

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



July 10, 2019

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Cmsrs. **Lloyd, Price, Seitz, Snyder, Videto, Walz and Way**
Excused: Cmsrs. **Edgar and Shotwell**
Absent: Cmr. **Beaman and Mahoney**
Ex-Officio: **Kyle Lewis**, Interim Parks Director
Staff: **Becky Humphrey, Jack McCloughan, Denise Owens, Mark Schopmeyer, Stacy Curtis and Emily Thomas**
Visitors: **Mike Overton**, County Administrator, **Jeff Hovarter**, County Project Consultant, **Ruth Burgess, Carmen Burgess and Roger Gaede**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Price, supported by Seitz to approve the July 10, 2019 Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Carmen Burgess – Would like to thank you for allowing the purchase of the playground equipment at Portage Lake. Very much appreciated.

Ruth Burgess – Thank you for matching the funds for the playground equipment at Portage Lake County Park that was donated by her family to the County. So very much appreciated.

Roger Gaede – Trail to be connected – Limestone – connected to the FWT – Horseback riding may be a problem.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

June 2019 Minutes
Communications
Monthly Staff Report for July 2019
Receive May 2019 Financial Report
Receive May 2019 Financial Summary Report
Approval of May 2019 Claims Report

Moved by Price, supported by Snyder to approve the July 2019 Consent Agenda as Amended. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

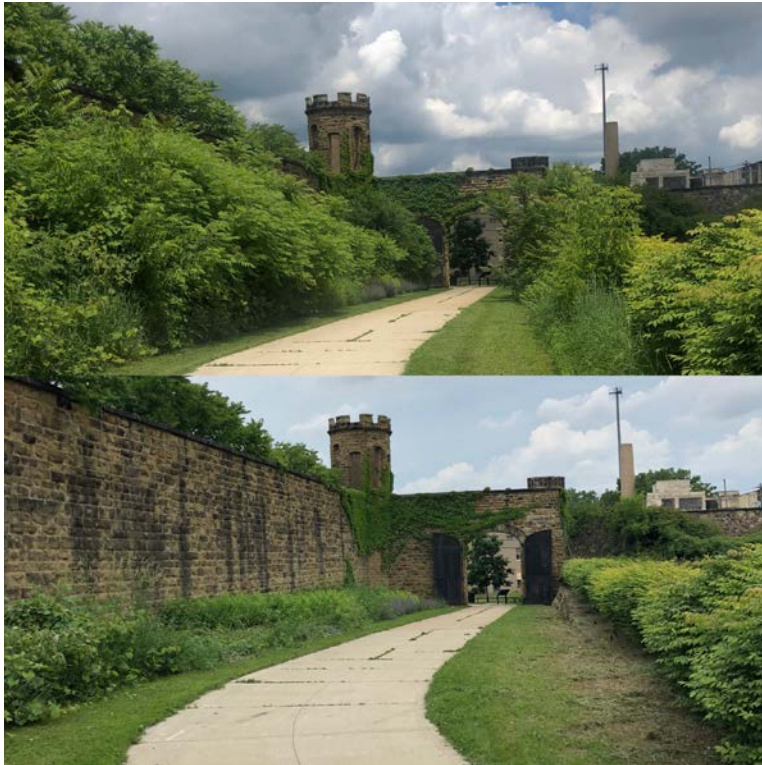
1. **Cascades Park Foundation** – May 21, 2019 meeting minutes.
2. **Jackson County Parks Association** – Annual Meeting

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

- ✓ **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. We received three proposals (Paula Tucker Catering, LLC out of Marshall, Michigan; Kosch Dining Solutions out of Rochester, Michigan; and, Grady's Catering out of Brooklyn, Michigan). Staff has addressed the concerns that were brought up at the June Parks Board meeting regarding having local food options as choices. We have revised the proposed contract to allow for event center renters to utilize local business to provide food for events. The contract will soon be reviewed by our attorney and staff will be recommending Kosch Dining Solutions in the August cycle.
- ✓ **Playground Safety Improvements:** A planned capital project for 2019 included improving the safety of our more modern playground structures by adding safety surfacing. Last week, the first load of 500 yards of safety surfacing was delivered and spread among the playgrounds at Swains Lake, Vandercook Lake, Vineyard Lake, Gillette's Lake, Grass Lake, Pleasant Lake and Minard Mill County Park. A second load of safety surfacing is planned for the fall for additional parks. (Pleasant Lake playground pictured below).



