

**Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission**

*Approved Minutes*

**Date:** October 7, 2009

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

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

**Present:** Ted Bosgraaf, Bobbi Jones Sabine, Joyce Kortman, Jim Miedema, David Van Ginhoven, Ray Statema, Roger Jonas, Paul Geerlings, David Vander Kooi and Phil Kuyers

**Absent:** None

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

**Guests:** Fred Vaas, Peter Daining, Heather Medina Saucedo, Phil Molhoek and Alan Vanderberg, County Administrator

**Subject: Approval of Minutes**

PR 09-63 Motion: To approve the minutes of the Commission’s September 2, 2009 regular meeting.

Moved by: Sabine Supported by: Statema Unanimous

**Subject: Naming of Cemetery at Eastmanville Farm**

PR 09-64 Motion: To concur with the recommendation of the Public Relations Committee regarding naming the cemetery at Eastmanville Farm; “Poor Farm Memorial Cemetery - Dedicated to the Memory of Isaac Kramer and others buried here May 22, 2010”.

Moved by: Statema Supported by: Geerlings Unanimous

**Subject: Olive Shores Master Plan**

PR 09-65 Motion: To approve the Olive Shores Master Plan, design and cost estimates as presented by staff and prepared by M. C. Smith & Associates.

Moved by: Kuyers Supported by: Van Ginhoven Unanimous

**Subject: Red Pine Removal at Pigeon Creek Park**

PR 09-66      Motion:            To receive bids and approve Biewer Sawmill as the high  
bigger for red pine logging at Pigeon Creek Park in the  
amount of \$35.00/cord.  
Moved by:      Kuyers            Supported by: Geerlings                      Unanimous

**Subject: Eastmanville Bayou Access Improvements**

PR 09-67      Motion:            To receive bids and approve O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock and  
Associates to prepare the site planning, construction  
documents, cost estimating and construction administration  
for the Eastmanville Bayou Access Improvements project  
at a cost of \$12,850.00.  
Moved by:      Geerlings            Supported by: Kuyers                      Unanimous

**Subject: Go Into Closed Session**

PR 09-68      Motion:            To go into Closed Session to discuss property matters.  
Moved by:      Kuyers            Supported by: Kortman  
Yeas:            Bosgraaf, Sabine, Kuyers, Jonas, Kortman, Van Ginhoven,  
Statema, Geerlings, Vander Kooi and Miedema.  
Nays:            None                      Motion passed 10 to 0.

**Subject: To Rise From Closed Session**

PR 09-69      Motion:            To rise from Closed Session.  
Moved by:      Kuyers            Supported by: Geerlings                      Unanimous

**Other Items Discussed:**

President Bosgraaf called the meeting to order and asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Scholtz requested to have Al Vanderberg, County Administrator, speak regarding the Commission's interest exploring the possibility of creating a deer management work team at the County level.

Bosgraaf called upon County Administrator Vanderberg and thanked him for attending the meeting. Administrator Vanderberg reported that the topic of deer management is a very emotional issue and addressing it on a county-wide basis would be difficult. He advised limiting the Commission's effort to that which it has control over with a focus more on a local level. Vanderberg suggested addressing those areas first which are known to be problem areas by putting together a wildlife management plan to identify the need for deer management. An initial focus on North Ottawa Dunes south to Rosy Mound might make sense. Vanderberg suggested putting together a work team of experts to advise the Commission on the issue. Sabine expressed concern that focusing on local

areas ignores the fact that deer move. If a deer cull took place in one area and deer from outside the area move to the area where the cull took place then the property is still left in the same condition. Bosgraaf thanked Vanderberg for his insights into the issue.

Commission members received for information the September 19, 2009 letter from Dave Lind of the West Michigan Park Association.

Commission members reviewed comment cards and emails received since the previous meeting and Mazurek reported that some changes were being implemented in response to the Riverside Park comment card regarding lighting needs. Geerlings suggested motion sensors on the lights at Riverside Park, and Jonas stated that motion sensors may need more maintenance. Mazurek then reported the park patron who requested the bench on the Musketawa Trail will be making a donation for a memorial bench in the spot he specified.

Bosgraaf moved on to Public Comment and there was none.

Commission members reviewed the report of the Parks and Recreation Commission expenditures through August 31, 2009. Scholtz reported that a Budget Adjustment would be needed in the Land account for any pending projects. Bosgraaf then questioned Commission members as to what type of financial statement they would possibly like to see in the future and asked them to bring their thoughts back to the next meeting.

Bosgraaf moved on to the Director's report. Scholtz reminded Commission members of the Mt. Pisgah Open House to be held on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, from 2 pm – 4 pm, and encouraged everyone to attend. Scholtz then reported that Parks had been asked to participate in the Grand River Expedition 2010 event. He stated that Parks participated in the event in 1990 and 2000 where assistance was provided with hosting the group to camp overnight at Riverside Park. He added that this is a very exciting opportunity to showcase the Grand River water trail which is under development for completion in the spring. Scholtz also reported that the Friends group is enthusiastic about contributing.

