION
Jackson County Fair Office Conference Room
200 W. Ganson Street
Jackson, MI 49201



April 3, 2019

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Cmrs. **Beaman, Edgar, Lloyd, Price, Seitz, Shotwell, Walz and Way**

Excused: Cmrs. **Snyder and Videto**

Absent: Cmr. **Mahoney**

Ex-Officio: **Jeff Hovarter**, Parks Director

Staff: **Becky Humphrey, Kyle Lewis, Jack McCloughan, Denise Owens, Mark Schopmeyer, and Emily Thomas**

Visitors: **Roger Gaede, Mike Overton**, County Administrator, **Pegg Clevenger, Nancy Seydell**, Jackson County Parks Association, **Colleen Sullivan**, 6th Ward Councilwoman, **Kimberly Wampler Samsel, Elaine Wolf Baker, Monica Day, Rick Sigers, and Kyle Bauer**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Lloyd, supported by Edgar to approve the April 3, 2019 Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pegg Clevenger – read a letter from Alan Tuttle of 808 Douglas Street.

Colleen Sullivan, 6th Ward Councilwoman, born in Detroit, now a community member – presented to the Board – Pictures and 1) Topo Map of May 1916 Lagoons area and neighborhood, 2) City Map of Cascades Park Storm System dated January 1957, 3) Aerial Photos from 1950, 1960, 1980, 2000, and 2018. Also made comments regarding the water issue in the homes on the east side of the park stemming from the lagoons in Sparks Park and urging the dredging of the lagoons.

Moved by Shotwell, supported by Walz to accept the handouts from Colleen Sullivan. Motion carried.

Roger Gaede – Enthused about the activity to possibly put the Lagoon project is back on. The lagoons are a part of the Master Plan. Any work as to change to the lagoons need to be reviewed with the DNR/DEQ for their direction and approval. Expertise is available from MSU Extension at Kellogg Lake. Caution needs to be taken on not just whacking off vegetation at the shoreline – this is a wetland. It needs to be judiciously done because the beneficial wetland vegetation and the many types of invasives that are to be removed. The last lagoon project was to include boardwalks to be used for nature walks and education. The prior plan was reviewed by the DNR/DEQ and the Parks Director. We were directed by the DNR/DEQ that the center lagoon was not to be dredged, but the perimeter of the lagoons could be done but only by vacuum method and the spoils to be left onsite contained in nylon bags. The project never took off due to lack of funds due to the cost increasing substantially due to the method the DEQ directed us to use.

Kimberly Wampler – 811 Douglas Street – Read letter to the Jackson County Parks Commission and gave copy of letter to the Parks Board.

Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission

April 3, 2019

Elaine Wolf-Baker presented to the Board – 1) Petition for “Fix the Cascades Lagoons Drainage”, 2) Pictures, 3) NRPA information on *Green Infrastructure Stormwater Management in Parks*, April 3, 2017, by Richard J. Dolesh, 4) How to Get Rid of Canada Geese, and 5) Habitat Modification information and 6) Read letter to the Jackson County Parks Commission and gave copy of letter to the Parks Board.

Moved by Shotwell, supported by Walz to receive notes from speakers. Motion carried.

Monica Day, 733 Beverly Park Place – After reading the Park Lagoons recommendation we really want you to restore Recommendation items 6 and 7 to the list of tasks to be done. For items 6 and 7 to be removed is very poor. The land should be habitable. The fact is that we now have drainage issues; simple solution, release the dams or do the expensive option and dredge. Open water is valuable – we have lagoons muck. We cannot ignore our neighbors. Take care of your neighbors. It is the right thing to do.

Nancy Seydell, President of the Jackson County Parks Association, would like to say a few words about Cliff Herl. Cliff was a member of the Parks Association since day one of the organization. We owe a lot to Cliff and what he has done at the Fairgrounds. I am very glad that Cliff lived long enough to see work being done at the Fairgrounds. All of his retired life he contributed to the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Thorrez are the biggest contributors to Minard Mill Park and Nancy has been asking for them to be recognized and to replace a broken toy that is in the Park with some of the donation money that has been donated to Minard Mill Park.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

March 2019 Minutes

Communications

Monthly Staff Report for April 2019

Receive February 2019 Financial Report

Receive February 2019 Financial Summary Report

Approval of February 2019 Claims Report

Moved by Price, supported by Walz to approve the April 2019 Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Jackson County Parks Association** – March 19, 2019 meeting minutes

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

- ⇒ **The Keeley Park Site** Improvements Project has broken ground. Hoffman Brothers, LLC is the general contractor of record. They are on site and moving dirt, completing demo of the horse track. JDOT is also on site and is near completing all removal of the asphalt parking lot. J-Rank, Hoffman’s electrical subcontractor is working with our contracted electrical engineer and the County Electrician to prepare and install the fair vendor electrical systems. The original electrical plan came in significantly over budget and had to be redesigned to fit our funding. We expect the parking lot/ vendor area portion of this project to be completed prior to the August 4, 2019 opening day of the county fair.

