

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



August 1, 2018

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Price, supported by Edgar to approve the July 11, 2018 Agenda. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Roger Gaede – Cascades Golf Course information booklet should be available to more public exposure: Advertisers' businesses, Chamber of Commerce functions, some sporting goods stores, and other public locations. Also, it's Free!

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

Moved by Videto, supported by Price to approve the August 1, 2018 Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Victims of Violent Crimes Flyer**
Re: Re-dedication
2. **Center for Family Health**
Re: Resolution to support the placement of millage on ballot.
3. **Memo from Becky Humphrey, Parks Administrative Assistant**
Re: July 3, 2018 Fireworks numbers

4. **E-mail from Kim Conant**
Re: Civil War Muster
5. **Thank you Note from Kris Silvey**
Re: Cascades Park
6. **Jackson Community Foundation**
Re: Cascades Non-Endowed Special Project Fund
7. **Jackson County Parks Association**
Re: July 17, 2018 meeting minutes
8. **Cascades Park Foundation**
Re: July 17, 2018 meeting minutes

MONTHLY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- ⇒ Kibby Road/ Denton Road Construction Update – This project is finally coming to an end. The new Denton Road Trailhead Parking Lot is completed and opened to the public. The new connector trail section from the Denton Road parking lot over to the section of connector trail completed along Kibby Road last fall is complete. This means you can now walk, jog, bike from the Sparks Park Denton Road parking lot accessing both the Falling Waters Trail and the City Trail. A terrific outcome that has been in the planning and construction phases for more than seven years. ☺
- ⇒ We have received a private donation of \$50,000 to support the replacement of both building roofs inside the Cascades. These roofs are original and are flat roof systems made up of a concrete substrate and a rub, tar, and gravel cover. Both roofs have leaked for years and have been repaired many times. The roof systems have reached their useful life and are in need of replacement. We intend to install a modern pitched roof system using a conventional truss system and a standing seam metal roof (100 year life). We are currently negotiating with a local architect to prepare plans and will then seek bids to construct the new roof systems. We plan to have this project completed by opening day 2019.
- ⇒ A pump original to the Cascades has failed in the past two weeks and is no longer functional. This pump operates the middle two vertical fountain sprays (there a six total; upper, middle, and lower). We have had a couple of companies with expertise in the pump industry exam the failed pump. No one can identify the pump or the manufacturer of the pump given it was built around 1930. The cost to have custom parts manufactured to repair a 1930 pump does not make much sense. So we are exploring the cost to having a new custom pump built as well as the replacement of the cast iron feeder pipes with new PVC piping. This maybe a bit more costly but will give us much greater longevity.
- ⇒ A shout out to Parks Staff. For the first time in several years we have all three spray fountains in the Manor House lagoon working. The visual appearance has been noticed by the public with a number of positive comments.
- ⇒ The Parks Foundation Board (Manor House) and County Parks Staff have discussed the need to re-examine the Manor House operating agreement between the County Parks and the Parks Foundation Board. The purpose will be to redefine/ better define responsibilities for maintenance and care of park areas around the building as well as clarify the process for approving building improvements. The

building is owned by the County but under the agreement the Parks Foundation current manages and pays for all building repairs and improvements. There has not been a formal meeting schedule or process for discussion identified yet; but we will keep you posted as we move forward on this issue. I would anticipate these discussions will take several meetings over a period of time to clean up the agreement.