- ✓ **Jackson County Fair Parking:** With the re-designed midway and various improvements to the layout of the Jackson County Fair, parking will be at newly acquired Armory property. Staff has been working hard to prepare the site for parking. Below is a recent before and after picture.



- ✓ **Cascades Events:** Summer has finally arrived, which has brought many smiling kids to enjoy the splash pad. This is the 3rd summer that the Rotary Club of Jackson has sponsored Free Fridays, which take place every Friday in June and July and we have seen a great deal of participation so far this season. There have been three Wednesday Family Nights so far we look forward to many more to come with live entertainment bringing families out for a night filled with laughs and memories with their favorite characters.

The Independence Day Firework Show will take place on Wednesday, July 3rd with live entertainment by the Brian Randall Band to kick the evening off. Gates will open at 6pm and the Brian Randall Band will take stage at 6:30 p.m. with Fireworks to follow at dusk. Saturday, July 6th we will have our second PALOOZA at the Falls with gates opening at 7 p.m. The entertainment will be by The Mobile Dueling Pianos whom will be performing an interactive and energetic show accompanied by food trucks and the dancing lights of The Cascades.

- ✓ **Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Applications update:** In February, the board provided a resolution of support for two separate grant applications to the Michigan DNR Trust Fund program. An application was submitted for a kayak/canoe launch at Vandercook Lake County Park, and an application was submitted for a kayak/canoe launch and a fishing pier at Little Wolf Lake County Park. Both locations are designated trailheads of the Upper Grand River Water Trail development plan, and trails were a large priority in the grant process this year. In June, our DNR representative completed site visits for both projects and met with staff to discuss the projects. We received great feedback that both applications will be very competitive going into the scoring portion of the process. By early September, we will have our preliminary scores for each project and any recommendations to improve or add to the application. The deadline to respond to the recommendations will be October 1, and grant recommendations will be made in December. If either of these projects is awarded, construction would occur in 2020 after a project agreement is in place.

Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission

July 10, 2019

- ✓ **Canada Goose Management at Sparks Foundation County Park:** At the February board meeting, staff were authorized to apply for a Canada Goose Management permit for Sparks Foundation County Park and implement a goose relocation plan. This program is through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and has been developed to give landowners options to address their goose-human conflicts on their sites. The program involves relocating the geese to site at least 50 miles away (usually to Saginaw or Monroe). Studies show that up to 80% of the adult geese will return to the capture site, but 0% of the babies and juveniles will return. An alternative, more impactful method of egg and nest destruction provides better results in lowering the population, but we are first required to participate in the relocation program for three years. The first roundup for Sparks Foundation County Park took place in June and 110 geese were taken. This first roundup removed most of the current population and one or two more additional roundups may occur in the coming weeks based on need.
- ✓ **Event Center Construction:** Construction in June included installing the roof at event center/shipping & receiving; grading out backfill in and around pre-cast walls; completing roof curbs for HVAC; installing roof drains; installing cover plates/touch-up on pre-cast wall; and, caulk pre-cast panels.

