
Chair

Tim Machowicz, Citizen Rep.

Vice-Chair

Chuck Nelson, Citizen Rep.

Secretary

Phil Hanses, Drain Commissioner

Members

Dwight Washington, BOC Rep.

Dave Pohl, BOC Rep.

Roni Christmas, Planning Comm. Rep.

Kevin Holt, Road Comm. Rep.

James Graham, Pat Jackson and

Natalie Elkins, Citizen Rep.



Clinton County Parks and Greenspace Commission

Clinton County

Parks and
Green Space

**Staff**

Kyle Thornton
Parks and Greenspace
Coordinator

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MINUTES

PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

August 7, 2020 AT 8:30 A.M.

Motz Park - 4630 N. Dewitt Rd, St. Johns, MI 48879

I. Call to Order - Declaration of Quorum

Chair Tim Machowicz declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 8:35AM

Members Present: Tim Machowicz, Chuck Nelson, Phil Hanses, Dave Pohl, Natalie Elkins, Roni Christmas, James Graham, Kevin Holt

Guests Present: Barry Culham, Gayla Phillips, Kam Washburn

Staff Present: Kyle Thornton

A. Approval of August 7, 2020 Agenda

Moved by Roni Christmas, seconded by Natalie Elkins, to approve the August 7, 2020 meeting Agenda. Motion carried.

B. Approval August 7, 2020 Per Diems

Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Kevin Holt, to approve the August 7, 2020 meeting Per Diems. Motion carried.

C. Approval of July 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Kevin Holt, to approve the July 10, 2020 meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

Kam Washburn, the Chair of the Clinton County Board of Commissioners addressed the board with an update of COVID-19 with the county offices. Mr. Washburn mentioned that both the County Jail and 911 Operational Center have remained COVID-19 free while remaining to be staffed 24-7. He further went on to congratulate the Parks & Greenspace Staff for getting the parks open so fast leading up to Memorial Day Weekend and keeping

the facility clean and sanitary, as he has received lots of great feedback from guest of the parks. Mr. Washburn mentioned the retirement of Ryan Wood and the promotion of Craig Longnecker to the County Administrator and every road mileage passed in the primary elections. As for Courthouse operations Mr. Washburn mentioned the county is getting though COVID-19 and Smith Hall is being used for jury selection.

III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton

- A. Kyle Thornton reported the parks continue to remain busy both during the week and on the weekends and he is putting a plan together for end of the season closing. He also reported unfortunately staff levels have dropped in half due to one ranger being released of his duties and another unable to work due to contact with COVID-19. This ranger was tested negative, but cannot return to work until at least August 15th. Kyle has mentioned two of the remaining rangers are schedule to start going back to college as early as August 14th.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Water Based Recreation – Phil Hanses

- B. Non-Motorized Facilities – Chuck Nelson/Dave Pohl

- County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
- FMCIS Trail

Dave commented that the trail is looking good with being sprayed and cut back. Chair Barry Culham gave an update on the CIS Trail, which included lengthy discussion on the Trail Authority and the possibility of expanding to adding an additional two or three counties plus options for the future with staffing and volunteers. The trail traffic has increased over the summer with COVID-19 and they recently completed some seal coating on the trail though St. Johns. Natalie mentioned with college students possible not going back to campuses, it might be a good opportunity to obtain an intern or two. Roni asked how trail benches are paid for and Barry mentioned the cost of the materials is donated by the public.

- C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington

- D. Finance Committee – Tim Machowicz

Kyle reported finances look good and is expecting to have enough funds remaining to build additional benches and picnic tables for the Clinton Lakes beach. Chuck mentioned to look at Campgrounds-R-U's at the shade picnic areas they have built. He also mentioned as Roni has said people might be willing to donate/sponsor the materials.

- E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson/Jim Graham

Chuck reported the Grassland has seen growth of cottonwood trees on the south end. He asked Kyle to look into the option of getting the cottonwood infested area brush hogged.

- F. Southern County Park Search Team

G. Health Committee – Dwight Washington

V. Old Business

A. Covid-19

- a. Kyle provided updated graphs from Marcus Cheatham with the Mid-Michigan District Health Department. The data shows that COVID-19 is increasing though the county.

B. Summer Rangers

- a. This was reported under coordinator report.

VI. New Business

A. Invasive Species Motz and Clinton Lakes

- a. Kyle reported information from Kelcie Sweeney, the Clinton County Conservation District is working on a plan to remove and treat invasive species around the parks this fall. Kelcie also included in her email the Fall Tree Sale is going to be using the driveway of the maintenance building for order pickup. The curbside pickup will be Thursday, October 1st from 1pm-6pm and Friday, October 2nd from 9-noon.
- b. Phil and Kyle have been in contact with Dean Morton to see about the options of spraying the phragmites at the park this fall. Dean advised that late August to mid-September would be the most ideal times to apply the application.

B. Clinton Lakes Project

- a. Kyle reported the Clinton County Board of Commissioners voted to start moving forward with the Clinton Lakes Improvements projects. On July 31, 2020, the Spicer Group completed a day of surveying the area for the improvements.

C. Pesticide Applicator Certification

- a. Kyle reported he has looked into what is needed to obtain his pesticide license over the course of the winter.

VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items

- A. Barry thanked the Commission for allowing him to attend the meetings each month.

VIII. Adjournment –Next Meeting:

Friday, September 11, 2020 at 8:30 am
Motz Park
4630 N. Dewitt Rd, St. Johns, MI 48879

Moved by Natalie Elkins, seconded by Dave Pohl to adjourn the meeting until Friday, September 11, 2020. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32AM