- ⇒ The new CXT waterless permanent restroom building has been installed at the Weatherwax Parking Lot/ trailhead for the Falling Waters Trail. This structure has two separate restrooms as opposed the one person restroom structure we installed at the Teft Road parking lot in 2016. We anticipate this new restroom will get heavy use given the Weatherwax Trailhead is our most used access point to the Falling Waters Trail.
- ⇒ We are experiencing some unusual tree issues in the county parks this summer. There have been a couple of situations where healthy trees (or the appearance of) have dropped sizeable limbs without notice. This has happened without any weather event like wind, snow, or heavy rain. The tree limbs have dropped in public use areas including campground sites and playgrounds. We have had at least one tree service company review the situation but have been unable to determine an obvious cause. We are currently attempting to contract with one of the local tree service companies to work with us to identify hazardous situations in each park and then complete appropriate tree maintenance/ pruning to eliminate obvious safety issues. We will be first focusing on Swains Lake and Vineyard Lake County Parks. The availability of a firm to assistance us with this project is challenging with scheduling times of two to three months out.
- ⇒ We are starting to get a number of complaints about the Canada Geese from the public using Sparks County Park. The issue is always the amount of goose feces being produced and left in heavy use areas along the ponds, at the playgrounds, along the walking trails. This issue is a problem in parks of all sizes and locations across the county. We are in contact with the MDNR and our peers in public parks management. It is our intent to prepare a plan of action for presentation to the County Parks Board. Much like the deer management plan implemented over several years in Sparks County Park, any plan we come up with will be implemented over several years and will take time to feel the real impact on the park. These birds are given certain protections by the state and federal governments, and any management plan will require their blessing and permit approval. The effectiveness of the many different options can be debated but no one has come up with a full proof plan. These birds are very adaptive to a number of manmade environments and weather conditions.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. County Parks Photo Tour – Little Wolf Lake and Minard Mill County Park
- B. County Parks Millage – Information Update
- C. County Fairgrounds Event Center Development – Information Update
- D. Tripp's Auto Parks Commercial - View

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Gaede – Minard Mills County Park toilet was suggested to me as an example for restroom facilities at Vineyard Lake Park. Even though modern restroom, it needs to be shut down in freezing weather conditions. Vineyard Lake has considerable ice fishing activities. The composting type toilet units are all season use and over all a better choice.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

The two middle fountains are not working at The Cascades and the pump has to be removed. The fountains will not be working for the rest of the season. Since the pumps are from the late 1920's, we cannot get them repaired, so we are having to have a new custom pump built instead which will cost somewhere in the \$10,000 range. Also, the chlorinator filter tank cracked in half so we will be replacing that for a few thousand dollars.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Cmr. Price – There were about 19 people (4 families) attend the special needs event sponsored by the proceeds from the Top of the Falls event. Watching the people thoroughly enjoy the experience was phenomenal! The joy on their faces was fantastic! We spent \$40 out of \$400. Is it possible to give each of them a Cascades towel? The idea of this event came from Kelly McCloughan, Shift Supervisor at The Cascades. Good job Kelly!

Would like to suggest that some of the proceeds from the Top of the Falls event be used to purchase a tent to be used for future events so that we don't have to continue to rent. Jeff Hovarter priced out a 20 x 40 and it was around \$5,000. We could have \$1,000 come from the event and the remainder would come from other Park resources.

The rental bikes – how is that going?

Another idea is to paint the orange at the Splash Pad and have people come in to put their hand prints on it, especially children.

Do we know what the status is of Park Board shirts?

Once again I would like to say that Mike Way is the king of events! 6,000 – 7,000 people at the Remember Jackson Harness Raceway event. What a fantastic day! And it was fantastically run! Great job Mike!

Cmr. Shotwell – Have anybody approached any local canvas companies? They could put their advertising on the tent and gift the tent to Jackson County Parks. There is Jackson Canvas Company, Krupa's, Addison Awning to name a few.

Regarding the upcoming millage; the community understands and let's not worry about the trees in the forest – the forest appreciates what is being proposed. Also, complainers are usually not the voters.

Extending an invitation to the August 11th Birds and Blooms program at the Dahlem Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Also the eagles will be on display at 1 p.m.

Cmr. Way – Another idea for some of the proceeds from the Top of the Falls event is to put a cement pad at the top of the falls for future events.

A reminder that the Love Your County Parks signs with hearts on them are still available to place in yards and all Park signs need to be removed no later than 24 hours after the election. There will also be an informational table at the Jackson County Fair – you are all welcome to come and help.

Cmr. Lloyd – As mentioned in a presentation – outdoor fitness apparatus in the parks would be a great addition.

On the messaging side – email examples of needs you think of and you can email to the Love Your Jackson County Parks Committee too.

I would urge a certain degree of caution in how we handle the negativity regarding this campaign for any possible future elections.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:07 a.m.

Mike Way, Chairman

Jackson County Parks Commission