

EATON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

December 1, 2021

The Eaton County Parks and Recreation Commission met at Lincoln Brick Park.

PRESENT: Duane Eldred, Eric Deibel, Brian Droscha, Jack Duffy, Sarah Ferguson, Jon Horford, and Barbara Rogers

ABSENT: Alisa Gonzales-Pennington and Jane Whitacre

GUESTS: None

STAFF: Troy Stowell – Director, Jackie Blanc – Operations Manager/Naturalist, Melody Smalley – Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ferguson called the Parks Commission meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

2. INTRODUCTIONS/CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by Droscha, second by Rogers to approve the December agenda and November minutes. **Motion carried.**

4. STAFF REPORTS

- Stowell gave a brief overview of Crystal Smith's Recreation and Events report that was distributed by email.
- Blanc gave a brief overview of her naturalist programs and operational projects in the parks that was distributed by email.
- Stowell gave a brief overview of his report that was distributed by email.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion made by Rogers, seconded by Droscha, to receive the November Master Voucher and November Financial Reports. **Motion carried.**

7. PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

A. **Friends of Eaton County Parks** – No report

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. **“Restore Our Parks” Long Term Revenue Subcommittee Report**

Chairman Ferguson stated the FOECP were in the stage of final edits for the questions to be asked by the Marketing Resource Group for a millage polling. The edits are due by December 10th and survey should be completed by December 31st.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Keehne Environmental Area Discussion/Concerns**

Chairman Ferguson stated the FOECP has been made aware of conditions at Keehne Environmental Area. Discussion was held of the ongoing issues of graffiti on the boardwalk, trash being left in the area, and the maintenance of boardwalk. A couple of contributing factors were identified: The lack of police presence and community support from Bellevue. Staff will work with the Village and FOECP on stakeholder meetings regarding the park.

B. **Kiwanis Manor Proposal – Regional Connector Trail**

Stowell stated the Parks Department has been invited back on December 16th for further discussion of the proposal that was presented for a connector trail between Charlotte and Eaton Rapids. The proposal outlined the need for a professional engineered study as well as the possibility of using funds as leverage against MDNR/MDOT TAP funds for development.

C. **City of Grand Ledge 2022 Mowing Contract Discussion**

Discussion was held on the pros and cons of renewing the mowing contract with the City of Grand Ledge. Pros: Revenue generated and keeps a good line of communication with the City of Grand Ledge. Cons: Parks department staffing issues over the past couple of years. Motion made by Eldred, Second by Deibel to pursue the contract again in 2022 with an increase in charge for services. **Motion carried.**

D. **2022 Parks Commission Meeting Dates**

Stowell presented proposed dates and times for 2022 Park Commission Meetings. Motion made by Eldred, Second by Deibel to approve the dates and times for 2022 meetings as presented. **Motion carried.**

10. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT

None

11. OTHER BUSINESS

None

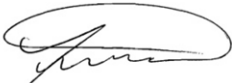
12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None

13. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for January 5th at 6:00 p.m. at Lincoln Brick Park, 13991 Tallman Road, Grand Ledge. There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made. The regular meeting was adjourned by Chairman Ferguson at 7:01 p.m.

For the Commission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Stowell', is written over a horizontal line.

Troy Stowell- Director of Eaton County Parks
MLS