

Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved Minutes

- Date:** May 7, 2008
- Time:** 4:00 p.m.
- Place:** Fillmore Complex, Conference Room D
- Present:** Ted Bosgraaf, Bobbie Jones Sabine, Philip Kuyers, Crystal Unema, Joyce Kortman, Roger Jonas, Russ Brown, Ray Statema and Jim Miedema
- Absent:** Paul Geerlings
- Staff:** John Scholtz, Director; Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development; Sherry Costello, Administrative Clerk; and Dave Mazurek, Park Operations Superintendent
- Guests:** John Chirco

Subject: Approval of Minutes

- PR 08-37 Motion: To approve the minutes of the Commission’s April 2, 2008 regular meeting.
- Moved by: Brown Supported by: Kuyers Unanimous

Subject: Nature Education Center Grant Agreement

- PR 08-38 Motion: To approve and accept the terms of the grant agreement with the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area in the amount of \$20,000 for the Nature Education Center Project.
- Moved by: Kortman Supported by: Unema Unanimous

Subject: Parks Millage Rate

- PR 08-39 Motion: To recommend to the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners the County Parks and Recreation millage amount be reset to 0.33 mills with one year of Headlee rollback.
- Moved by: Jonas Supported by: Brown Unanimous

Subject: Hunting Program

PR 08-40 Motion: To approve and forward to the Board of Commissioners the implementation of a \$20.00 permit fee for successful hunting lottery applications.
 Moved by: Kortman Supported by: Brown Unanimous

Subject: Resolution

PR 08-41 Motion: To adopt a resolution recognizing Haworth Inc. for their volunteer efforts at Tunnel Park.
 Moved by: Sabine Supported by: Statema Unanimous

Subject: Service Agreement

PR 08-42 Motion: To approve and forward to the Board of Commissioners the Professional Services Agreement with Oppenhuizen Architects.
 Moved by: Sabine Supported by: Kuyers Unanimous

Subject: Metal Detecting Policy

PR 08-43 Motion: To approve the proposed Metal Detecting Policy as submitted.
 Moved by: Kuyers Supported by: Brown Unanimous

Subject: Mount Pisgah Dune Protection Project

PR 08-44 Motion: To receive bids for the Mount Pisgah Dune Protection Project and recommend Rockford Construction at a cost of \$317,641.63.
 Moved by: Jonas Supported by: Kortman Unanimous

Subject: Lease Between State of Michigan and Ottawa County Parks

PR 08-45 Motion: To approve and forward to the Board of Commissioners the lease agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for use of land adjacent to Riverside Park.
 Moved by: Brown Supported by: Kortman Unanimous

Subject: Go Into Closed Session

PR 08-46 Motion: To go into Closed Session to discuss property matters.
Moved by: Kuyers Supported by: Miedema
Yeas: Bosgraaf, Sabine, Kuyers, Unema, Kortman, Jonas, Brown,
Statema and Miedema.
Nays: None Motion passed 9 to 0.

Subject: To Rise From Closed Session

PR 08-47 Motion: To rise from Closed Session.
Moved by: Unema Supported by: Kuyers Unanimous

Other Items Discussed:

Commission members received and approved by motion the April 1, 2008 letter and grant agreement from the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area regarding a \$20,000 grant for the Nature Education Center.

Commission members received the April 18, 2008 letter from the Department of Natural Resources regarding the Olive Shores Acquisition. Scholtz gave a brief overview of the grant and stated that Parks has an option until December 31, 2008 on the property and hoped the legislature would not delay the approval of the grant dollars. Jonas suggested speaking to Senator Kuipers. Scholtz agreed and will contact him.

Commission members reviewed comment cards and email comments received since the previous meeting. Bosgraaf commented on the suggestion of a disc golf course at Riley Trails and explained that there is already one in Park Township. Sabine mentioned that this type of activity in the summer may be a good outlet for youth. Kuyers questioned what the priority level would be for this type of request. Scholtz responded that it was on the staff list to look at. Kuyers requested staff investigate further and Sabine added that this should be considered when logging is done at the property. Staff will consider the request and report back to Commission members.

President Bosgraaf called on Mr. John Chirco, an Ottawa County Resident to speak during the public comment period. Mr. Chirco began by thanking the Commission members for the wonderful parks in Ottawa County. He stated that he has never had a negative experience in the parks system. He belongs to the Wolverine Research and Recovery Club which is a non-profit organization that engages in the recovery of lost items of metallic content. Mr. Chico asked for clarification of the metal detecting policy in regards to the water line of the beaches. Scholtz affirmed that the Parks does own only to the water line at Lake Michigan beaches. Mr. Chirco went on to explain in detail the process of recovering an item after it has been detected. He also mentioned that the members of the club he belongs to follow club rules strictly and respect the areas that they use. He asked staff members not to assume that holes that my have been dug by children belong to metal detector users. Mr. Chirco related his experience with Grand

Rapids parks and stated that they required written permission and requested that the Parks consider when giving written permission that it be for a length of time, possibly a seasonal approval and not by visit.

