

## Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission

*Approved Minutes*

**Date:** August 5, 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, Ray Statema, Roger Jonas, and Phil Kuyers

**Absent:** Paul Geerlings and David Vander Kooi

**Staff:** John Scholtz, Director; Sherry Costello, Administrative Clerk; Dave Mazurek, Park Operations Superintendent; Kristen Hintz, Parks Naturalist/Information Specialist; Eric Frifeldt, Intern; and Andrew Colyer, Stewardship Crew Supervisor

**Guests:** Joyce Smith

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

PR 09-49      Motion:            To approve the minutes of the Commission's July 1, 2009 regular meeting.

Moved by:      Kortman      Supported by: Miedema                      Unanimous

### **Subject: Bend Area Designation**

PR 09-50      Motion:            To designate the Bend Area property as Open Space land, allow archery deer hunting only without requirement of a special permit, allow boats with electric motors only, and designate the site as a no swimming area.

Moved by:      Jonas            Supported by: Statema                      Unanimous

### **Subject: Nature Education Center Furniture Bids**

PR 09-51      Motion:            To receive and recommend Custer Office Environments to purchase all Izzy furniture as per the bid specifications at a cost of \$33,430.87 and Work Squared for the remainder of the furniture specified after donated items from Herman Miller have been determined at a cost of \$68,990.13 less cost of donated items.

Moved by:      Kortman      Supported by: Statema                      Unanimous

**Subject: Eastmanville Farm Cemetery**

PR 09-52      Motion:            To receive and support the Eastmanville Farm Cemetery Proposal pending further study of the maintenance obligation requirements.  
Moved by:      Van Ginhoven    Supported by: Kuyers                      Unanimous

**Subject: Park 10 Parking Area**

PR 09-53      Motion:            To receive bids and approve Denny's Excavating for the Park 10 Parking Area at Historic Ottawa Beach Park at a base bid of \$8,955, with Alternates 1, 2, and 3 at a cost of \$3,822.50, \$1,732.50, and \$1,382.00 respectively. Total cost of project to be \$15,892.  
Moved by:      Van Ginhoven    Supported by: Kuyers                      Unanimous

**Subject: Deer Creek Bridge Feasibility Study**

PR 09-54      Motion:            To receive and recommend Prein & Newhof for the Deer Creek Bridge Feasibility Study at a cost of \$5,800.  
Moved by:      Miedema            Supported by: Kortman                      Unanimous

**Subject: Grand River Park Pathway Improvements**

PR 09-55      Motion:            To receive and recommend Affordable Excavating for the Grand River Park Pathway Improvement Project at a base bid of \$17,506.50 with Alternates 1 and 2 at a cost of \$4,347.90 and \$3,944.85 respectively. Total cost of project will be \$25,799.25.  
Moved by:      Statema            Supported by: Kuyers                      Unanimous

**Subject: Go Into Closed Session**

PR 09-56      Motion:            To go into Closed Session to discuss property matters.  
Moved by:      Van Ginhoven    Supported by: Sabine  
Yeas:            Bosgraaf, Sabine, Kuyers, Jonas, Kortman, Van Ginhoven, Statema, and Miedema.  
Nays:            None                      Motion passed 8 to 0.

**Subject: To Rise From Closed Session**

PR 09-57      Motion:            To rise from Closed Session.  
Moved by:      Kuyers                      Supported by: Statema                      Unanimous

## **Other Items Discussed:**

President Bosgraaf called the meeting to order and asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Scholtz introduced three park employees to the Commission: Eric Frifeldt, summer intern; Andrew Colyer, Stewardship Crew Supervisor; and Kristen Hintz, Parks Naturalist/Information Specialist.

Commission members received the letter from Mike Smith of the Michigan Department of Transportation to Brett Laughlin of the Ottawa County Road Commission regarding denial of the Commission's grant proposal for the Upper Macatawa Natural Area Non-Motorized Pathway. Scholtz reported that he is in the process of setting up a meeting with the participants in order to gain a better perspective as to why grant funding for the project was denied.

