

Annual Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved Minutes

- Date:** January 2, 2008
- Time:** 4:00 p.m.
- Place:** Fillmore Complex, Conference Room D
- Present:** Paul Geerlings, Phil Kuyers, Ted Bosgraaf, Crystal Unema, Bobbi Jones Sabine, Roger Jonas, Joyce Kortman, Russ Brown and Ray Statema.
- Absent:** None
- Staff:** John Scholtz, Director; Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development; Sherry Costello, Administrative Clerk; and Dave Mazurek, Park Operations Superintendent.
- Guests:** Joyce Smith, Lewis Proctor, Greg Chandler and Jeremy Gonsior.

John Scholtz called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and called for nominations for 2008 Commission officers. Unema, representing the Nominating Committee, nominated the following slate of officers for 2008: President – Ted Bosgraaf; Vice-President – Bobbi Jones Sabine; Secretary – Phil Kuyers. Scholtz called for additional nominations three consecutive times.

Subject: Election of President

- PR 08-01 Motion: To close the nominations for President and cast a unanimous ballot in favor of Ted Bosgraaf as President of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission for 2008.
- Moved by: Unema Supported by: Brown Unanimous

Subject: Election of Vice-President

- PR 08-02 Motion: To close the nominations for Vice-President and cast a unanimous ballot by acclamation in favor of Bobbi Jones Sabine as Vice-President of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission for 2008.
- Moved by: Unema Supported by: Brown Unanimous

Subject: Election of Secretary

PR 08-03 Motion: To close the nominations for Secretary and cast a unanimous ballot by acclamation in favor of Phil Kuyers as Secretary of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission for 2008.
Moved by: Unema Supported by: Brown Unanimous

Subject: Approval of Minutes

PR 08-04 Motion: To approve the minutes of the Commission's December 5, 2007 regular meeting.
Moved by: Brown Supported by: Unema Unanimous

Subject: Nature Education Center Grant Requests

PR 08-05 Motion: To authorize staff to submit grant applications to the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation and the Holland/Zeeland Area Community Foundation for the Nature Education Center.
Moved by: Unema Supported by: Kuyers Unanimous

Subject: Go Into Closed Session

PR 08-06 Motion: To go into Closed Session to discuss property matters.
Moved by: Brown Supported by: Unema
Yeas: Brown, Kortman, Kuyers, Geerlings, Bosgraaf, Unema, Sabine, Jonas and Statema.
Nays: None Motion passed 9 to 0.

Subject: To Rise From Closed Session

PR 08-07 Motion: To rise from Closed Session.
Moved by: Brown Supported by: Geerlings Unanimous

Other Items Discussed:

Commission members reviewed comment cards and email comments received since the previous meeting.

Bosgraaf called for the public to be heard and Commission member Geerlings requested to speak as a member of the public. Geerlings continued in describing his experience at

the Water Quality Forum. He stated that at the meeting styrofoam cups were used and felt that the County should “walk the talk” and use paper cups whenever they can to be environmentally responsible. He also felt that this philosophy should be used County-wide. Kuyers noted Geerling’s request and will address the Ottawa County Planning and Policy Committee at the next meeting. Kortman agreed with Kuyers and will support request. Geerling expressed his desire to see the Parks and all its facilities using paper cups as well. Commission members requested Scholtz look into switching over to paper cups for all Parks facilities and events. Scholtz agreed and will implement request.

Commission members reviewed the report of the Parks and Recreation Commission expenditures through November 30, 2007.

President Bosgraaf requested Scholtz comment on his Director’s report. Scholtz began with the response letter that was sent to Jeff Larabel regarding his dog park proposal. Brown and Unema both complimented Scholtz on the response that was sent. Scholtz then updated Commission members on the SAB Investments property and the Cary Trust Property. He noted that the purchase is now complete with SAB Investments and the Cary Trust Property will be complete later this month. Brown inquired as to the status of the Park 12 encroachments list. Scholtz referred members to the encroachment list and explained that the legal process is underway with the residents that are highlighted in yellow. Kortman expressed her desire to have Mr. Brett Flipse added to the list in regards to his encroachment. Scholtz agreed and commented that Mr. Flipse’s legal case is currently in the appeals court.

Scholtz then directed Commission members to the new Parks brochure and all agreed that the brochure looked wonderful. Scholtz credited Francke for spearheading the project. Scholtz continued on with the Red Pine update in saying that everything is on track and moved on to the Nature Education Center. Scholtz requested approval from Commission members to submit grant applications to the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation and the Holland/Zeeland Area Community Foundation for funds for the Nature Education Center. The request was approved by motion. Kortman requested that Sabine or Unema speak to some Friends of Ottawa County Parks members in hopes that they may be able to attend the grant interview process to show support and possibly answer questions or give comments. Kuyers recommended staff be present and Scholtz stated that staff would be involved. Sabine will work with Scholtz to coordinate efforts.

Bosgraaf then asked Mazurek if he had anything to add to his Superintendent’s Report for Commission members and Mazurek touched base on employee evaluations, 2009 budget preparations, and the Pigeon Creek Lodge inspection. Bosgraaf noted that staff should consider renting older skis (also known as “rock skis”) on days when skiing conditions are not as favorable.

Bosgraaf then called for the Park 12 Advisory Council report, and Scholtz reported along with TerHaar in highlighting the parking layout and improvements. TerHaar also showed Commission members the drawing submitted by the West Michigan Park Association and the Park 12 Historic Committee of the entrance to Mt. Pisgah. Joyce Smith, a Park 12 resident, commented that the entrance could also function as an information center and

tie the dune and historical characteristics of the Park 12 area together. Geerlings asked if the area would have parking for bikes and seating. TerHaar confirmed that both items are allotted for in the plan.

Bosgraaf moved on to the Planning Committee report and Unema stated that the next meeting date will be January 15th, not the 17th as noted in the report.

Bosgraaf then called for Old Business and TerHaar reviewed the project updates for Kirk Park, Park 12 parking and bike path. Ms. Joyce Smith questioned who would be responsible for the natural features in the parking areas. Scholtz responded that the West Michigan Park Association would handle maintenance of the parking areas, but Parks is responsible for protecting natural features. Kortman stated that it is ultimately the Parks responsibility and there could be several options including having various groups “adopt a park” to help in that area.

Bosgraaf called on Ms. Joyce Smith, a Park 12, resident for public comment. Ms. Smith explained that a local property owner is trying to have his property re-zoned to build a Pronto Pup restaurant. His property is located at Ottawa Beach Road and First Avenue which is currently a vacant lot adjacent to the State Park in the Historic District. Ms. Smith expressed her concern for the possibility of the re-zoning being approved and the recent article in the newspaper stating that Ottawa County thought it was a good idea. Bosgraaf stated that the land in question is not within Park 12 boundaries. Geerlings responded that the Township Planning Committee would recommend the re-zoning to the Township and Jonas added that the re-zoning would most likely hinge on the Park Township Mater Plan. Scholtz stated that it was requested of him to endorse the re-zoning but he declined and stated that it was a local issue.

The Parks Commission went into Closed Session to discuss property matters.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.