

Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Proposed Minutes

Date: November 5, 2008
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Place: Fillmore Complex, Conference Room D
Present: Ted Bosgraaf, Bobbi Jones Sabine, Joyce Kortman, Roger Jonas, Paul Geerlings, Ray Statema, Jim Miedema, Russell Brown, Crystal Unema and Phil Kuyers
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: Fred Vaas

Subject: Approval of Minutes

PR 08-074 Motion: To approve the minutes of the Commission's October 1, 2008 regular meeting.
Moved by: Brown Supported by: Kortman Unanimous

Subject: Olive Shores Acquisition Project

PR 08-075 Motion: To approve and forward to the Board of Commissioners the resolution accepting the terms of the grant agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the Olive Shores Acquisition Project.
Moved by: Kortman Supported by: Brown Unanimous

Subject: Bend Area Consulting Services

PR 08-076 Motion: To approve the proposal with Bauer-Form Reclamation with the corrected proposal date of October 3, 2008 for planning and consulting services at the Bend Area.
Moved by: Kortman Supported by: Unema Unanimous

Subject: Holland Harbor Access Project

PR 08-077 Motion: To approve and forward to the Board of Commissioners the grant agreement with the Great Lakes Fishery Trust for the Holland Harbor Access Project.
Moved by: Unema Supported by: Kortman Unanimous

Subject: Lower Macatawa River Area Master Plan

PR 08-078 Motion: To approve in concept the Lower Macatawa River Area Master Plan as presented.
Moved by: Brown Supported by: Miedema Unanimous

Subject: Go Into Closed Session

PR 08-079 Motion: To go into Closed Session to discuss property matters.
Moved by: Geerlings Supported by: Kuyers
Yeas: Bosgraaf, Sabine, Kuyers, Geerlings, Brown, Unema, Kortman, Jonas, Statema and Miedema.
Nays: None Motion passed 10 to 0.

Subject: To Rise From Closed Session

PR 08-080 Motion: To rise from closed Session.
Moved by: Miedema Supported by: Kuyers Unanimous

Other Items Discussed:

Commission members received the October 14, 2008 letter from Ms. Brenda Reber, regarding an incident on the Musketawa Trail. Mazurek reported that an officer did respond to the complaint. Unema complimented Mazurek for the response he sent.

Commission members received the Parks and Recreation expenditures through September 30, 2008. Scholtz reviewed the 2009 budget that was adopted by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. He pointed out that the Operational Supplies line item was reduced by \$8,000 for small equipment replacement and Conferences & Other Travel was cut by twenty percent county-wide. Jonas expressed his support for maintaining the capability for employees to be able to attend conferences to further develop their skills.

President Bosgraaf asked if there were any questions or comments on the Director's report. Scholtz announced that David VanGinhoven was appointed as Unema's replacement to the Parks Commission. Kortman invited members to attend the Water

Quality Forum. Scholtz encouraged Commission members to attend the event and announced that the fee could be paid with Park funds.

Bosgraaf called on Mazurek to present the Park Operations Report. Brown pointed out that there were no reports of vandalism.

Bosgraaf received the Planning Committee meeting report and opened discussion with red pine management. Scholtz reported that they had met with the forester that is overseeing the red pine logging operations. Review of the sites that have been previously logged has indicated that many of the pines that are left are dying and will likely lose any value they may still have. The forester presented an estimate of the total value at these locations to be \$45,000 and Parks would receive \$20,000. Scholtz recommended that the trees be left as is because there is no guarantee that all the pines will die and the low revenue that would be generated from taking them would not be worth the public relations damage from clear-cutting the areas. Brown expressed his concern regarding complaints from the public if the remainder of the pines were cut down. Geerlings questioned the rate at which the pines are dying and the number of pines that were removed in the first cutting. Brown suggested reviewing the pines on an on-going basis and make a decision as needed and leaving the decision up to staff to bring back a recommendation. Statema questioned what the impact would be on the other trees if the rest of the pines were clear-cut and stated his preference for removing the remaining red pine. Scholtz responded that approximately a third of the area does get mowed over but it does recover quickly. Sabine agreed with Statema to have the remainder of the trees clear-cut and reiterated that the public is aware of the overall objective to restore the forest to its natural state. Jonas expressed his concern with the fire hazard that may be created if the pines were left and died. Bosgraaf commented on the beautiful vegetation that does replace the pines after the cutting is complete. Brown suggested planting white pines and possibly other seedlings following the pine removal to demonstrate land stewardship.

Bosgraaf then thanked Unema for her length of service with the Commission as she has elected not to re-apply to serve for another term. He announced that a small reception would be held at the Weaver House immediately following the December Parks Commission meeting. Unema gave the Friends update and announced the new Executive Board of Alice Hoban, President; Grant Jones, Vice President; Jean Laug-Carroll, Secretary; and Shirley Draft, Treasurer. Unema also encourage everyone to apply for Friends of Ottawa County Parks membership if they have not yet done so.

Bosgraaf called for discussion of Old Business and Scholtz gave an update on the Nature Education Center fundraising campaign and reported that some significant funding is still needed. Bosgraaf reported that the committee is working very hard to reach its goals and Unema added that there is lots of enthusiasm within the group.

Bosgraaf called for New Business and received the proposed grant agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the Olive Shores Acquisition Project. Scholtz reported that the option runs out on the Olive Shores property at the end of 2008. A motion was made and supported to accept the grant agreement and forward to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Commission members next received the report and proposal from Bauer-Ford Reclamation regarding Bend Area consulting services. Scholtz reported that the agreement calls for preparation of a grading plan for parks so the current owners know how to have the land shaped in preparation for purchase and use for park purposes. Scholtz continued reporting that they anticipate Grand Rapids Gravel to be finished mining in two years. A motion was passed supporting the agreement with Bauer-Ford Reclamation.

Commission members received the proposed letter and grant agreement with the Great Lakes Fishery Trust for the Holland Harbor Access Project. Scholtz explained that the grant amount would be \$500,000 with Parks contributing \$150,000 in match for the project with construction to take place in 2010. A motion was passed and forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Bosgraaf then received the proposed Lower Macatawa River Area Master Plan for review. TerHaar reviewed the overall concept. Scholtz added that there were not any financial obligations in approving the concept plan. Kortman expressed her disappointment with some potential City of Holland property that could have been used in this project but overall felt the plan was terrific. Geerlings expressed his support for the plan and Miedema liked how the paths would all connect. A motion was made and supported to approve the concept plan as presented.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.