

Charlevoix County Parks and Recreation Committee

Monday, March 16, 2015
East Jordan City Hall Meeting Room

CALL to ORDER: The monthly meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairperson F Healey with The Pledge of Allegiance recited. All members present: P Gaskin, C Kobylczak, D Jason, F Healey, B Williams, S Vrondran, S Roloff (Commissioner's Liaison) and K Stark (Planning Coordinator). Guest: Lucas Porath, presenter from Northwest Design Group.

ELECT OFFICERS: Motion made by P Gaskin, supported by D Jason to keep same officers as 2014. Motion carried.

APPROVAL of MINUTES: P Gaskin made the motion to approve minutes of February 16, 2015, supported by C Kobylczak. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT: Lucas explained the special circumstances of the northern long-eared bat endangered species program which may change dates of when proposed trees could be cut for the Boyne City-Charlevoix Shared Use Path, Phase 1... If this happens the 'grants' will probably be extended.. April 2, 2015 will be the date that the bats issue will be determined, which will impact the starting time for the Trail! Lucas suggested that a Public Meeting for Phase 2 to be held having the County Coordinator and Planning Coordinator do this and to appeal to MDOT for over costs. Status Reports from March 9 and 12, 2015 were passed out to the members. Lucas said he will keep our Director informed and up-dated at least monthly. Ross agreed to pass this vital information on to the Committee Members through e-mail.

FINANCIAL REPORT: R Maxwell pointed out that the Fund # is now changed to 208 from 101 listed as 'Charlevoix County Parks' not 'General Fund' (per Millage election of 11/14). Department # remains as 751, while the Non-motorized Trail is separate (101- 751). On the Expenditure vs Budget Report, it was pointed out that the 972 208 Capital Projects (grant requests) accurately should be \$99,495 instead of \$100,000. C Kobylczak made the motion to accept the Financial Report, supported by P Gaskin. Motion accepted.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

* Charlevoix County Parks- received approval for Resolution for Whiting Park Boat Launch by County Commissioners (vote 4 yes 2 no); Waterways Grant basically done-\$89,000 grant request and \$89,000 County Matching Funds with estimated project costing \$178,000; Employees (Josh and Gene) returning to work April 13, 2015, S Vrondran pointed out that Charlevoix County is fortunate to have these great employees who are dedicated, experienced and willing to learn new skills; Reservations for campground and buildings continue to come in slowly; working on preventing Green Building from flooding this Spring.

* Boyne City to Charlevoix Non-motorized Trail Progress to Date- attended Road Commission meeting to give update; will have an Informational Meeting for the permits; working well with the Planning Department for more progress.

* Phase 3- received certified resolution authorizing resubmittal of project from County Commissioners; MNRTF must be submitted by April 1, 2015 deadline (\$300,000); submit MDOT-Transportation Alternative Program Grant in early April; complete and resubmit Frey Foundation Grant

(last year had to withdraw) and complete Charlevoix County Foundation Grant.

S Vrondran made the motion to accept the Directors Report, supported by B Williams. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

* 5 year Recreation Plan--Kiersten Stark, Planning Coordinator, passed out the recently approved Charlevoix County 2015--2019 Recreation Plan dated February 25, 2015, which is also posted on the website.

The committee members praised the Team for all their resourcefulness, research and meeting the many deadlines in this huge endeavor with fantastic cooperation of many Departments. Now grants can be persuaded for positive progress and enhancement of Charlevoix County. K Stark gave much of the credit to all the input from the Cities and Township's officials and residents.

* Parks Millage Fund Work Group- K Stark, briefly described the work that the group has been working on for the "Grants Process" for the Cities and Townships for the Parks and Recreation projects of Charlevoix County--developing policies, guidelines, application forms, review process and a scoring criteria for evaluation. Collaboration will be acceptable, need for recreation facility and location will be factors. All this information is planned to be on the County's website and in the newspaper as well as sent to local units of government. The County Coordinator (Kevin Shepard) is working with this Group of county residents. Applications are planned to be ready in early April; the Charlevoix County Parks and Recreation Committee were informed that they will be preliminary deciders with the County Commissioners making the final decisions.

* BC to Charlevoix Non-motorized Trail- covered in Engineer and Directors Report

* Whiting Park beach grading- Director R Maxwell has applied for the required permits with the DEQ and Corp of Engineers who now require a joint application for the beach enhancements.

* Directional signs for Whiting Park input is needed for safety so drivers to be aware of the Park approaching so they can be up for the summer season.

* Parks Committee member replacement- with S. Roloff's leaving to be a County Commissioner, there is a vacancy that the County Commissioners will appoint for replacement.

Discussion lead to our asking county residents to apply for this position for future needs of this committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Whiting Park new Boat Launch with Parking Area- proposed grant covered in Dir. Report

* Revenue increase- after much discussion, it was decided to keep the rates the same as previous years.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

S Roloff brought up the issue of 'Tobacco-Free Beaches', asking for support of clarifying the fact that this was meant for only Whiting Park and Thumb Lake Public Beaches (not all county beaches). She will pursue this with County Departments that will be helpful in resolving this situation ---enforcement, health and environmental endeavors.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by D Jason seconded by S Vrondran to adjourn meeting at 7:48 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Vrondran