

JACKSON COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION
Jackson County Tower Building 17th Floor
120 W. Michigan Ave
Jackson, MI 49201



May 1, 2019

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

Excused:

Absent: **Cmr. Mahoney, Cmrs. Beaman**

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

Staff: **Kyle Lewis, Jack McCloughan, Denise Owens, Mark Schopmeyer, Stacy Curtis and Emily Thomas**

Visitors: **Roger Gaede, Mike Overton**, County Administrator, **Carmen Burgess**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Way, supported by Shotwell, Seconded by Price to approve the May 1, 2019 Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Drain Commissioner Snyder awaiting correspondence to look at and advise on the lagoons.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

April 2019 Minutes

Communications

Monthly Staff Report for May 2019

Receive March 2019 Financial Report

Receive March 2019 Financial Summary Report

Approval of March 2019 Claims Report

Roll Call to approve consent agenda: **Yes:** Price, Lloyd, Edgar, Shotwell, Videto, Seitz, Walz, Snyder & Way **No:** **Absent:** Beaman, Mahoney

Moved by Price, supported by Edgar to approve the May 2019 Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Cascades Park Foundation** – March 16, 2019 meeting minutes

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

- ⇒ **5 Year Recreation Plan:** We are working with Region 2 Planning (Grant Bauman) on updating our 5-year master plan, which expires at the end of this year. The plan makes us eligible for DNR grants and Grant Bauman wrote our last 5-year plan as well. Grant is early in the process, but one of the first steps is sending out a survey for citizen input. The survey is the same as last time and basically measures which parks people use, and how they use them. The survey is now available until May 18. It's an online survey and the link is available at JacksonCountyParks.org. We are distributing the survey through Facebook, the County website, and a write-up in the announcements in the Citizen Patriot.
- ⇒ **DNR Iron Belle Trail Grant Application:** This week we were notified that the County Parks was awarded a \$35,000 grant 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. The grant was awarded from the Iron Belle Trail Fund, a private 501c3 fundraising group for the Iron Belle Trail. 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 signed, 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.
- ⇒ **American 1 Credit Union Event Center Catering:** A Request for proposals was issued to select a catering company to provide services for the American 1 Credit Union Event Center beginning in 2020. Proposals were due on April 19 and the goal would to have a caterer selected and a contract for approval at the June board meeting.
- ⇒ **Cascades Projects:** Two projects are currently wrapping up at The Cascades: 1) the roofs have been replaced on the two buildings located at the Cascades that are used for admissions/gift shop area, museum, concessions, restroom and operational controls for the Falls. The former roofs of the buildings had significant leaking the past few winters, and at 80 years old, the roofs had reached their useful life. The replacement roofs have a pitched roof/truss system and a standing seam metal roof covering. 2) The pumps that operates the vertical fountain sprays (there are six total; upper, middle, and lower), have also been replaced.
- ⇒ **New restroom:** Also this week, a new, year-round restroom was added near the playground/Cascades Ice Cream at Sparks Foundation County Park. This CXT vault toilet unit has solar lighting and an exhaust fan. We have two of the exact units on the Falling Waters Trail and they have been a nice solution to permanent restrooms that can be used throughout the winter months as well.
- ⇒ **Event Center Construction:** Event Center project – the footings for the building have been poured and the project is taking shape. Also this week, the crews worked on all below grade concrete, filling and

compacting the building pad and installing domestic/fire water services. The next milestone in the project will be the week of May 6 when the pre-cast concrete wall panels are delivered on-site.

- ⇒ **Lakelands Trail project:** Staff met recently with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources regarding a trail project that they have under construction in Henrietta Township beginning at Hawkins Road/Portage River. The project is an extension of the Lakelands Trail, and part of two state-wide trail efforts (the Iron Belle Trail and the Great Lake to Lake Trail). This 10-mile trail section is scheduled to be completed and opened to the public this fall. The DNR is interested in forming a partnership with the County for maintenance and operations of the trail – similar to our lease arrangement for the Falling Waters Trail, which is owned by the DNR. Staff is currently doing a cost analysis and will recommend next steps in the next month or two.

- ⇒ **The BCycle Bike Rental Program** is up and running for the 2019 season. This will be the third year of the program, which includes six bikes at the Weatherwax Trailhead of the Falling Waters Trail, and each of the first two years surpassed 900 rentals. 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 are currently being recruited with a goal to place the decals before the summer.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Keeley Park Site Improvements Contract Change Order and Approval of Electrical Construction Contract

Moved by Way, supported by Seitz to approve moving forward to study session to expedite electrical infrastructure for parking lot security lighting & vendor camping

PUBLIC COMMENTS- Carmen Burgess, Waterloo Township Co. Chairman – Her and her mother have donated funds to the Jackson County Parks Association to put towards Portage Lake County Park playground equipment. Advised she and the Waterloo Township board would be happy to partner with the County Parks if needed. Wondering about township hall meetings – Waterloo Township would like to host.

Roger Gaede – Suggests a study of elevation change for the lagoon concerns. Would like to see a plan for dredging and configuration to determine the water level and how to control it.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS – I can answer any questions related to projects that we're sending out – suggestion from Shotwell. Again you all will be receiving weekly reports from Kyle, outlining different projects that are going on.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Seitz – Thank you for having Kyle do the weekly updates, I find that very helpful when answering questions for the public. Also, looking for an update on the Pickle Ball.

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

Lloyd – Appreciates the weekly updates. Recommends a running list of money spent tied to the millage and projects completed. Also, a summary of public outreach that has been done.

Shotwell – Reminding everyone that the millage money hasn't been dispersed yet and asks people to be patient when looking for improvements

Price – Thank you to Jack McCloughan and Josh Hunt for getting the docks put in to the lagoons for the Earth Day event. 140 people rode kayaks and canoes. Also, would like to say Thank you for the new bathrooms at the Cascades, they are easy to use & a pleasure, everyone appreciated them. Would also like to encourage other Park Board members to attend Trail meetings.

Walz- Would like to suggest waiving fees for the Grass Lake Sportsman's Club – "Take a Kid Fishing Day" event put on at Grass Lake County Park because of the donation that they give back to the community.

Way- Jeff & I went to coffee hour with a group of Concord citizens to discuss millage money – would like to stay proactive with talking to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 8:28 a.m.

Mike Way, Chairman

Jackson County Parks Commission