

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



April 4, 2018

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Cmr. **Beaman, Edgar, Lloyd, Price, Shotwell, Snyder, Way and Williams**
Excused: Cmr. **Seitz**
Ex-Officio: **Jeff Hovarter**, Parks Director
Staff: **Becky Humphrey, Emily Jarchow, and Jack McCloughan**
Visitors: **Roger Gaede, Mike Overton**, County Administrator

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Price, supported by Edgar to approve the April 4, 2018 Agenda as amended by correcting the year dates on the agenda. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Roger Gaede – Would like to address agenda item 6d; Southwest Little League. They are owed a lot of gratitude. Don't know what kind of organization they are, not ever have been a part of, but I believe they put on end of year tournaments for the youth. I have never heard of any complaints. The Southwest Little League takes care of the maintenance of the fields and makes improvements as per the proposal. There has been little cost to the Parks & Recreation Department for maintaining the fields. They are a fine example of cooperation with community, public/volunteers and the Parks and they have provided beneficial improvements.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

March 2018 Minutes
Communications
Monthly Staff Report for March 2018
Receive February 2018 Financial Report
Receive February Financial Summary Report
Approval of February 2018 Claims Report

Moved by Snyder, supported by Edgar to approve the May 2, 2018 Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Thank you** from Representative Julie Alexander
Re: Finalist in "Best Place to Take a Toddler"
2. **Letter from Amy L. Torres**
Re: Resignation

3. **Memo from Friends of Falling Waters Trail to Jackson County Parks Association**
Re: Merger
4. **Press Release from MDNR**
Re: Funding Awards for the Michigan's Iron Belle Grant
5. **FFWT Board** minutes – March 6, 2018
6. **Cascades Park Foundation** minutes – March 20, 2018

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

- ⇒ The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recently awarded Jackson County Parks recently a \$22,500 grant to improve signage at the Falling Waters Trailhead locations. This grant is part of a state initiative to increase awareness of the Iron Belle Trail corridor and connecting trails statewide. The funding will be used to purchase new entrance signs for the trailhead parking areas and mile marker signs that will delineate the Falling Waters Trail corridor as part of the Iron Belle Trail. We anticipate beginning work on signage design and construction this summer.
- ⇒ The Glick Family/ Alro Corporation recently made a gift of \$15,000 to support improvements at the Cascades. The funds will be used for the construction of an outdoor cabana changing area at the new splash pad inside the Cascades. We anticipate completing this construction in time for opening day of the splash pad on May 26th.
- ⇒ The Friends of Falling Waters Trail and the Jackson County Parks Association have met to discuss terms for merging the two organizations. A tentative agreement has been reached to dissolve the Friends of Falling Waters Trail organization; add three Friends of Falling Waters Trail board members to the Parks Association board as at-large members; and establish a designated trail improvements fund inside the County Parks Trust. The remaining funds held by the Friends of Falling Waters Trail will be transferred to the County Parks Trust. Moving forward, the Jackson County Parks Association will advise the County Parks on how those designated funds, and any future trails funds placed in the Trust, should be used for improvements. The County Parks Association will assume any other equipment or assets owned by the Friends of Falling Waters Trail.
- ⇒ The Cascades Golf Course officially opened for the 2018 season on March 26th.
- ⇒ A stakeholders meeting to discuss the continuing development of the new Fairgrounds Events Center will be held on April 10, 2018 on the 5th floor of the County Tower from 12pm to 2pm. Park Board members are invited to participate. If you do plan to participate we will need an RSVP. The Internal Staff Team and Design-Build Team have been meeting for the past six weeks and now need feedback on the initial development concepts we have come up with.
- ⇒ The sub-committee met on March 12th at Art 634 to discuss details for the Top of the Falls Happy Hour. The time for the June 12th event was revised to 4-6:30 p.m. The goal is to sell 40-50 tickets, and the tickets will be available at the May Parks Commission meeting. Kristie will provide a template and print the tickets, and the Parks Department will design them. Checks for the tickets can be made out to Jackson County Parks, and invoices for the event will be processed through the parks department (and, reimbursed through ticket sales/sponsorships). Cascades Manor will be catering the event and five “mini-foods” were chosen at the meeting. Kyle is finalizing the agreement with Cascades Manor. Alcohol will not be sold at the event, it will be included in the \$30 admission ticket and each person will receive two drink vouchers. High-top tables

will be places around the top of the falls, and pictures of each park will be on easels as decoration and education. Each park commissioner will be provided with a one-page talking point sheet.

BUSINESS ITEMS

County Parks Presentation – Clark Lake/ Clear Lake moved to May meeting.

Board Event – Top of the Falls Update – Discussion

Board Tour of County Parks - Discussion

Southwest Little League Field Improvements

Moved by Shotwell, supported by Williams to concur with the approval recommendation of the Parks Director for the Southwest Little League, at their own expense to make improvements to the baseball fields located in Sparks Foundation County Park as presented. Motion carried.

New Parks Signage (Draft) - Discussion

PUBLIC COMMENT – Roger Gaede – Iron Belle signage – amazed the DNR has so much money – good for them. The Iron Belle signage project by MDNR provided grants for a feasibility study, design, engineering etc., which are not usually covered in grant requests. Keep in mind you need to have the signs be weather hardy that way it will not require frequent refurbishment.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Apologize that the Clark Lake/ Clear Lake monthly presentation was not given due to technical difficulties; we will have the presentation in the May meeting. Overall things are going well.

- We are deep into design of the event center.
- The millage proposal is in process with the County Commissioners. At the Study Session yesterday, Commissioners moved it to Agencies and Affairs and then it would move to the County Commission for their April meeting.
- They are going to separate the Parks from the Animal Shelter funding proposal.
 - Pets help get people moving, which brings a lot of them to a park.
 - Some of the pet issues that the parks are addressing is
 - Disposal of pet waste, which we are addressing and continue to do so moving forward
 - Water and drink areas
 - Community dog park
 - There is a big demand for
 - It is controversial
- Also remember that the park signage as presented is in its preliminary stage and we will consider the cost as we move forward with signage for all of the county parks.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Cmr. Beaman – Passing around an invite to the Michigan Theatre on April 13th. A documentary about when being a slave became a crime. There will be a discussion following. Please join us.

Cmr. Williams – 1) Job postings how are they coming along? Discussion

2) The cell tower in Cascades Park; what happened, when did it come down? Discussion

Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission

April 4, 2018

Cmr. Shotwell – Did the Little Wolf Lake property controversy get taken care of? Discussion
Recommend to send the home owner Cease and Desist Order. Discussion

Cmr. Price – 1) Director Report; New cabana, where is it to be located at Cascades? Discussion
2) Cascades Restroom – how is the progress? And will they be gender appropriate? Discussion
3) Is Pleasant Lake Pub (PLP) running the concession at Pleasant Lake or are they not interested?
Discussion

Cmr. Shotwell – The Board of Commissioners will be deciding on the millage next week on Monday, April 9th at 8 a.m. at the Agencies and Affairs Committee to then be moved to the full Board on Tuesday, April 17th. The millage is very important! We need to take care of what we own; we need to maintain what we have. The State of Michigan is almost one step away of getting rid of buildings. Also, keep in mind that Parks are the #3 Goal in the Strategic Plan with the County. Again, just realize how very important this millage is for the Parks and ultimately for the county.

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 Commission