

## Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission

*Approved Minutes*

**Date:** July 1, 2009

**Time:** 4:00 p.m.

**Place:** Fillmore Complex, Conference Room E

**Present:** Ted Bosgraaf, Bobbie Jones Sabine, Joyce Kortman, Jim Miedema, David Van Ginhoven, Paul Geerlings, and Phil Kuyers.

**Absent:** Roger Jonas, Ray Statema, and David Vander Kooi.

**Staff:** John Scholtz, Director; Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development; Sherry Costello, Administrative Clerk; and Dave Mazurek, Park Operations Superintendent.

**Guests:** Representative Arlan B. Meekhof, Fred Vaas, and Joyce Smith.

### **Subject: Approval of Minutes**

PR 09-45      Motion:            To approve the minutes of the Commission's June 3, 2009 regular meeting.  
Moved by:      Geerlings      Supported by: Kortman                      Unanimous

### **Subject: Approval of Special Meeting Minutes**

PR 09-46      Motion:            To approve the minutes of the Commission's June 23, 2009 special meeting.  
Moved by:      Kortman      Supported by: Sabine                      Unanimous

### **Subject: Go Into Closed Session**

PR 09-47      Motion:            To go into Closed Session to discuss property matters.  
Moved by:      Kuyers      Supported by: Sabine  
Yeas:            Bosgraaf, Sabine, Kuyers, Geerlings, Kortman, Van Ginhoven, and Miedema.  
Nays:            None            Motion passed 7 to 0.

### **Subject: To Rise From Closed Session**

PR 09-48      Motion:            To rise from Closed Session.  
Moved by:      Kortman      Supported by: Kuyers                      Unanimous

## **Other Items Discussed:**

President Bosgraaf called the meeting to order and asked for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Having no additions or deletions, Bosgraaf recommended that item 12a on the agenda be moved ahead in order to allow Representative Meekhof to speak regarding House Bill 4678 (State Parks Funding Proposal).

Representative Meekhof explained the details of House Bill 4677 and House Bill 4678. He reported that the State Parks fund had not received any General Fund support from the State of Michigan since 1998. He also explained that the two House Bills would allow a Michigan resident to obtain a State Park Annual Permit when registering their motor vehicle at the Secretary of State office. The resident would have the option to accept or deny this additional fee. The proposed cost per vehicle would be \$10 per car and \$5 per motorcycle. Out of State users of the State Parks would be able to obtain a day pass at a kiosk that would be located at each park entrance. Representative Meekhof used the State of Montana as an example. They implemented a similar type of program and 75% of the residents purchased the annual permit while registering their motor vehicle. He reported that if this proposal were to be made into law, the State Parks would be required to reduce their expenditures by 10%. He also noted that the State Parks would need less staffing, approximately 15% could be cut. He felt that approximately 60 - 65% of Michigan residents would choose to participate in the new program. Commission members had several questions regarding the proposed Bills, which included what Montana residents were required to do in order to opt out of the program, which may have contributed to the higher participation rate; what the civil infraction process would be to enforce program; why motorcycles were only being charged a \$5.00 rate when they occupy the same size parking spot as a regular vehicle; the concern with loss of gate control; and the lack of a guarantee that the funds would be appropriated to the General Fund in the future. Kortman thanked Representative Meekhof for his efforts in trying to address this funding problem. Bosgraaf thanked Representative Meekhof for taking the time to explain the issue to the Parks Commission.

Commission members received the June 19, 2009 letter from Patrick L. Battaglia, an entrepreneur, requesting permission to sell ice cream treats at Tunnel Park. Commission members reviewed the request and a consensus was reached to deny the request.

Commission members received for information the June 1, 2009 letter from Joel G. Bouwens, attorney with Cunningham Dalman PC, relative to a Notice of Claim for Economic Damages, and the response by Greg Rapple, Ottawa County Corporation Counsel.