Commission members received for information the July 21, 2009 letter from the Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board regarding the Grand River Ravines Acquisition grant application. Scholtz reported that staff is planning to present the grant request to the Trust Fund Board in mid-August and felt it was a good opportunity.

Commission members received the communication from property owners in North Shore Estates concerning the need for deer herd management. Commission members discussed several different approaches to the deer management issue. After discussion, Commission members requested that staff research the topic more thoroughly, including information gained at the recent Parks Forum. Bosgraaf requested Scholtz bring the topic back to Commission for further review. Scholtz will also respond to North Shore Estates residents to keep them apprised of the discussion.

Bosgraaf moved on to Public Comment. Ms. Joyce Smith, a resident of Black Lake Walk, responded to a discussion regarding a recent comment from a park patron. The patron was not able to pay a vehicle entrance fee at Kirk Park and suggested that parks provide an opportunity for residents of the county to volunteer services to receive a annual park pass. Ms. Smith gave the definition of volunteerism and expressed her concern that including a form of payment would diminish the value of volunteering.

Commission members reviewed the report of the Parks and Recreation Commission expenditures through June 30, 2009.

Bosgraaf moved on to the Director's report. Scholtz discussed a current park rule (section 12.1 and 12.2) that is in conflict with a Michigan law that allows people to carry concealed weapons if properly licensed. The current park rules prohibit all firearms in the parks. Scholtz directed Commission members to the proposed rule change for firearms. Since rule changes require signs to be updated, Scholtz recommended an assessment of all park rules to determine whether additional revisions and updates could be completed at the same time. Scholtz asked that comments and suggestions be sent to Mazurek. Jonas thought the revision may not be adequate as Michigan law also allows residents to carry a weapon on their hip with the proper licensing. Scholtz will review revision of new rule and bring back to the next meeting.

Scholtz moved on to the Bend Area improvements and reported that a small parking lot would be created in the near future, along with an orientation sign to accommodate fishermen, hunters, and other users of the property. Scholtz reported that the long-range vision for this area would be to ultimately designate the property as a park. He questioned Commission members on what the current designation should be until such time as it is expanded and a swimming beach and other activities are developed. After a brief discussion, it was passed by motion to designate the property as an Open Space land and allow archery hunting only, with a no swimming designation and to only allow electric motors on the lake.

Bosgraaf called for the Parks Operations Report, and Mazurek submitted his report as written. He then called upon Eric Frifeldt and Andrew Colyer to give the Garlic Mustard Summary report. Frifeldt reviewed the report contents and reported on new sections that were included in this year's report such as a special notes section for concerns, weather summary and effects, photo documentation, and a suggestions section. Colyer then gave his report which included detailed descriptions of the different methods for disposing of Garlic Mustard, various parks that his crew and volunteers worked at, and a current study he is conducting regarding the timing of the removal of Garlic Mustard at the Grand Valley State University lab. Results are expected some time in November.

Mazurek then updated Commission members about some graffiti on the stairs at Mt. Pisgah. He reported that it took staff nearly 40 hours to remove. Bosgraaf mentioned that a nearby skateboard park has a security camera installed and thought staff may want to consider this option. Mazurek reported that staff would be attending an expo in October that addresses various forms of security options, and they were anxious to see what types of technology are now available.

Bosgraaf called for the report from the Public Relations Committee, and Scholtz updated staff in reference to the Parks creating a Facebook page on the Internet. He reported that on communications with Dave Hulst, Information Technology Director, he discovered that the County currently does not allow departments to have this type of page but has had other requests from other departments. Hulst is in the process of researching the possibility of this type of activity for county departments and will report back to Scholtz.

Bosgraaf moved on to the Planning Committee meeting report in which Scholtz addressed the Parkside Marina Moorings proposal. Commission members felt that the mooring proposal was a bit premature in their planning process and it would be necessary to know the layout of the future marina development before moorings could be determined. Consensus was reached not to act on the proposal and to continue as is. Scholtz will contact Herb and Bob with thanks for the work they put into the research of the moorings and inform them that the proposal will be held for future consideration.