Here is a link to the latest drone video footage, which includes the first look inside of the building:

Vimeo Link: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/341003527>

- ✓ **Parks Millage/Community Engagement Meetings:** Park staff has been working with leadership from Henrietta, Columbia and Napoleon Townships to coordinate a process for community engagement for park improvement projects at Pleasant Lake County Park, Clark Lake County Park, and Little Wolf Lake County Park. The format includes a 2-3 meeting process for each of these three townships. Beckett & Raeder, one of the three firms that were selected from our Landscape Architecture Request for Qualifications earlier this year, developed a curriculum for Input Meeting No. 1 that allows participants to dream and brainstorm possibilities for development of the respective County Park. Beckett and Raeder will facilitate Input Meeting No. 1, in which participants will be guided through a series of exercises to develop a vision for the County Park. Dot exercises will be utilized to solicit collective priorities from the participants. A written summary of meeting will be used to establish budgetary costs associated with elements prioritized in meeting 1. Meeting two will include reviewing the options, including pictures and cost ranges, with the community, in order to align the scope with a budget. The public will be invited to provide written input either in the form of sticky-notes or comment cards. A third and final open-house style meeting will be used to present the results.
 - **Meeting 1 for Henrietta Township/Pleasant Lake County Park occurred on Tuesday, May 28 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Henrietta Township Planning Commission meeting. There were 20 participants and it was a productive session.**
 - **Meeting 1 for Columbia Township occurred on June 10 at 7 p.m. at the Columbia Township Hall. A similar turnout**
 - **Meeting 1 for Napoleon Township is scheduled for Tuesday, July 30 at 5:30.**

Beyond the three townships listed above, we have also met with leadership from Summit Township, Grass Lake, and Hanover to discuss park improvements and a process in their community. The Summit Township Supervisor has tasked their Recreation Committee with providing recommendations for park

improvements to Vandercook Lake County Park. Lomar Machine is interested in making a matching donation for playground and other improvements at Horton Mill.

- ✓ **Blackman Township Trail Project:** In February, the County Board approved a contract to hire the Mannik Smith Group to complete design engineering on a new trail from Monroe St. to Parnell, ending at the prison site. Part of the scope of this project includes applying to MDOT for a federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant, which has four application deadlines each year. We are working toward the next deadline, which is June 26. The applicant must be an Act 51 agency, so Parks is partnering with JCDOT. The first of two public hearings regarding the trail project was held as part of the June Park Board meeting. The second public hearing was held Monday, June 17 as part of the Blackman Township Board meeting.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Portage Lake – Ready County Park Playground Purchase

Moved by Videto, supported by Snyder to approval the proposed purchase and installation of a playground at Portage Lake – Ready County Park in the amount of \$49,464. Motion carried.

Trail Repairs – Sparks Park/Summit Township Connector Trail Maintenance

Moved by Lloyd, supported by Price to approve the request of Summit Township for assistance in trail maintenance funding in the amount of \$20,000. Motion carried.

Clark Lake Community Center Pavilion

Moved by Snyder, supported by Seitz to approve the request of the Clark Lake Community Center of financial assistance from Jackson County Parks in the amount of \$30,000 to complete the project contingent on the language in the Agreement between the Clark Lake Community Center Board and Jackson County Parks and to also have an Engineering stamp of approval on the plans for the pavilion. Motion carried.

2020 Grand River Expedition

Moved by Snyder, supported by Price to allow the 50 – 75 participants in the July 2020 Grand River Expedition to utilize Vandercook Lake - Beaman County Park and in favor of allowing camping on site. Motion carried. <https://www.facebook.com/GrandRiverExpedition2020>

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

DIRECTOR COMMENTS –

It was a good holiday weekend for camping at Pleasant and Swain’s Lake County Parks.

Would like to thank Ruth and Carmen for their generous donations to enable us to put the playground equipment in at Portage Lake – Ready County Park.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Cmr. Seitz – Is there any need to help support the fair?

Cmr. Way – The Fair event is August 4th thru August 10th and Denise is still looking for volunteers, so if you can or are interested please contact Denise at the Fair Office.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 8:51 a.m.

Mike Way, Chairman

Jackson County Parks Commission