

# Charlevoix County Parks Committee

## Meeting Minutes

05/15/2017

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Charlevoix County Parks Committee was called to order at 5:30 pm on 05/15/2017 at Whiting Park by Dennis Jason.

### **Members Present:**

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

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

**Member Absent:** Brian Williams

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

P. Gaskin led the pledge of allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda**

S. Vrondran requested to add Wi-Fi at Whiting Park and an update on the Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail project to the agenda.

Motion was made by P. Gaskin to accept the additions to the agenda, motion was seconded by C. Kobylczak. Motion passed.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion was made by T. Wieland to accept the consent agenda, which included the draft minutes, Financial and Director's Reports. Motion was seconded by S. Vrondran. Motion passed.

### **Old Business**

- Boyne City to Charlevoix Non-motorized Trail Status Report

#### ***PHASE I***

- A site visit to the Grams property was conducted to follow up on a storm water runoff complaint. The project engineer will contact the contractor to discuss solutions.
- Preparing Grant reimbursement request to the DNR for the Trust Fund Grant

- Trees were planted on the Cikalo property
- Temporary fence is still up at the Davis property. A permanent fence is not required, according to the project engineer. Kiersten suggested the possibility of planting shrubs along the retaining wall to help provide a visual barrier. The committee discussed, and suggested a letter be sent to notify Mr. Davis that a permanent fence is not necessary. The committee emphasized the need to remove the temporary fence. Kiersten will follow up with the engineer.

### ***PHASE II.***

- Construction started.
- Concerns from the Whitley property about trees removed last year and they have concerns that passersby on the trail may trespass on their property to see their pigs. Suggestions were made to do landscaping versus a fence/gate.
- 2 benches being installed once trail is complete, Summer 2017.

### ***PHASE III***

- Bay Township committed \$33K in local match
- Charlevoix County Community Foundation approved an \$8K grant.
- Submitted MI Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application.
- Applying for TAP grant through MDOT. Need to submit a long term plan for the trail.
- Need to finalize Park of the Pines Trailhead - in process. Need zoning approval.
- Susan suggests Bicycle Club needs to contribute more, **since they suggested the added cost of restrooms to the trail.**

-The committee did not receive a copy of the final Parks Millage appropriations for local parks and recreation projects. Kiersten will obtain a copy for the committee.

- Benches for Phase 1 of the Trail are assembled and need to plan for concrete.

- Boat launch grant application for Whiting Park originally turned down. The DNR can now fund the project. The committee discussed. The local match for this project is \$98K (50% of total project cost), and there are concerns there is no funding available at this time to meet the local match requirement. Ross will follow up.

- Wi-Fi for Whiting Park remains unresolved. Kiersten reported that the County will be establishing a fiber optic line for high-speed Internet from Boyne City toward Boyne Falls, and it's possible the County might be able to have a Wi-Fi signal transmitted from Boyne City to Whiting Park. Kiersten to follow up with the County Administrator regarding the feasibility and timeline. Wi-Fi service is also available through Charter Internet. The Committee discussed. They would like to see Wi-Fi service established at

Whiting Park as soon as possible. Ross advised postponing it until improvements have been made at the campground. Kiersten was asked to obtain updated quotes for Wi-Fi service from Charter.

- Dennis reported on concerns among farmers in Antrim County with respect to the proposed Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail. Their concerns include how the presence of a trail could impact crop spraying activities and the potential of passersby on the trail picking fruit from the fruit trees. It was noted that some of the local communities in Antrim County have withdrawn their support for the trail project due to these concerns. The Committee discussed the issue. Kiersten said she did not anticipate this would end the project.

### **New Business**

- Ross is preparing the online reservation system for campground reservations at Whiting Park. Ross gave a demonstration for the committee members following the meeting.

- Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative meeting on Beaver Island went well. Dennis and Ross attended and they will meet again in August.

- Porter Creek Natural Area – Ross is working on fixing the driveway and looking into a foot bridge.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm by Dennis Jason. The next regular meeting will be at 5:30 pm on June 19, 2017 at Thumb Lake Park.

Minutes submitted by:

J. Parks  
Secretary