- ⇒ **The American 1 Events Center** construction is under way. D & E Excavating has begun earthwork and is currently preparing the building foundations. The Park Board and County Commission are being asked to approve the final “Guaranteed Maximum Price” amendment to the Rockford Construction Company, locking in the maximum cost of construction on the new events center. The American 1 Events Center is currently planned to open on March 1, 2020.
- ⇒ **The City of Jackson Council** approved a “Development Agreement” with the County on March 26th, agreeing to the construct of the new American 1 Events Center and the Keeley Park Site Improvements as per the presented set of final construction drawings and specifications. The development agreement also allows the City to waive the majority of the permit fees associated with these two projects
- ⇒ **Summer Entertainment:** We have wrapped up the scheduling of entertainment for the 2019 Summer Concert Series at The Cascades and the Rotary Bandshell. For our Memorial Day fireworks show we will have a new up and coming band from Lansing known as The Swift Brothers, recent winners of the 2018 Capital Area Cover Song Contest. We will also be featuring 3 PALOOZA nights, similar to PALOOZA at the Falls that took place last year on June 7th, featuring SHOUT, a Beatles Tribute Band; Mobile Dueling Pianos with Drums, and The Phoenix Theory bringing classic rock and dance favorites from the 60’s, 70’s, 80’s, 90’s and today. For the Wednesday Family Nights and Saturday Bandshell Concerts we have schedule a few new and exciting bands along with “classics” to The Cascades and Bandshell such as Karen Kidder and the Alibi Band along with Big Foot Bob.
- ⇒ **DNR Trust Fund Applications:** The two DNR Trust Fund Grant applications for projects at Little Wolf Lake County Park and Vandercook Lake County Park were submitted online on March 26. The project at Little Wolf Lake County Park includes an ADA Kayak/Canoe Launch and a ADA Fishing Pier, and the project at Vandercook Lake includes an ADA Kayak/Canoe Launch. Each of the locations is considered a preferred trailhead location for the recently state-designated water trail. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board makes final funding recommendations to the legislature in early December. Letters of support were provided for each project by the Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance, Jackson County Planning Commission, disAbility Connections, and the Office of the Drain Commissioner.
- ⇒ **DNR Iron Belle Trail Grant Application:** In March, an opportunity arose to apply for additional funding that became available for Iron Belle Trail projects. The Iron Belle Trail is Michigan’s showcase trail that touches hundreds of municipalities and crosses through 48 different Michigan counties. Using existing trails, networks and new connections, the trail extends more than 2,000 miles from the far western tip of the Upper Peninsula to Belle Isle in Detroit, with a route of bicycling, and a route of hiking. The biking route utilizes many of the state’s existing bike paths, bike lanes, and signage, designated biking routes as it travels up the east side of the state and across the southern edge of the Upper Peninsula. The hiking route utilizes sidewalks, trails, and more than 1,000 miles of the 4,600-mile North Country National Scenic Trail, the longest federally designated hiking trail in the nation. The hiking portion includes the Falling Waters Trail and connecting trails in Jackson County. Jackson County Parks applied for \$35,000 to fund a feasibility study to examine the possible routes to extend the Falling Waters Trail to the west, connecting to the Calhoun County line.
- ⇒ **American 1 Credit Union Event Center Catering:** A Request for proposals has been issued to select a catering company to provide services for the American 1 Credit Union Event Center beginning in 2020. Proposals are due on April 19 and the goal would to have a caterer selected and a contract for approval at the June board meeting.

- ⇒ **BCycle Advertising:** A sponsorship opportunity has been developed to cover the operating costs of the BCycle bike share program. The opportunity includes six different decals on each of the bikes. Sponsors will be recruited in April, in time to place the decals before the summer.
- ⇒ A letter has gone out to **Weir Farms** notifying them that the County will not be putting the Burns Farm Property back out for bid for farming use at the end of the current agreement term on December 31, 2019.
- ⇒ **Staff has a meeting** scheduled in early April with Beckett Radar, our landscape architecture firm, to begin mapping out the public engagement and park site master planning process we hope to implement later this spring/ summer.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Cascades Lagoons Recommendation Board Sub Committee

Moved by Shotwell, supported by Price to approve the vision and recommendations for Sparks County Park’s Cascade Lagoons as presented by the Jackson County Park Board Cascades Lagoons Sub-Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Shotwell, supported by Seitz to add Items 6 and 7 to the recommendations and have the Drain Commissioner look at and advise. Motion carried.

