

## **Charlevoix County Parks Committee**

Meeting Minutes

2/19/2018

**Members Present:** Dennis Jason, Jessica Parks, Brian Williams, Susan Vrondran, Caroline Kobylczak

**Members Absent:** Tim Wieland and Ryan Novotny

**Staff Present:** Planning Coordinator Kiersten Stark, Parks Director Ross Maxwell, Kevin Shepard, County Administrator

### **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

The regular meeting of the Charlevoix County Parks Committee was called to order at 5:30 pm on 2/19/2018 at Boyne City Hall by Dennis Jason, with recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

### **Approval of Agenda**

Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative report and Advocacy report were added to the agenda, and the minutes were removed from the consent agenda for corrections. A motion was made by S. Vrondran and seconded by J. Parks to approve the agenda as amended. Voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion was made by C. Kobylczak to accept the consent agenda to include the Financial and Director's Reports. Motion was seconded by S. Vrondran. Voice Vote: All in favor. Motion passed.

### **Items Removed from Consent Agenda**

### **Approval of Minutes – January 15, 2018**

Minutes were amended. Motion by J. Parks and seconded by S. Vrondran to approve the minutes as amended. Voice vote: all in favor. Motion passed.

### **Old Business**

### **Whiting Park Boat Launch**

R. Maxwell reported A. Nordman from Performance Engineers, Inc will soon stake off areas to mark potential locations for the proposed boat launch. No other information at this time. S. Vrondran stated the public wants the grant used and matching funds to provide an upscale boat launch. The DEQ needs to evaluate.

## **Boyne City to Charlevoix Non-Motorized Trail Status Report**

The committee was provided the status report as outlined in the packet. Additional comments include:

- Phase 1 – First Grant reimbursement received
- Phase 2 – K. Stark, R. Maxwell, D. Jason and K. Shepard met with Lucas Porath from OHM Advisors. Lucas has a good understanding of the committee's expectations.
- Phase 2 Punch list will begin in Spring and hope to be concluded by June.
- D. Jason requests a time line for phases to keep everyone on track. K. Stark will be meeting with Lucas at OHM Advisors regarding the trail budget.

### **Phase 3 Trail Plans**

Phase 3 trail site plan overview was provided to the committee for review and K. Stark will move forward with grant applications. OHM Advisors offered to provide grant phase assistance for phase 3 free of charge to get the grant applications submitted timely. Park of the Pines trailhead was reviewed. A field survey of Phase 3 will be done in March to take a closer look at potential wetland areas, slope treatment needed, fill and fencing. The committee is considering having an informational meeting for Phase 3 of the Trail in March at Bay Township Hall. K. Stark will check availability of the hall.

### **Forest Management**

R. Maxwell reported he spoke to Lynn Stephens, trees are not marked yet, but will be once the weight restrictions on the roads are lifted.

### **Whiting Park Reservation System**

Sunrise contract is pending. Reservations are already coming in and R. Maxwell will transfer those to the system once installed. K. Shepard to follow-up on progress.

### **Old Business**

### **Plowing BC/CX trail**

The committee discussed the continued issue of residents plowing snow and parking on the non-motorized trail. R. Maxwell reported the plowing of it shouldn't harm the trail, but residents should not park on the trail. If residents continue to park on the trail, a letter will be sent.

### **Advocacy Report**

S. Vrondran encourages the committee members to attend township, city and village meetings to stay informed on local parks and recreation projects, and work together on goals. K. Shepard reported on projects that have been funded by the Parks Millage.

## **New Business**

### **Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative Report**

D. Jason attended a Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative meeting put on by the DNR on Beaver Island. Several items were talked about including: state land access to allow ORV's, outlying islands not accessible without permission, invasive species, bird surveys, installing 2 cell towers and adding 10 campsites. The goal remains to preserve the island but also promote it.

### **Parks Millage Fund – 2018 local project funding requests**

2018 Parks Millage applications were received and a summary was presented to the committee for review. 14 applications were received and 11 were deemed eligible for funding consideration by the Parks Millage Work Group. Several issues were identified by the Parks Committee, including the difficulty of the application, no more than 10K should be allocated per entity (unit of government).

Motion was made by S. Vrondran to recommend to the Board of Commissioners and others to only pay 10K per unit of government, and all other Parks Millage money should be allocated to the County Parks. Motion was seconded by B. Williams. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion passed.

### **E-Bike Law**

E-Bike law information was distributed to the committee for review.

### **Other Comments**

D. Jason asked about the Wi-Fi at Whiting Park. K. Shepard reported no new update.

B. Williams snowshoed at Porter Creek Natural Area and reported no trail markings. He suggests marking and grooming the trail with a snowmobile.

R. Maxwell reported the Top of Michigan Trails Council is seeking 50K in local match to obtain a grant for preliminary engineering for the portion of the Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail through Fisherman's Island State Park. The Trails Council needs letters of support from Charlevoix businesses by February 22<sup>nd</sup> for their grant application.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm by Dennis Jason. The next regular meeting will be at 5:30 pm on March 19, 2018

Minutes submitted by: J. Parks