

PUBLIC WORKS & PLANNING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Brian Lautzenheiser, Jim Mott, Terrance Augustine, Joseph Brehler, Blake Mulder, Barbara Rogers and Jane Whitacre

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jeremy Whittum and Brian Droscha; Travis Keeton, Chris Garrison, Morgan Feldpausch, Claudine Williams, and John Fuentes

The June 8, 2022 regular meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Lautzenheiser.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Whitacre moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2022 meeting, as presented. Commissioner Mott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Parks Director, Travis Keeton, was present to provide the Department's monthly update. An update was provided on staffing, and the summer recreation and programming season. It was also reported that the proposed special use application has been finalized and is being submitted for legal review. Discussion held.

Commissioner Augustine discussed his recommendation that the County work to reach a long-term lease renewal for Fitzgerald Park with the City of Grand Ledge. Discussion held.

There was also discussion regarding the consideration for seeking a Parks Millage for development, maintenance and operations. There was discussion that previous estimates included consideration for land acquisition and regional trail development. There was further discussion on the need to review and update a millage funding plan to support a millage question. The Parks Director will work in conjunction with the Controller/Administrator to develop a plan for the Committee's review at its next meeting. There was further discussion that the plan include a local unit grant or distribution formula.

Commissioner Augustine moved to provide the Committee's support to the Ways and Means Committee for the consideration of a Parks Millage question for the November 2022 election. Commissioner Whitacre seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Construction Code Enforcement Director, Chris Garrison, was present to provide the Department's monthly update. The monthly reports were included in the meeting materials for the Committee's review. A proposed consolidated code enforcement ordinance was presented for consideration. As report at the last regular meeting the State recommended the proposed revisions to simplify the County's administration of the Codes going forward. The proposed ordinance will replace the seven separate ordinances currently in effect in the County. Discussion held.

Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend adoption of the consolidated code ordinance to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Mott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Morgan Feldpausch, Resource Recovery Coordinator, was present to provide the monthly update for the Designated Implementing Agency. It was reported that the Recycling Workgroup received and reviewed the consultant's report and evaluation of the County's current system of programs. The report also included long-term alternatives for consideration. Discussion held.

The initial recommendation was for the County to pursue a Michigan Materials Management County Engagement grant. The grant would provide \$10,000 to continue the planning process. Discussion held.

Commissioner Brehler moved to recommend approval of a resolution authorizing the grant application, as presented. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried.

An update was provided on the Solid Waste Alternative Grant Program. As a result of the ongoing system evaluation underway it is recommended that current grantees be notified of the County's intent to approve continuation funding for FY 22/23 based on current grant awards in lieu of an application process. Discussion held, regarding the possible closure of current grantee collection programs and sites.

Commissioner Augustine moved to accept the Department recommendation and notify current local grantees of the County's intent to award continuation grants based on current awards for FY 22/23. Commissioner Mulder seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

It was also reported that the County received proposals for the development of a campus place making plan, in conjunction with proposals received for the County Master Plan develop project, to be discussed by the Community Development Director.

Community Development Director, Claudine Williams was present to provide the Department's monthly update. It was reported that responses to the County's requests for proposals to update the County Master Plan were received and reviewed by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission recommended accepting the proposal submitted by ROWE for the project. As part of the proposal process, bidders were requested to submit a stand-alone proposal for the development of the campus place making plan discussed by Ms. Feldpausch. The preferred vendor for the project is also ROWE. Discussion held.

Commissioner Mulder moved to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and Resource Recovery Coordinator and award the master plan and place making contracts based on the proposal submitted by ROWE. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

An update on the Emergency Repair Program Income funds currently scheduled to be returned to the State on June 30th was provided. The department has received over 50 inquiries of interest based on media coverage of the availability of loan funds. The inquiries have not resulted in applications for loans. There was additional discussion regarding amending the program guidelines to allow for the funds to be distributed as grants. After further discussion the Committee took no action to provide for loans,. Further the Committee directed the Department to make further contact with those who have received the application information to assess interest before considering making a request to the State for an extension.

A draft of other proposed administrative amendments to the Emergency Repair Program guidelines was presented. Each individual amendment was reviewed and discussed.

Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend approval of the amendments to the Emergency Repair Program guidelines, as discussed, to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Brehler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mulder discussed the status of the Parks Commission in light of legal analysis provided to the Committee at its last meeting.

Commissioner Mulder moved to recommend a resolution to the Board of Commissioners to abolish the Parks Commission under PA 261 of 1965 and enact a County Parks and Recreation System under PA 156 of 1917. Commissioner Brehler seconded. Discussion held.

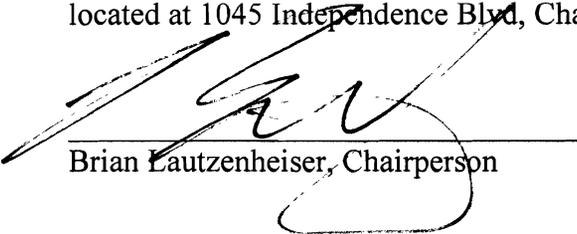
Commissioner Droscha, a current Board of Commissioner's representative on the Parks Commission re-iterated his opposition to this consideration indicating he does not feel the Board of Commissioners had the interest to administer the Parks at the same level the current Parks Commission does. Further discussion held.

Motion carried. Commissioner Rogers opposed.

Public Comment: Riley Spayde, member of the Friends of Eaton County Parks expressed his appreciation for the discussion regarding the support and consideration for seeking approval of the Parks Millage, which he views as a quality of life issue.

Chairperson Lautzenheiser adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee will be held at 9:00am on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte MI 48813.



Brian Lautzenheiser, Chairperson