Grass Lake OutBoard Boat Race Special Events Application

Moved by Seitz, supported by Price to approve the use of Grass Lake County Park for their 2019 Stock Outboard Races, July 13 and 14, 2019 and September 7 and 8, 2019. Motion carried.

Existing American 1 Event Center – Public Event Scheduling during Phase I: April – August 2019

Moved by Price, supported by Seitz to approve the temporary suspension of all events/ activities at the existing American 1 Event Center excepting those events already under contract and scheduled during the time period of April 1, 2019 through August 1, 2019. Motion carried.

Blackstone Camping - Electrical Project

Moved by Price, supported by Seitz to accept the low bid proposal from Aladdin Electric in the amount of \$94,440 for the construction of electrical systems at the county owned Blackstone Street property adjacent to Keeley Park for the purpose of providing temporary fair week camping and other occasional events; and authorizing project construction to begin immediately upon receipt of proper permit approvals. Motion carried.

Country Boots and Bands Festival

Moved by Shotwell, supported by Lloyd to approve the use of Keeley Park to Raine Productions for their 2019 Country Boots and Bands Festival on September 14, 2019 with set up day of September 11, 2019 and tear down day of September 15, 2019. Motion carried.

Rockford Construction Company GMP Amendment

Moved by Price, supported by Lloyd to approve a \$422,423 change order to the January 2018 approved \$6,000,000 construction agreement for the new American 1 Events Center; authorizing the County Administrator/ Controller to finalize a “Guaranteed Maximum Price” (GMP) amendment to the existing contract with Rockford Construction in a “not to exceed” amount of \$6,422,423 for the construction of the new American 1 Events Center at Keeley Park, as per the sealed construction plans and specifications. Motion carried. Walz - Nay

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Gaede – With reference to the seven recommendations by the lagoons sub-committee, the very first action needs to be to do a complete elevation study. It is of primary importance. #2 Wetland – leave the vegetation to the birds and animals. Purple Loose Strife – No good; Cattails – good. Wonder about fresh water input; the Drain Commissioner need to be deeply involved.

Pegg Clevenger – Husband and I were instrumental in the Falling Waters Trail. We were a part of the Friends of Falling Waters Trail group. I helped write the MDNR Trust Grant and the Consumers Grant. I am happy and willing to help with any grant writing. Supported the millage. We love the parks, but homes and health come first. Protecting our neighbors and residents is the most important thing for the parks. There is no doubt that the flow of water is dammed up and the water has to go somewhere. Now that the parks have a millage, we hope it is used to take care of the water issue.

Nancy Seydell – We are so thrilled to have a millage, we worked so hard on the campaign. The out-county parks have needed so much work with no resources to do it. There was a stage purchased for the Fair, was millage money used for the purchase? Would like to know how the millage money is going to be spent.

Colleen Sullivan, 6th Ward Councilwoman – Thank you for forming the Lagoons Sub-committee. Would like to thank you for passing 1 – 5 Recommendation items and for adding #6 and #7 back onto the list. As a city councilwoman, I will work hard on bringing colleagues to the table to help with this issue. The residents are at stake. Historically the lagoons have never officially been labeled as a drain, but has functioned for drainage. The water flow is over the edge, sediment has built up and has blocked the drains. I am expressing commitment and financial support from the City of Jackson on this issue.

Monica Day – Thank you for adding #6 and #7 back on the list. Am good at reading the fine print. I have 20+ years of experience with Parks and Rec and water issues. Have been involved with many groups. I am familiar with many resources. I would be happy to read the fine print and would love to educate the community on the issue and what we have done. I don't want to pick you apart, but we need to do a better job on the education. But let's not pretend clearing brush and opening water will help. Please do your duty and consider public health and the impact.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS – There is a lot of work being done on the grounds at Keeley Park. New roofs at The Cascades building is being done and the CXT bathroom in Sparks Park will be installed in the next couple weeks.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Cmr. Beaman – Would like to thank everyone for coming to the meeting and am glad that you could express your concerns. We realize the problem needs to be resolved. We apologize that there was confusion on the public comment time frame.

Cmr. Way – Thanks for the public coming out and expressing your concerns and we encourage you to come to our meetings.

Cliff Herl was a major part of the Jackson County community and will be missed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:02 a.m.

Mike Way, Chairman
Jackson County Parks Commission