

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



September 5, 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 Thomas, Kyle Lewis, Jack McCloughan, and Mark Vysoky**
Visitors: **Ruth Burgess, Carmen Burgess, Debra Kubitskey**, Assistant County Administrator and **Roger Gaede**

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Price, supported by Williams to approve the September 5, 2018 Agenda as amended by moving Business 6A. County Parks Photo Tour – Pleasant Lake Park and Campground and Portage Lake County Park to the October Agenda. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Ruth Burgess, 608 Dorbert, Munith MI – Notes from Ruth: I'm Ruth Burgess, the daughter of Herbert Ready who donated 1,000 feet of lake-frontage for a part at Portage Lake back in the early 1930's as well as the soil to fill in the area with the help of the W.P.A.

First I want to thank you for having the Ready Portage Lake County Park on your agenda today.

I was happy to see the Parks millage was approved but I'm curious now, about how much money will be appropriated for improvements for the county parks. Hopefully that will be answered during this meeting.

After the park was originally constructed, the only so called equipment in the park were permanent toilets. When I went away to school in the early 1950's, I don't recall any play equipment nor picnic tables and since then the permanent toilets have been removed.

Every park that I have visited this summer has at least one swing set, a slide and climbing bars and some parks have between 20 and 30 covered picnic tables. At present there are only 4 picnic tables, 4 bar-b-ques, and one toilet remaining in our park. Last spring the County removed all the play equipment except for the climbing bars from our park. I am hoping that the County is planning to replace and hopefully add to the play equipment and maybe add a covered picnic area and permanent toilets.

I am ashamed to say that the park that was donated to you almost 85 years ago is the most neglected park in the county. The only expense that the park incurs, is for the weekly mowing of the park and the maintenance of one toilet.

The park is very busy on week-ends with cars parked all along the road right-of-way when the parking area is full.

I've asked the Township to appropriate money to replace the play equipment but as yet, I haven't been given much hop in that regard.

Hopefully, some of my questions will be answered today and you will agree to appropriate money to make the rightfully deserved improvements in the Ready Portage Park and a park to which I can be proud to have my name associated.

I ask that my comments will be part of the record. Thank you, Ruth (Ready) Burgess

Roger Gaede – Personally, I thank all the persons that provide support for the millage for the parks and animal shelter being “passed”. Both of these objectives are the right things to do. But when reviewing the vote chart, 45% of the municipalities did not support the park millage.

Carmen Burgess, Portage Lake – Very concerned about restrooms in the park because people will go to the bathroom anywhere and everywhere, even though there is one bathroom in the park, would like to see a more permanent structure for restrooms instead of porta-johns.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

August 2018 Minutes

Communications

Monthly Staff Report for August 2018

Receive July 2018 Financial Report

Receive July 2018 Financial Summary Report

Approval of July 2018 Claims Report

Moved by Seitz, supported by Videto to approve the September 5, 2018 Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Jackson County Parks Millage**
Re: Support per Precinct
2. **Jackson County Parks Millage**
Re: What Happens now?
3. **The Enterprise Group of Jackson Invitation**
Re: Jackson County Community Redevelopment Progress Report
4. **Jackson Magazine – August Edition**
Re: Quiet World Sports – Vandercook Lake County Park
5. **Jackson Magazine – August Edition**
Re: B-Cycle Ride

