

Parks Committee Minutes, July 20, 2015 @ 5:30 PM
Whiting County Park

CALL to ORDER: The monthly meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chairperson at 5:30 PM with the Members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. F Healey was absent and no Guests attending.

APPROVAL of JUNE 15, 2015 MINUTES: B Williams made the motion to approve the previous monthly minutes, supported by P Gaskin. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT--(related agenda items): B Williams commented on his stay at Whiting County Park for a week with his Family, complementing the Staff on the Park appearing remarkably 'clean'. He also recommended to replace the toilets at the campgrounds; add hooks at the showers; and establish & enforce Rules to prevent the boats from swinging so much.

FINANCIAL REPORT: After a few questions of the new forms, P Gaskin made the motion to approve the Financial Report, seconded by D Jason. Motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: In addition to the Director's written Report, R Maxwell will arrange for the volunteers (probably the Boys Scouts, residents on Lake Louise/Thumb Lake or himself) to interview the people on Saturdays & Sundays using the Thumb Lake County Park beach to calculate where these people are from, especially noting, Charlevoix, Cheboygan or Otsego County residents. Also when the removal of the 'ancient Maple tree from behind the Cabin' was reported, the Director informed us he was looking into restoring the 150 year old stump.

S Vrondran made the motion to approve the Director's Report, supported by B Williams. Motion approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- * DEQ Beach permit for Whiting County Park--waiting for permit since it has been approved to enhance the beach area (275' x 30')

- * Boyne City to Charlevoix Non-motorized Trail Phase 1,2,3-- Director Maxwell announced that the Planning Coordinator will be taking over this project. After this Committee dedicated years of grant writing and guidance for this endeavor for economic growth and recreation safety for Charlevoix County residents and visitors, hope is that we are respectfully informed and asked for input so this can be a joint project of working together for the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

- * Parks Budget- After a thorough discussion, S Vrondran made the motion to approve of Operational Expenditures ---new tractor, new tables and chairs for the green building at Whiting County Park, signs for WCP and campground renovation of WCP; supported by P Gaskin. Again after comments, the motion was amended by D Jason and seconded by S vrondran to add the actual costs of renovation--\$696,350 with \$417,810 of Charlevoix County match to the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- * Parks Millage update-- Kiersten Stark, Planning Coordinator--informed us that there are 8 applicants for one third of the Parks and Recreation Millage (3 cities, 1 village & 4 townships). She continued to tell us how this process will continue this year, with the Parks Committee allowed to see the applications, but only the Work Group is scoring, at our next meeting, then the County Commissioners approve.

D Jason commented that he was disappointed that these applicants are taking away from Charlevoix County Parks and Recreation needs that would have been spent wiser for all County needs. S Vrondran

added that is why it was a low number of applicants with 4 out of 15 townships because most of the residents she discussed the millage purpose with understood and voted to have their tax dollars spent wisely for the County Parks and Recreation only.

* Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail addition to 5-year Recreation Plan--a hand-out was given out showing the many groups sponsoring this huge project--Top of Michigan Trails Council, T-A-R-T Trails, Grand Traverse Land Conservancy, Networks Northwest and National Park Service. Many details are being worked on through Fisherman Island State Park at this time.

* Thumb Lake Park development in cooperation with Otsego and Cheboygan Counties--C Kobylczak said she would ask the Fire Chief, Sean Bulman to assist in the research of this work.

PUBLIC COMMENT:--S Roloff was asked to share with the Committee information she had from the County Board meeting on the Beaver Island Water Trail. The County Commission has endorsed the concept of the Beaver Island Water Trail, as of July 8, 2015. R. Maxwell then gave us a brochure of Lake Michigan Water Trail/Guide.

B Williams mentioned with our many plans and needs for more resources that we should consider putting a 'donation box' on a post @ Porter Creek or for the boat launch. S Vrondran agreed and volunteered to check into this possibility.

ADJOURNMENT: D Jason made the motion, supported by S Vrondran to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Next meeting at Whiting Park---August 17, 2015 at 5:30 P M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Vrondran