Commissioner Kuyers then addressed the discussion the Planning Committee had in regards to adding a dog park on county property. He expressed his feeling that the committee should stick with the rankings defined at the board retreat. Other members expressed similar sentiment and the issue was directed back to the planning committee. Scholtz mentioned that the committee also discussed the idea of providing dog access to Lake Michigan at Kirk Park. Mazurek explained the general lack of beach access for dog owners. Mazurek added that with the addition of the south stairway a dog access could possibly be created at the south end of the beach, which currently doesn't receive much

public use. Mazurek also added that he didn't feel that staff could adequately monitor the addition of the dog access with current staffing levels. Bosgraaf requested that staff look at this idea more closely and bring back a proposal for review.

President Bosgraaf reviewed the report of the Park 12 Museum committee meetings of June 30 and July 17. Scholtz thanked Ms. Joyce Smith for preparing the meeting reports and noted that he would keep presenting the reports as the committee meets.

Bosgraaf called for discussion of Old Business and Scholtz updated Commission members on the curb work at Black Lake Avenue. He reported that the contractor had received approval to add concrete curb along the edge of the road for the entire length of the park from the Ottawa County Road Commission. This should be completed in the next couple of days.

Scholtz then reported on the second Olive Shores preliminary master plan public meeting. He reviewed the plan with Commission members, stating that there would be 49 parking spaces, a crushed stone trail, dune stairs and boardwalks, restrooms, and a hiking trail. Scholtz indicated that there would be one more public meeting included in one of the next few commission meetings to present the completed plan.

Scholtz moved on to the Hager Park erosion topic and directed Commission members to the letter from the Parks' engineer that listed recommended solutions to the problem. Scholtz asked for direction on repair of the erosion. Sabine noted that she would like to go out to the erosion site and review the area and then follow up with Scholtz. Kuyers suggested filling the erosion area with stone for the next year to see if the erosion continues. Miedema agreed and felt that waiting for the rains to conclude would be important. Scholtz will wait to hear from Sabine and research adding stones.

Bosgraaf requested an update on the Nature Education Center and Scholtz reviewed the exhibit plan. Bosgraaf asked if the donor wall would be finished before the Nature Education Center opens. Scholtz confirmed that the wall would be complete.

Scholtz went on to review the furniture bids for the Nature Education Center. He explained that through Bosgraaf's efforts, Herman Miller will be donating a portion of the office furniture needed for the facility. Scholtz recommended that the Izzy furniture be purchased through Custer Office Environments at a cost of \$33,430.87. The remainder of furniture that would be needed after the Herman Miller donation would be purchased from Work Squared, costing \$68,990.13 less the donated items. Commission members agreed and passed the recommendation by motion.

Bosgraaf moved to New Business, and Commission members received the proposal dated July 15, 2009 from the Eastmanville Farm Cemetery Committee regarding the restoration and maintenance of the "poor farm" cemetery at Eastmanville Farm. After a brief discussion a motion was passed to support the Eastmanville Farm cemetery concept pending further review of staff maintenance obligations.

Commission members received the bids for the development of the parking area at Park 10 and approved a motion awarding the project to Denny's Excavating.

Commission members received the proposals for the Deer Creek Park/Ripps Bayou Bridge Feasibility Study. After a brief discussion, Commission members supported by motion the recommendation to select Prien & Newhof to complete the project.

Commission members received the bids for the Grand River Park Pathway Improvements and approved Affordable Excavating to complete the project.

Bosgraaf asked for Public Comment and Ms. Joyce Smith thanked staff for their efforts in eliminating Garlic Mustard. She also expressed her support of a deer cull, as she has personally witnessed an extensive loss of trillium in the Historic Ottawa Beach Area.

Bosgraaf called for Commissioners to be heard and asked for the status of the “no dog” signs at Mt. Pisgah. Scholtz reported that the signs should be ready for installation soon.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.