

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



May 2, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: Mike Way, Chairman at 7:59 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Cmrs. **Edgar, Price, Seitz, Shotwell, Snyder, Videto, Way and Williams**
Excused: Cmrs. **Beaman and Lloyd**
Ex-Officio: **Jeff Hovarter**, Parks Director
Staff: **Emily Jarchow and Kyle Lewis**
Visitors: **Roger Gaede, Mike Overton**, County Administrator

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Seitz, supported by Price to approve the May 2, 2018 Agenda. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Roger Gaede – Would like to suggest that a compiled list of grant requests to Michigan's DNR and Natural Resources to be developed. This grant request list would be helpful to contact interested corporation and local state representatives for their support. Also, the list would be an aid to track appropriation approvals later in the year.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Email correspondence between Kim Conant, President, JCWS and Jeff Hovarter, Parks Director**
Re: Re-location of Civil War Muster event.
2. **Jackson County Parks Association** minutes- March 27, 2018
3. **Cascades Park Foundation** minutes- April 17, 2018

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MONTHLY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- ⇒ A news release has been issued for "Palooza at the Falls", the June 7th concert event being held at The Cascades. Tickets are on sale on the Web at Etix.com and the Parks Office or Fairgrounds Office. Tickets will also be available at The Cascades once we open for the season on Memorial Day weekend.
- ⇒ The County Commission gave approval to place a County Parks Millage Proposal on the August 7, 2018 election ballot. Staff has been working with RJ Michaels, a local public relations firm, to create an education plan for sharing information regarding the county parks system deferred maintenance issues and how funds generated through a millage would be spent to improve quality of life and community health in the county. I am also scheduling presentations with the various service clubs, attending community events to answer questions, and meeting with township officials to help education residents.
- ⇒ We are continuing the progress with the design of a new events center at the fairgrounds. A community stakeholder event was held on Monday, April 23rd, to review two options for the building layout (program) and architectural style of the exterior of the building. We are very close to moving into schematic design where we will be refining interior/ exterior finishes, mechanical systems, environmental- energy efficiencies, etc.
- ⇒ Just an FYI.... the spring weather has had a very negative affect on golf course revenues. This is probably the worst start to the golf season I have experience in my 35 years of golf course management. We will look forward to make up the lost revenues moving forward as well as tighten our belts on the expense side but I do believe 2018 is shaping up to be a challenging budget year for the golf course.
- ⇒ Just a reminder The Cascades will open on Friday, May 25th and Splash Pad will open on Saturday, May 26th. The Fireworks Show will also be presented on Saturday, May 26th • Swains lake and Pleasant lake Campgrounds will open on Friday, May 25th.
- ⇒ We have removed all of the county park rules/ ordinance signs. New signs presenting language consistent with the approved park ordinance changes will be going up as soon as possible.
- ⇒ The City of Jackson has recently re-activated their construction efforts on Kibby Road and will begin construction of a "round about" and work removing two lanes of Denton Road up to the historic park bridge in Sparks County Park. We do not currently have a timeline for completion of this project. Denton Road, in the park, is currently closed to all through traffic. We are experiencing some problems with vehicles driving on the asphalt walking trail in Sparks Park to get around the road closure barricades. We have notified local law enforcement regarding this problem.
- ⇒ Jackson County BCycle - With the warmer weather, Jackson County BCycle will begin operation within the next week. With the six bikes available for rent, the inaugural season in 2017 saw over 800 rentals from the six bikes that are located on the East end of the Falling Waters Trail at Weatherwax Drive. This year, sponsorships will be sought for decals on the bikes to assist with covering costs of operation.

⇒ We have been notified via email from the Civil War Muster organizers that the group is seeking an alternate site for their event in order to "enhance the experience of our participants." 2018 marks the 34th annual Jackson Civil War Muster and the event is scheduled for August 24-26. As of email communication on April 16, an alternate site had not yet been located. Our response inquired on what type of enhancements the group is interested in and what type of limitations or deficiencies exist with Sparks Foundation County Park.

BUSINESS ITEMS

A. County Parks Presentation – Clark Lake/ Clear Lake

B. 2019 Budget Presentation

C. Parks Millage Education Plan/Schedule

D. Grass Lake Hydro-Plane Boat Races- Special Event Approval

Moved by Snyder, supported by Shotwell to approve the Grass Lake 2018 Stock Outboard Races July 7-8 and September 8-9 events. Motion carried.

E. Mechanic- Job Description Change/ Upgrade

Moved by Shotwell, supported by Price to concur with the approval recommendation to the Full County Board of the Parks Director in regards to the change in the Mechanic Job Description Change/ Upgrade. Motion carried.

F. Clerical Assistant- Change in Status

Moved by Shotwell, supported by Seitz to recommend support authorizing the creation of a shared full time clerical assistant to share between the Parks Department and the Fair Department. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Roger Gaede

- For trails and surfaces to be handicap usable, the Dahlam Conservancy, has used a material on the soil's surface to accommodate wheelchairs, etc. For complete information, contact Dahlam Conservancy.
- To obtain early information on Jackson County Parks, contact Jackson County Transportation because it was the original owner.
- Historic wells in the County Parks may have been plugged with concrete. I have been checking on the well at Vineyard Lake Park and found that it has been plugged and is no longer usable. Therefore, the waterless restrooms are a good choice and those systems are usable year around.
- Jackson County has three women's garden clubs.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Cmr. Videto - It is good to be back. There are a lot of exciting things happening in the Parks Department.

Cmr. Price –

1) Jackson County Parks should have an annual dinner at the end of the summer for casual staff at The Cascades.

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2) Thought process of Gift Shop and how we purchase.

3) Update on Muster. No communication with Jeff or Mike. May go to Phil.

(Overton) – What is the impact? What is the Parks Board opinion?

Way – Careful what you wish for.

Still in the community, that's what matters.

Price – Noticeably smaller

Cmr. Seitz – Update on the Top of the Falls and event and Tickets.

Cmr. Way – I have heard many good things about the Spring Thaw. The greens are in great condition.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:26 a.m.

Mike Way, Chairman

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