

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



August 14, 2019

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Present: **Cmrs. Beaman, Edgar, Lloyd, Price, Seitz, Snyder, Videto, Walz and Way**  
Excused: **Cmrs. Shotwell**  
Absent: **Cmdr. Mahoney**  
Ex-Officio: **Kyle Lewis**, Interim Parks Director  
Staff: **Jack McCloughan, Denise Owens, Mark Schopmeyer, Stacy Curtis, Emily Thomas and Emma Hovarter**  
Visitors: **Mike Overton**, County Administrator, **Jeff Hovarter**, County Project Consultant

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by Price, supported by Seitz** to approve the August 14, 2019 Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Cmdr. Way – Would like to pull off Financials for discussion  
July 2019 Minutes  
Communications  
Monthly Staff Report for August 2019  
Receive June 2019 Financial Report  
Receive June 2019 Financial Summary Report  
Approval of June 2019 Claims Report

**Moved by Price, supported by Edgar** to approve the August 2019 Consent Agenda as Amended. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

1. **Letter from Ruth A. Burgess to Mike Way** Re: Portage Lake – Ready County Park
2. **Email response from Ruth. A Burgess from Mike Way & Kyle Lewis** Re: Portage Lake – Ready County Park
3. **Cascades Park Foundation- June 18, 2019**
4. **Jackson County Parks Association – June 18, 2019** Meeting Minutes

## MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

- ✓ **Potential All Inclusive Playground Project:** Staff met recently with Lesia Pikaart, Executive Director of disAbility Connections. Lesia is also the current president of the Rotary Club of Jackson. Lesia approached the Parks Department with the idea of adding an all-inclusive playground, a playground for children of all abilities, to Sparks Foundation County Park. Lesia indicated that the Rotary Club of Jackson would be willing to lead a fund-raising campaign to fund most of the project, and that this would likely be a one or two-year campaign. The plan would include obtaining input from current and potential playground users via interviews and focus groups.
- ✓ **Iron Staining at Splash Pad:** Staff have an upcoming meeting with Spicer Engineering to analyze the rust staining issue at the Cascades Splash Pad, and to work toward options for solutions.
- ✓ **Event Center Construction:** Here is a link to the most recent drone footage of construction at the new American 1 Credit Union Event Center: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/349085465>. Work in July has included continuing water distribution and gas piping pouring concrete at south/west elevation, start underfloor electrical at event space, and continuing interior masonry.
- ✓ **New Event: Movie at the Falls (picture on page 3):** You may recall that the Parks Board approved the purchase of an inflatable 30'x17' movie screen earlier this year with the idea of adding an additional night of programming at The Cascades. Our first outdoor movie took place on Friday, July 26 as the new "Dumbo" was be shown at The Cascades. The screen was set up on the north end of the grass area and movie-goers brought blankets or lawn chairs for seating. Attendance was close to 600 for the event, which is much higher than average for a regular Friday evening at The Cascades. A second Movie at The Falls is being planned for August 16, and *Charlotte's Web* will be shown at Keeley Park on August 8<sup>th</sup> as part of the Jackson County Fair.
- ✓ **Park Staff Transitioning to Keeley Park:** Our park office staff is beginning to transition from the Cascades Golf Course to the Fair Office at Keeley Park. While the goal has always been to move staff to Keeley Park once the new event center is open, it makes sense to transition our office operations in the short-term as well. We are basically trying to operate two offices currently, and combining staff into one location will increase efficiency. Many of us are spending time in both locations currently, and most of the action is now at Keeley Park. Once the Fair is passed and the summer park operations wind down, myself, Emily Thomas, and Becky will join the rest of the staff at Keeley Park after Labor Day weekend.
- ✓ **Trailhead Signage (picture on page 3):** In 2018, Jackson County Park was awarded a \$22,500 grant to increase awareness of the Iron Belle Trail. The grant included installing new signage at each of the three Falling Waters Trail parking lots (Concord, Teft Road, Weatherwax). The new signs include the Iron Belle logo, symbolizing how the Falling Waters Trail is part of the Iron Belle Trail network. The Iron Belle Trail is Michigan's showcase trail that touches hundreds of municipalities and crosses through 48 different Michigan counties. Using existing trails, networks and new connections, the trail extends more than 2,000 miles from the far western tip of the Upper Peninsula to Belle Isle in Detroit, with a route of bicycling, and a route of hiking. The biking route utilizes many of the state's existing bike paths, bike lanes, and signed, designated biking routes as it travels up the east side of the state and across the southern edge of the Upper Peninsula. The hiking route utilizes sidewalks, trails, and more than 1,000 miles of the 4,600-mile North Country National Scenic Trail, the longest federally designated hiking trail in the nation. The hiking portion includes the Falling Waters Trail and connecting trails in Jackson County.

- ✓ **Community Input (picture on page 3):** We had our final community input meeting for 2019 on Tuesday, July 30, as part of the regular, monthly Napoleon Township Board meeting. The community and board was invited to provide input and ideas for potential improvements for Little Wolf Lake County Park. Similar meetings occurred earlier this summer in Henrietta Township and Columbia Township. Our consultant, Beckett & Raeder, led participants through a process to collect input and prioritize as a group.

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.



## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **American 1 Event Center Catering Agreement**

**Moved by Price, supported by Edgar** to approve to accept the proposal and approve agreement with Kosch Dining Solutions for meal and catering services for the American 1 Event Center. Motion carried.

### **2019-2020 Capital Project Review**

**Moved by Price, supported by Lloyd** to approve 2020 Capital Improvement Project Budget as presented by the County Parks Director

**Golf Course Financials**

Discussion ensued regarding where golf course financials stand.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

**DIRECTOR COMMENTS** –

Job well done to staff on Fair Week – a lot of changes this year and they pulled it off with a smile

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**Cmr. Seitz** - Heard comments at Sparks Foundation County Park that park-goers were glad to see the geese gone. Also, enjoyed the new fair layout, especially food court.

**Cmr. Beaman** – Kudos to JCDOT & equipment that pulled off getting Keeley Park ready

**Cmr. Lloyd** – Kudos for matching millage dollars with outside partner contributions

**Cmr. Price** – Would like to add praise for fair week. Suggesting additional bathrooms for fair week – specifically access to restrooms at night

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:03 a.m.

**Mike Way, Chairman**

Jackson County Parks Commission