Bosgraaf moved on to Public Comment, and Ms. Joyce Smith, a resident of Black Lake Walk, reported the use of a "spy cam" by a Black Lake Avenue resident. Scholtz explained that the knowledge of the "spy cam" just recently came to light and gave the present location of the camera. Scholtz felt that the owner of the "spy cam" had installed it for security reasons. Bosgraaf stated that there was a report of four more security cameras, but these cameras were placed on private property facing towards the private property itself. Kortman also informed Commission members that there was also some sensor lighting on parks property that should also be addressed. After a brief discussion there was a consensus to have staff notify the resident and request removal of the cameras and lighting that is in place on park property.

Commission members reviewed the report of the Parks and Recreation Commission expenditures through May 31, 2009.

Bosgraaf moved on to the Director's report, and Scholtz referred to a response letter reviewed earlier in the comments portion of the agenda regarding a resident's inability to pay an entrance fee at one of our parks. Scholtz reported that he had further conversations with the patron and she was very supportive of encouraging patrons to volunteer to receive a park pass. Geerlings thought that a decisive list would need to be constructed in order to determine the type of volunteering/number of hours necessary for a patron to obtain a free pass. Mazurek mentioned that Lake County has "family days" where there is no entrance fee on specific dates. Kortman felt that it would be positive to encourage families to visit the parks. Scholtz reported that he would have to consult with the Fiscal Services Director to see if the possibility of a free pass could be approved and would also research the low income discount possibilities through the Department of Human Services.

Bosgraaf revisited the question Kuyers had regarding the Pigeon Creek Park equestrian parking lot expansion. TerHaar referred to the parking lot layout and confirmed that there were 27 spaces added to the lot, he also reviewed possible options to define the spaces more clearly. Mazurek mentioned that adding bumpers would hinder the snow removal process in the winter; he suggested the possibility of using orange cones and signs. Kuyers suggested observing the activity this coming winter to see if any adjustments need to be made.

Bosgraaf called for the Parks Operations Report, and Mazurek commented that it was a busy month. Bosgraaf inquired about a septic system back-up at Rosy Mound which Mazurek stated was not pumped in a timely manner. Kortman expressed her amazement of the retrieving of the boat launch at Riverside Park.

Bosgraaf called for the report of the Planning Committee meeting and Commission members briefly reviewed the minutes. Bosgraaf commented on the Holland Country Club property and stated that an appraisal of the property is in process. Discussion shifted to the Parkside Marina moorings proposal; Scholtz handed out the proposal for Commission members to review and consider at the next Commission meeting.

Commission members set the next meeting dates for the Planning Committee meeting and the Public Relations Committee meeting to be July 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. and July 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., respectively.

Bosgraaf called for discussion Old Business, and TerHaar reported on the first public meeting for the Olive Shores Master Planning. Bosgraaf inquired as to what the Parks position was at Rosy Mound with respect to boats on the beach. Scholtz stated boats are not allowed in the designated swim area but are otherwise not restricted. Mazurek added that enforcement control starts at the beach shoreline. Kortman expressed her concern with beach fires and the use of alcohol. Scholtz added that the vast majority of boats moor off-shore and do not pull up on the beach at Rosy Mound. Mazurek stated that he anticipated a brief enforcement curve with alcohol and fires similar to Rosy Mound but didn't feel it would be a long-term problem.

TerHaar then reported in the Nature Education update that construction crews were slightly behind schedule but expect to catch up soon.

Bosgraaf moved to New Business, and Commission members received the slide show presentation of the Special Parks District Forum hosted by Lake County Forest Preserves. The presentation included a gravel pit restoration, deer management, farm park, walking paths with audio interpretation for the visually impaired, dog parks and signage. Bosgraaf commented after the presentation that attendance at the conference reminds us to “think big picture” and he thanked staff for the presentation.

Bosgraaf asked for Public Comment and there was none.

Bosgraaf called for Commissioners to be heard and Geerlings explained that the drainage issue at the Port Sheldon Natural Area could be fixed by simply repairing the stream crossing used by the loggers. Geerlings updated the Commission on the water problem in the Riley Trails area. He stated that an engineering firm was working on the issue, and they were waiting for a report in order to find an overall solution.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.