

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



July 11, 2018

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

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **ROLL CALL**

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

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT –**

**Roger Gaede** - Quiet a lot going on with the Parks: Harness Race – people talking about it out in the public. A lot of progress being made.

## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**Moved by Price, supported by Williams** to approve the July 11, 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**

**Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**July 11, 2018**

- ⇒ A first-time event – “PALLOZA at the FALLS” took place on June 7th. We had a lot of excitement leading up to the event and received a lot of positive reviews. Over 400 were in attendance to see the Brian Randall Band, a regional county act, and the Rock Show Band, a Journey tribute band. Wednesday Family nights have been going well. We have seen better turnouts in previous years but the weather has not been the best on Wednesday Nights thus far. We are hoping the poor weather will stay away and more families will come out as we have some bigger nights lined up including Star Wars and Disney Night. On June 12, the Parks Commission had a successful Top of The Falls social event. Over 50 tickets were sold and the board raised net funds in excess \$1,700 for a TBD park program or improvement.
- ⇒ Kibby Road construction is near completion and the final section of the connector trail from Sparks County Park to the City Trail & Falling Waters Trail will be officially opened. We expect this to occur sometime in the middle to end of July. A new, much larger, Denton Road Parking lot in Sparks County Park will be completed and open as well.
- ⇒ The “Love Your Jackson County Parks” Citizen Committee is continuing their work in raising awareness about the need to reinvest in the county parks system and the benefits of doing so. They have raised a little over \$12,000 thus far. These funds are being used to prepare printed materials and signage to create awareness of the millage proposal and encourage residents to vote on August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- ⇒ The Fairgrounds Events Center Development Project continues to move forward. Rockford Construction has completed the schematic design for the new events center and is now working on the design development phase. This phase will define the specific details of the building including mechanical, plumbing, electrical systems, and final finishes such as flooring, wall, and ceiling materials. I would expect Rockford to begin developing construction drawing by the end of July with a goal of starting the permitting process in August and putting out the first bid packages in Mid-September. The Track Removal & Infield Redevelopment Project is also under way. This project is being coordinated in partnership with JDOT staff. We are engaging the services of JJR, landscape architects to assist with the planning phase and JDOT will coordinate the actual construction phase including using in-house staff to remove the track and grade the site in preparation for a new fair midway setup and construction of all new parking lots on site.
- ⇒ Up Coming Special Events – the end of an era final “Jackson Harness Race” event will take place this coming Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, from Noon to 6pm at the fairgrounds. If you have an opportunity, please come out and support this event and the opportunity to remember some of Jackson County’s history and heritage. Also the Annual Jackson County Fair will take place on August 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to attend and support the Fair Board’s efforts. If you would like to be a volunteer and provide some work support during the fair please contact Denise Owen, Fair Manager or Emily Thomas, County Parks Facilities & Events Coordinator.
- ⇒ We have begun meeting with the Walkable Community Coalition and the Board of Realtors to develop a consistent and unified way finding signage program for all of the county’s trails including Falling Waters Trail. The City Trail and Summit Township Trail. All future trail development would be integrated into this program. We are in the early stages of defining the program and funding sources to support the program.
- ⇒ We received an update from Dave Herlein, Spring Arbor Township Supervisor, on the new trail being developed from the village of Spring Arbor south to the Falling Waters Trail at Lime Lake County Park.

This project is being funded through a grant from MDNR and is in the engineering and design phase. They expect to begin construction on the trail in spring of 2019.

⇒ We have received a donation from the Frank & Irene Meyer Foundation in the amount of \$50,000 to support the replacement of the roofs on the two main buildings inside The Cascades. These roofs have been leaking for years and have been patched dozens of times to no avail. The current roof structures have reached the end of their useful life and need to be replaced. It is our intent to re-engineer the roof systems, converting to a modern pitched roof using trusses and a metal seamed roof system. We are currently looking to engage a local architect to prepare plans for bid. We would like to complete this project before the winter season.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. County Parks Presentation – Horton (Alfred Snyder)/ Lime Lake
- B. County Parks Millage Proposal – Information Update
- C. County Fairgrounds Event Center Development – Information Update

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Roger Gaede** – regarding the parks photo tour – winter ice is a big contributor to shoreline erosion – keep that aspect in mind

## **DIRECTOR COMMENTS - None**

## **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**Cmr. Price** –

Commend ourselves for the Top of the Falls event! A possible rent out idea – weddings at the Top of the Falls! Would like to see the numbers for the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Fireworks

Commend Mike Way for the Jackson Harness Raceway event; Fantastic – King of the Day that Day!!!

**Cmr. Williams** – Another location for Harness Racing? Very unique to Jackson, sad to be totally done with something that the community could be so supportive of. If there is a resource – could it be a possibility for the future? Discussion

**Cmr. Seitz** – Would like to thank every one of the Parks Staff for their assistance and support of the Top of the Falls event.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 8:46 a.m.

**Mike Way, Chairman**

Jackson County Parks Commission