President Bosgraaf asked if there were any questions or comments on the Director's report. Scholtz referenced the Parks Millage Renewal Proposal from March, 2006 and gave a brief explanation of the millage renewal and Headlee rollback process and a recommendation was made by motion to bring the millage rate back to 0.33 with a one year Headlee rollback.

Scholtz next reported on encroachment issues at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area. He explained a recent survey indicated several encroachments. He went into detail regarding a specific residence and suggested that a possible trade of property may be a favorable option. Kortman questioned the amount of road frontage that would be involved and Brown supported the possible trade and a sufficient timeline for the removal of items. Bosgraaf asked staff to proceed and move forward with what is in the best interest of the County Park system.

Scholtz reviewed his suggestion from the last meeting of a twenty dollar permit fee for a successful hunting lottery applicant. He felt this approach would reduce the number of "no shows" and would benefit more hunters. Approval of the permit fee was made by motion and will be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners.

Scholtz then discussed the Parks District Forum conference to be held in Portland, Oregon. Scholtz, TerHaar and Sabine have expressed interest in attending the conference. If all three attend the conference budget will need an additional \$2,200 Scholtz also commented that last year the conference budget had \$3,000 that wasn't used. There was a consensus by the Commission members to send all three members to the conference.

Bosgraaf called on Mazurek to present the Park Operations Superintendent's Report. There were no questions, however, Mazurek reported that a large group from the IT Department at Haworth Inc. had come and volunteered their time at Tunnel Park. They accomplished many tasks throughout the day including removal of snow fence, sanding and painting of picnic tables and the Park logo sign, rebuilding of bicycle racks and horseshoe pits. Commission members approved by motion a resolution recognizing the volunteers at Haworth Inc. for their volunteer efforts. A suggestion was made to consider an award for volunteer service to the Parks Commission.

Bosgraaf received the Planning Committee report and commented that the committee had lengthy discussions on the farm park proposed at Eastmanville Farm and camping at Connor Bayou. Bosgraaf encouraged Commission members to think about these issues for further discussion in the future. Scholtz will be investigating the possible use of the building at Connor Bayou for group use and will bring back pros and cons to the next meeting.

Bosgraaf received the Park 12 Advisory Council meeting minutes and asked staff if anyone had confirmed with the fire department that they had actually visited the site as

claimed by Park 12 residents. Scholtz will contact the fire department and report back. Scholtz also followed up on the Park 12 pumphouse and reported that Park staff checked with the Sheriff's office and over the past ten years there had not been any reports of accidents in the vicinity of the pumphouse. Bosgraaf added that he has lived in the area for the past seven years and has not seen any accidents there either.

Bosgraaf called on Unema, representative of the Friends of Ottawa County Parks, and she reported that the Friends Reuse Resale raised \$4,473 for the nature education center. She also added that the remaining goods not purchased went to an auction house where 60% of the proceeds will come back to the Friends group. She read a note from Jean Laug-Carroll that thanked the Commission members and volunteers for all their hard work on the project. Sabine also reported on how Engvall had the barn and surrounding areas in tip top condition. She noted that many people came out to see the barn. Bosgraaf requested a letter be sent to the Friends group for their hard work and dedication to the parks. She then reminded everyone of the Grand River boat trip to be held on May 22, 2008. This is a first come-first serve event so get your reservations in early.

Bosgraaf then called for Old Business and Scholtz reviewed a letter from Oppenhuizen Architects and the Professional Services Agreement for the Nature Education Center. Approval was made by motion to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Oppenhuizen Architects.

Scholtz then moved on to the Metal Detecting Policy and Bosgraaf asked if permission could be granted to metal detectors at the fee booths in the parks. Scholtz and Mazurek both expressed their viewpoint that it would be very difficult to issue letter of approval from the fee booths. Approval by motion was made to accept the policy.

Bosgraaf called for New Business and received the 2007 Parks and Recreation Annual Report. Unema and Sabine commented how concise the report was and Scholtz informed members that staff is always open for suggestions regarding the format of the report.

TerHaar reviewed the bids for the Mt. Pisgah Dune Protection Project and recommended the low bidder, Rockford Construction, for the project at a cost of \$317,641.63. Commission members received the bids for the project and approved Rockford Construction by motion.

Commission members received and approved by motion the lease between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission to develop and maintain a pedestrian path upon a designated portion of state land that is adjacent to Riverside Park.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.