

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



June 6, 2018

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Cmrs. **Beaman, Edgar, Lloyd, Price, Seitz, Shotwell, Snyder, Videto, Way and Williams**
Ex-Officio: **Jeff Hovarter**, Parks Director
Staff: **Becky Humphrey, Emily Jarchow, Kyle Lewis, Stacy Curtis, Jack McCloughan, and Mark Vysoky**
Visitors: **Mike Overton**, County Administrator

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Price, supported by Seitz to approve the June 6, 2018 Agenda. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

Moved by Videto, supported by Price to approve the June 6, 2018 Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. Jackson County Parks Association** minutes – May 1, 2018
- 2. Cascades Park Foundation** minutes – May 15, 2018
- 3. Friends of Falling Waters Trail** minutes – May 1, 2018

MONTHLY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

⇒ Reminder – “Palooza at the Falls” will be held June 7th at The Cascades. This event is a test pilot for a possible future Thursday night concert at the Cascade Falls. The show starts at 7pm with the Brian Randle Band (country) and 8:30pm The Rock Show Band (a national recognized “Journey” Tribute

Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission

June 6, 2018

band). Tickets are on sale through ETix, or can be bought at the Fair Office or Park office. Tickets will be on sale at The Cascades the night of the show. The concert is being promoted on local radio and through social media.

- ⇒ Implementation of the “County Park Millage Information Project” continues. In addition to the distribution of a new county parks map and information brochure, an annual report outlining county park contributions to the health and wellness, and economic prosperity of Jackson County, was mailed directly to 61,000 Jackson County residents and businesses the third week of May. Most recently a 4” x 9” two sided handout flyer was jointly printed for distribution outlining the details of both the Parks millage proposal and the Animal Shelter millage. This handout was distributed to park visitors during The Cascades Fireworks Show on Memorial Weekend and will continue to be handed out during a number of park special events throughout the summer. A citizen group calling them self the “Love Your Jackson County Parks Committee” has also formed recently and will be working independently to garner support for the proposed county parks millage. A similar volunteer group supporting the animal shelter millage proposal has also been formed. I am told the two groups are planning to join together to share resources in their efforts to gain long term support for the County Parks and Animal Shelter services. I have made presentations to several service clubs in recent weeks including the Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, and Breakfast Rotary Club. I have a presentation to the Men’s Garden Club on June 7th and the Jackson Chamber Breakfast on June 26th. I have also made a presentation at the monthly Township Supervisors meeting, and I have met with Township Supervisors one on one from Columbia, Blackman, and Henrietta. I have also met with the Executive Director from the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. We will continue to schedule and present to groups through the end of July as the opportunity presents itself.
- ⇒ Memorial Weekend, 2018 at the Cascades was again a success. Paid attendance was consistent with previous years. Weather was excellent and there were no operational challenges. Splash Pad use was outstanding with an average of 300 plus users each day.
- ⇒ The automated driving range ball dispenser has been operational now for seven weeks. Users appear to be adapting quite well. There have been few mechanical issues and the number of buckets of balls sold is ahead of last season. Given the poor spring weather conditions this is an excellent outcome.
- ⇒ Our new park security plan was initiated over the Memorial weekend. We are now partnering with the Jackson County Sheriff Department to patrol our two campgrounds on weekends and provide support at special events and activities in the parks throughout the summer.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. County Parks Presentation – Gillett’s Lake / Grass Lake
- B. 2019 Budget Recommendation
Moved by Williams, supported by Price to approve the recommendations and to forward budget to County Administrator for consideration. Motion carried.
- C. Sparks County Park Pond Improvements/ Manor House
Moved by Seitz, supported by Edgar to approve the shoreline restoration project of the pond area directly behind Cascades Manor House, with the Parks Foundation funding the project 100%. Motion carried.

Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission

June 6, 2018

D. Michigan Nature Conservancy/ Burns Property Partnership Agreement Renewal
Moved by Snyder, supported by Lloyd to approve the Renewal of the Michigan Nature Conservancy Agreement with Jackson County Parks regarding the Burn's Property. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

- Handed out educational literature for millage and the calendar of meetings to educate people.
- In Columbia Township, there is a person who wants to help promote the millage efforts in educating people.
- The owner of the coffee shop in Grass Lake wants to help promote the millage and wants literature to hand out to the public.
- JTV – We have 3 spots on the Bart Hawley Show to help educate people about the millage
- WKHM has been all in and is willing to have us on at anytime.
- Handed out the final design for the Fair Events and Conference Center.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Cmr. Williams – Any update on the Civil War Muster? Discussion.

Cmr. Seitz – Having difficulty getting the B-Cycle bikes. One problem is the sun shines directly on the screen and you can't read it.

Cmr. Beaman –

- ✓ Memorial weekend fireworks were great! Family really enjoyed; Well done!
- ✓ Is still disconcerting about the rust on the Splash Pad.
- ✓ Any idea when Kibby and Denton will be done? Discussion: before July 4th.
- ✓ The road closure is becoming a real strain on businesses.
- ✓ Cover Band is great! Should reach out to the City to connect to get world wide bands. Jackson Symphony Orchestra does a wide variety of classical and jazz – would be a great partnership!
- ✓ Photo ops – a lot of great opportunities.

Cmr. Seitz – Don't forget the June 12th Top of the Falls event.

Cmr. Way –

- ☒ Rotary is sponsoring Free Fridays in July at the Splash Pad!
- ☒ In July we will be receiving 500 signs for the upcoming millage.
- ☒ Looking for volunteer people to: place signs, yards for signs, knock on doors to educate the community
- ☒ Need boots on the ground

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:01 a.m.

Mike Way, Chairman

Jackson County Parks Commission