

Charlevoix County Parks Committee

Meeting Minutes

10/16/2017

Members Present:

Committee members: Susan Vrondran, Tim Wieland, Pete Gaskin, Dennis Jason, Jessica Parks, Caroline Kobylczak, Brian Williams

Staff: County Commissioner Liaison Shirley Roloff, Planning Coordinator Kiersten Stark, Parks Director Ross Maxwell

Public guests: Don Lockman, Vasco and Joni Zucchiatti

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

The regular meeting of the Charlevoix County Parks Committee was called to order at 5:30 on 10/16/2017 at Whiting Park by Dennis Jason, with recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Motion was made P. Gaskin to accept the agenda; motion was seconded by T. Wieland. Voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

Public Comment

Don Lockman questioned why the agenda wasn't available for public view? R. Maxwell commented there were technical difficulties getting it posted but it was available but in a different location. D. Jason commented we will work to improve this process.

Joni Zucchiatti asked the committee what happened to the memo that was sent to the County Commissioners office regarding the boat launch. S. Vrondran stated the Parks and Recreation Committee vote/minutes were not enough for the commission to make a decision so a memo was sent. The memo was read by S. Vrondran and confirmed by S. Roloff it was received.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion was made by S.Vrondran to accept the consent agenda to include the minutes, Financial and Directors. Motion was seconded by J.Parks . Motion passed.

Old Business

Boyne City to Charlevoix Non-motorized Trail Status Report

The committee was provided the status report;

- R. Maxwell reported 70 Shrubs will be planted this week and the temporary fence will be removed.
- B. Williams commented on the 5 rail fence along the trail stating it was not visually appealing and received complaints from bikers about it. B. Williams suggests moving forward we look at other options and that the committee should get a say in the design aspects of the trail.
- Mulberry Lane bushes need additional trimming to improve visibility for traffic. Parks Director met with the home owner who was in agreement.
- D. Jason suggests sending letters to property owners regarding permission to access property farther off the road for future phases of the trail.
- A preliminary punch list was provided to the committee for review.
- K. Stark reported final cost for Phase 1 not in from NDG.

Whiting Park Wi-Fi

Aspen Wireless is working on options for the Whiting Park Wi-Fi. The connection from Ironton will not work; will need to come from Boyne City. R. Maxwell continues to work with Aspen Wireless for a solution.

Budget 2018

The 2018 Budget was submitted. Shirley confirmed it was approved. R. Maxwell informed the committee it was a great year for the Whiting Park. In 2016 camping revenue was at approximately \$50k and for 2017 approximately 52k. Building rentals were \$1630 in 2016 and \$6240 in 2017. Reservations were at \$1630 in 2016 and \$870 in 2017. Ice sales were up from \$2, 515 in 2016 to \$2936 in 2017. B.Williams suggests getting a 20% cut from wood sales. Ross will look into it in the spring but believes our current process works well.

Forest Management

The County Commissions approved the proposed tree cutting at Whiting Park areas. R. Maxwell will get the contract to Lynn Stephens to sign.

Whiting Park Projects

R. Maxwell provided an aerial drawing of Whiting Park. This included potential areas for the boat launch. Performance Engineering has a pre-application submitted with the

Department of Environmental Quality and plan on meeting the week of October 23rd to discuss a recommendation for the location. S. Vrondran suggested a board member(s) be present for the planning meeting. R. Maxwell suggested wait to see what is proposed. More information will be available at the November meeting.

Joni Zucchiatti asked if all options are being weighed. R. Maxwell reported yes, both locations will be evaluated.

R. Maxwell also reported the Kayak launch should remain and is working on making access easier. R. Maxwell provided the committee a handout with site plan features and a potential cost sharing distribution draft.

Don Lockman asked the committee if these hearings would be public, R. Maxwell stated they would be. Don also commented the State Park takes reservations up to one year in advance and should consider offering Charlevoix residence options. R. Maxwell states this is why reservations are only available for the back sites making others available to the locals. Don also asked if fees would increase if improvements are made. R. Maxwell stated fees may increase a couple dollars for non-electric sites but electric sites will remain the same keeping the park affordable.

New Business

- D. Jason stated the Parks Committee was a Commission and could contract directly with business. D. Jason stated to run effectively the committee should have the authority to make its own decisions. The committee will continue discussion at future meetings.
- D. Jason suggests the committee hire a secretary to scribe the minutes and support the Parks and Recreation Committee. S. Vrondran and T. Weiland will work together to draft a memo to send to the County Commissioners.

Motion was made by S.Vrondran to hire/pay a recording secretary out of the Parks and Recreation Budget to support the Parks and Recreation Committee endeavors. It was seconded by D. Jason. Motion passed.

- R. Maxwell informed the committee the online reservation system is close to being ready. The plan to implement will be January/February of 2018. Ross would encourage the committee members to try to use the system to work out any issues.

Other comments

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm by Dennis Jason. The next general meeting will be at 5:30 pm on November 20, 2017 at Charlevoix County Building

Minutes submitted by: J.Parks