Scholtz then updated Commission members on the Farm Park meeting. The meeting included Adam Kantrovich, MSU Extension Director and a group from the agricultural community. The group recommended that the fund-raising feasibility study should be put on hold until the economy improves. The group would also like to proceed with some demonstration plots that would showcase the variety of crops grown in Ottawa County. The group agreed to meet again in the spring to re-assess the economic climate and level of support for the project. Scholtz expressed concern with the demonstration plots due to the uncertainty of how the plots would be established and managed. He suggested we request a proposal as to what type of plots would be developed and how they would be managed. Bosgraaf asked for consensus from the Commission and Kuyers expressed his support to hold off on the feasibility study until spring and express our willingness to consider a proposal to install demonstration plots. Consensus was reached to not proceed with the feasibility until a re-assessment in the spring. Kuyers then reported that he is currently on the interview committee for Ottawa County board appointments, and he has heard time and again how many people state that they have moved to Ottawa County because of the wonderful parks that are here.

Bosgraaf called for the Parks Operations Report, and Mazurek submitted his report as written. Statema commented on the large tree log that will be cut soon. Kortman asked if there had been any information on the fish die-off and Scholtz reported that he had spoken to the Department of Environmental Quality who had investigated the report but was unable to trace the cause.

Commission members received the report from the Public Relations Committee and Sabine reported on the Nature Education Center and the timing of the open house. She reported that the Committee recommended having a grand opening on April 24, 2010, with a couple of sneak previews for various groups. She felt this would allow staff time to move in and have all of the programs and gift shop ready before the doors officially opened. Sabine then reported that the Committee had recommended purchase of a Bas Relief plaque to honor Mark Oppenhuizen's efforts with the Nature Education Center. Consensus was reached to hold the grand opening on April 24<sup>th</sup>, along with the purchase of a plaque to honor Oppenhuizen.

Sabine then moved on to the proposal to name the Eastmanville Farm Cemetery. She reported that the Committee recommended naming the cemetery "Poor Farm Memorial Cemetery - Dedicated to the Memory of Isaac Kramer and others buried here May 22, 2010". Statema made a motion to accept the name as recommended by the Public Relations Committee. Geerlings suggested listing the names of the people buried at the farm in chronological order instead of alphabetical order. Scholtz thought that most of the dates were not known but stated that he would pass along the preference to the cemetery committee. Kortman requested that the Dutch version of Kramer being deKramer be explored with the Kramer family as well.

Commission members reviewed the report from the Planning Committee. Scholtz reported that he feels the idea of a dog beach at Kirk Park is a good idea; however, the new south stairs at Kirk Park where the dog beach could have been located has been temporarily closed, due to rising water levels causing the steps to be washed out. It was recommended to monitor the water levels at Kirk Park and begin serious discussions regarding the creation of a dog park in the spring of 2010.

President Bosgraaf received the report of the Park 12 Museum Committee meeting of September 19.

Bosgraaf called for discussion of Old Business. TerHaar updated Commission members regarding the riparian rights determination at Black Lake Boardwalk and stated that this would be discussed at the next Planning Committee meeting. Scholtz reported that the Corps of Engineers has preliminarily approved the concept for the Holland Harbor Fishing Access Project. Geerlings then asked if there had been any reactions to all of the work that had been done on the Upper Macatawa River and Scholtz reported that there had been positive response to the clean-up.

Scholtz then moved on to the Nature Education Center update and encouraged Commission members to visit the site. He reported that the site construction was proceeding nicely. He recommended calling TerHaar prior to visiting to schedule a tour of the facility.

Commission members then received the final recommended Olive Shores Master Plan design and cost estimates and approved them by motion.

Bosgraaf moved to New Business and Commission members received the bids and proposed contract for the removal of red pine at Pigeon Creek Park. Kuyers made the motion and it was supported to accept and approve Biewer Sawmill as the winning bidder by unanimous vote.

Commission members received the Proposal Tabulation for design services for the Eastmanville Bayou improvements. A motion was made to approve O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock and Associates for the project.

Bosgraaf asked for Public Comment and there was none. Scholtz then introduced Ms. Heather Medina Saucedo, who works with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Scholtz explained that Ms. Saucedo agreed to attend today's meeting to assist in answering any questions that may have arisen regarding the Bolthouse property. Scholtz reported that there had been some concern from residents that the lake on the property would not remain private. He mentioned the possibility that the lake could be excluded from the property purchase. Van Ginhoven expressed his support for the removal of the lake from the purchase if needed. Geerlings suggested communicating to the neighbors that only non-motorized boats would be allowed on the lake. Jonas suggested that the property owners purchase the lake from Bolthouse to retain control. Bosgraaf thanked Ms. Saucedo for attending the meeting.

Bosgraaf called for Commissioners to be heard. Geerlings announced that an agreement with a neighbor of Hemlock Crossing in regards to the Harrington Drain. He stated that more water will be routed to the creek but it will not be necessary to create a drain easement. The additional water may cause some expansion of the stream channel.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.