6. Cascades Park Foundation

Re: August 21, 2018 meeting minutes

MONTHLY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- ⇒ The unofficial news is that the Weatherwax Foundation intends to make a final contribution to support Cascades Improvements. The contribution of \$250,000 will be made to the Cascades Non-Endowment Special Projects Fund. There is a current balance in that fund of approximately \$50,000.
- ⇒ The Cascades builds roof replacement project is expected to go out for bid in early September. The new roof design calls for a pitch trust system (instead of current flat roof design) with a standing metal seam roof to match the existing roof on the splash pad pump house.
- ⇒ A golf course tree nearly 6 feet across at the base fell on the cart barn. The barn is still standing but a section of the roof is in tough shape. We have filed a claim with the insurance company and will be looking to replace the entire roof structure.
- ⇒ The total cost to replace the well pump at the Hobo Fountain in Sparks Park was over \$7,900. The fountain was damaged by an electrical surge that hit the entire park electrical grid. Consumers Energy could give no reason for the surge.
- ⇒ County Park Campgrounds will close for the season on Monday, September 3rd, as will the splash pad at the Cascades. The Cascades Falls will remain open on weekends through September 15th. The parks associated with the campgrounds will remain open through the winter for day use only.
- ⇒ The Fairgrounds Events Center Development; and the Track Removal and Midway Redesign are transitioning from design into construction. We expect construction fencing to go up around the new events center site by mid-September. The removal of the track will begin as soon as we can complete the overall fairground site development plan and then get the new grid, storm water management system, and water lines in the ground. JDOT is hopeful they can construct the new parking lots before winter. All of this work may cause some disruptions with various already scheduled events but we are doing everything possible to minimize issues.
- ⇒ We have met several times with Lomar Industries in Horton regarding a donation to support park and/ or trail development in the Horton Area. We have also met with the owner of two small parcels of land just west of the Horton Parkland on the north end of Horton Pond. There is also a small barn on this property. The owner has offered to sell the parcels to us if we are interested and there is indication he might donate the barn for future public use. We are assessing this opportunity and will report back to the board once we have a plan.
- ⇒ I have been invited to speak at the Napoleon Township Board meeting on September 11th regarding plans for park improvements in the township (specifically Little Wolf lake Park). I invite any board members to attend with me. I anticipate more invites from villages and township will be forth coming.
☺
- ⇒ **BCycle Update** - Through August 29th, there have been 627 trips for the season. These numbers are in line with last year's inaugural season. In early August, the kiosk screen color background was changed from black to white, making it easier for customers to see in the sun. Final details are being prepared to

sell advertising decals on the bikes, a common practice amongst other BCycle programs to generate additional revenue to help with operation costs.

BUSINESS ITEMS

County Parks Photo Tour – Pleasant Lake Park and Campground and Portage Lake Park – Moved to October Agenda

2019 County Parks Operating Budget Revised

Moved by Shotwell, supported by Snyder to concur with the Park Director’s recommendation of the 2019 Revised Budget to the Board of Commissioners. Motion carried.

Park Capital Budget Planning Process/ 2019 Capital Budget – Discussion to set up a Planning Meeting and then possibly set up Sub-Committee(s) for different areas.

Cascades Ice Cream Agreement – Discussion – Provides revenue. What does it do for PR? Do we want to continue in county park? Find someone good; keep them – long term, Demonstration of past performance means a great deal. More discussion at next month’s meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Gaede – Clarification that a Master Plan is different than a Park Plan. The discussion of “Master” Plan did not differentiate from a “Recreation” Plan. Master Plans by municipalities do not have a specific expiration date; however, the Master Plan needs to be reviewed every five years and to provide guidance for zoning ordinance development. Once a Recreation Plan expires, it cannot be used to support appropriation requests to the MIDNR. Resubmittal on time and totally inclusive of projects expected.

Cameron Burgess – Really likes that the county supports a family operated business.

Ruth Burgess – Will Portage Lake be on next month’s agenda? Will Portage Lake improvements be highlighted?

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

I really want to sincerely thank everyone for supporting the Parks in our endeavor to obtain a parks millage, the committee’s, volunteers, staff and everyone that helped in any way! I was really impressed overall! This confirms that our County Parks are destinations and that people are using our parks.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Cmr. Beaman – Couldn’t make it to the Appreciation Gathering, but want to note that there are measurable changes; the looks of parks, fireworks, the Splash Pad – everything is to the positive; Thanks to you and Staff!

Cmr. Price – Had an enjoyable Saturday evening at The Cascades. Is there a guideline for when you take cover for lightning strikes? Is there a policy for closing due to rain and storms? Rain checks? Discussion.

Cmr. Snyder – Listening to the Mayor talk about the weather event that occurred on Saturday – no injuries – no sirens; sirens don’t blow until the National Weather Service weighs in. Good job to the staff on getting everyone out!

Cmr. Shotwell – Talked to the Weather Service for Jackson and they indicated that the National Weather Service did not show any activity in Jackson. The weather event Saturday was a Cat 0, Vertical wind event.

Congrats on the Fair. Thank you for taking care of items that people have donated. Jackson has a very unique history. The roses and hostas – Thank you Fair and Parks for saving those items.

Cmr. Snyder – The Burns Park Agricultural Agreement is going to expire and shouldn't we notify Weir Farms in advance if we are going to terminate the agreement?

Cmr. Way – The Napoleon Township meeting is September 11th.

Our county is blessed to have great commissions – they are making tough decisions for the betterment of everyone. I feel that our County Commission does a great job, they are a model for transparency and we are blessed to have the county organization that we have they are a great professional staff.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:29 a.m.

Mike Way, Chairman

Jackson County Parks Commission