

EATON COUNTY PARKS

133 FITZGERALD PARK DR.
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 627-7351 office
(517) 627-4234 fax
www.eatoncountyparks.org

EATON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

October 6, 2021

The Eaton County Parks and Recreation Commission met at Ross & Associates, 147 Main Street Eaton Rapids.

PRESENT: Eric Deibel, Brian Droscha, Jack Duffy, Sarah Ferguson, Alisa Gonzales-Pennington, Jon Horford, Barbara Rogers, and Jane Whitacre

ABSENT: Duane Eldred

GUESTS: None

STAFF: Troy Stowell-Director, Jackie Blanc-Operations Manager/Naturalist, and Crystal Smith – Recreation and Events Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ferguson called the Parks Commission meeting to order at 6:52 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

2. INTRODUCTIONS/CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Ferguson welcomed the group and thanked Commissioner Barbara Rogers for securing the meeting space in Eaton Rapids.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by Droscha, second by Deibel to approve the consent agenda that included the October agenda and September minutes. **Motion carried.**

4. STAFF REPORTS

- Crystal Smith's updated the commission on summer/fall programs and activities.
- Jacki Blanc gave an update on her naturalist programs and operational projects in the parks.
- Director Stowell gave a brief overview of his report that was distributed by email.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. Master Voucher

September Master Vouchers was received. Motion made by Droscha, second by Rogers, to receive the Master Vouchers. **Motion carried.**

B. Financial Report

September Financial Report was received. Motion made by Droscha, second by Rogers, to receive the Financial Reports. **Motion carried.**

7. PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

A. Friends of Eaton County Parks – Chairman Ferguson gave a report in behalf of the Friends Organization detailing the Annual Fundraising Dinner which was held at Sanctuary Sprit in Grand Ledge on Sunday September 26, 2021. Financial report has not been finalized, however the group is expecting to net more than \$4,000 in proceeds.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. "Restore Our Parks" Long Term Revenue Subcommittee Report

Chairman Ferguson reported that the group is looking to meet with and potentially get under contract a public relations firm to assist in public opinion polling and branded messaging in the lead up to a potential parks millage initiative in 2022.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Vice Chair Election

Motion by Droscha, support by Rogers to elect Jonathon Horford as the Commission Vice President. **Motion carried.**

B. Crandell Trail Development Discussion

Director Stowell gave an update to the Commission in regards to planned development of 2.5+ miles of trail encircling the lake at Crandell Park, with construction to begin in October. Discussion was held in regards to additional trail-side amenities including an outdoor fitness gym, kayak/canoe cleaning station, signage and benches.

C. Crandell Phased Development Discussion

Director Stowell introduced a document supplied by Beckett & Raeder which highlights 8 phases of proposed development at Crandell Park. The document included engineer estimate pricing with value engineered savings identified as well. Overall costs would be \$7,631,356.17 (\$6,907,063.17 value engineered) for development based on the latest conceptual plan. The plan identifies \$3,856,216.89 in hard scape infrastructure such as roads, utilities and parking lots.

10. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT

None

11. OTHER BUSINESS

None

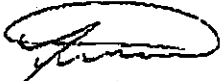
12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None

13. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2021 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 8:24 p.m.

For the Commission,



Troy Stowell- Director of Eaton County Parks

MLS