

Charlevoix County Parks Committee

Meeting Minutes

7/18/16

Present

Pete Gaskin, Caroline Kobylczak, Dennis Jason, Jessica Parks, Susan Vrondran, Tim Wieland, Brian Williams.

County Commissioner Liaison: Shirley Roloff

Staff: Director Ross Maxwell, Planning Coordinator Kiersten Stark, Park rangers Josh Cline and Robert Brown

Opening

The regular meeting of the Charlevoix County Parks Committee was called to order at 5:30 on 7/18/16 at Whiting Park by S. Vrondan, and open with recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved, as amended. The motion to approve was made by J. Parks, and seconded by Brian Williams. Passed unanimously

Public Comment

Caroline stated that there was a “lively” discussion about the Milfoil issue in Thumb Lake at the Hudson township board meeting.

Approval of Financial Reports

Ross highlighted the Parks income through June 30th. He stated that we are above average for income so far this year.

There was a brief overview of the non-motorized trail budget. It was stated that there we be an overrun of about \$60,000 dollars due to the Zitka easement issue. A motion to approve both financial reports was made by B. Williams, and seconded by J. Parks. Passed unanimously.

Directors Report

The campground was brined for dust control. The CCRC did some maintenance on the road into the woods. Park staff cut some dead wood off the campground. There has been a few large gatherings at the upper park. Porter Creek was cleaned and the trail is drying up. There was a meeting about the encroachment of Dorn Davis property on the edge of Boyne City. NDG stated that the retaining wall is not on his property, and the DEQ said that all trail construction operations were done correctly. Paving of phase one was to start this week. The date for bid letting for phase two is still not decided. It is hoped that bid letting will be in this fiscal year. A discussion about the phase two trail crossing at U.S. 31 came up. There is a concern about the safety of the all trail users. MDOT stated that the trail did not justify a warning flasher at the time. The director’s report was approved unanimously with a motion made by P. Gaskin and seconded by D. Jason.

Old Business

- Swim buoys: The buoys cannot and will not be moved.
- Thumb Lake Milfoil: Ross met with Kiersten, Kevin **Shepard**, and Leslie ~~Elwood~~ **Helwig** met to discuss the \$10,000 payment from the parks budget to help with the cost of treatment. This will go in front of the building and grounds at their next meeting. Ross stated that he will budget \$3,000 in the parks budget for next year.
- Wireless internet for Whiting Park: Charter would cost a onetime \$99 one time installation fee, with no monthly contract. The County would have to purchase any repeaters. The monthly cost would depend on which package we chose to use, but would be in the \$60-\$125 per month range. The service would be suspended during the off season. Ross said that he budgeted for this in next year's park budget. The Parks committee approves of the addition of wireless service to the 2017 parks budget.

New Business

- 2017 Parks Budget: A new line item ~~will~~ **should** be added to the 2017 budget for the ~~Non-motorized Trail~~ **Parks Department for non-motorized trail** overages and will be funded and will be funded with any remaining 2016 Parks Budget or the general fund.
- There was discussion that we as the Park Committee feel the tax monies collected for the County Parks, should be spent on the existing county parks, not other new projects.
- Wages: Ross didn't feel that this is the correct place to discuss wages for the park staff.
- Whiting Park improvements update: A boat launch is out of the question. We need a new bath house. ~~New~~ **Electricity** and water to all campsites. Ross will take the past plans to the building and grounds meeting to start the ball rolling, with a possible construction start date of fall of 2017 or spring of 2018. We would apply for a grant or matching funds from the state to help offset the costs.
- The general thought is that the improvements will be paid off with in ten years, **or less**.
- ~~Ross and Kiersten~~ **The Parks Committee** will work on updating the capital improvement plan.
- Facebook for our parks was discussed and Ross stated that he would look into implementing the site.

Public Comment

Brian shared about his camping at the park, which was overall great, however he suggested that there be more hooks in the bathroom by the sinks. The cleanliness of the portable bathroom over the fourth of July was questioned. He also questioned the removable grates on the fire pits.

Denny stated that August 11th there will be a boat tour of Lake Charlevoix with the MSU extension to look at the environmental impacts on the lake.

Ross let the committee know that he will be working on the Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 by S. Vrondan, with a motion by P. Gaskin and seconded by D. Jason. The next general meeting will be at 5:30 on August ~~18~~ **15**, 2016, at Whiting Park.

Minutes submitted by: Tim Wieland