

Chair
Tim Machowicz, Citizen Rep.

Vice-Chair
Chuck Nelson, Citizen Rep.

Secretary
Phil Hanes, 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



Staff
Kyle Thornton
Parks and Greenspace
Coordinator

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MINUTES

PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

September 11, 2020 AT 8:30 A.M.

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

I. Call to Order - Declaration of Quorum

Coordinator Kyle Thornton declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 8:48AM

Members Present: Phil Hanes, Dave Pohl, Natalie Elkins, James Graham, Kevin Holt, Patricia Jackson, Dwight Washington

Guests Present: Seth Gibson

Staff Present: Kyle Thornton, Craig Longnecker, Todd Campbell

- A. Approval of September 11, 2020 Agenda
Moved by Phil Hanes, seconded by Patricia Jackson, to approve the September 11, 2020 meeting Agenda. Motion carried.
- B. Approval September 11, 2020 Per Diems
Moved by Dave Pohl, seconded by Natalie Elkins, to approve the September 11, 2020 meeting Per Diems. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of August 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Moved by Natalie Elkins, seconded by Patricia Jackson, to approve the August 7, 2020 meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

Todd Campbell was introduced as the Deputy County Administrator.

Seth Gibson reported the DNR grants are reinstated and the Clinton Conservation District can resume work on habitat work. CISMA was able to hire a new coordinator.

Jerry reported an email came in late Thursday night from the DNR with a preliminary score of 250 out of 500 for the MNRTF Acquisition Grant. He mentioned that the grant has received top scores in all available sections, except for the 25 points for being part of a Green Infrastructure Plan. Jerry reminded the board that the MNRTF scoring has many hundreds of points tied into points with projects with Great Lakes Property, Mega Projects or Significant Natural Resource. The PGSC members agreed with Jerry to pursue talking to Tri County Regional Planning Commission about the Greening Mid-Michigan project and try to pursue obtaining the additional 25 points.

III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton

- A. Kyle Thornton talked to the board about options for PGSC meeting for October, November and December with Motz Park being closed. Options mentioned included Zoom meeting or hosting a face to face meeting at Smith Hall.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Water Based Recreation – Phil Hanses, nothing to report

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

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

Dave reported the trails have settled nice and are in decent shape this year.

- C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington mentioned access to a lot of things has been difficult, but with park accessible it shows how important they are to the communities. Kyle mentioned Able Eyes is using their resources to promote Motz Park. Plus Kyle has been working with the County IT Department, so this winter the Parks and Greenspace website can be redesigned to promote Universal Access with the Able Eyes project.

- D. Finance Committee – Tim Machowicz

Kyle reported finances look good and everything is on task for the Parks and Greenspace 2020 budget. Craig Longnecker mentioned that the Parks and Greenspace Department is not expected to see large scale cuts with the 2020 or 2021 budget.

- E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson/Jim Graham

Jim mentioned that he noticed the Grassland was being cut down. Kyle reported the Maintenance Department has spent a few days cutting cottonwoods out of the south end of the Grassland and is planning cutting more if time and weather allow.

- F. Southern County Park Search Team, Jerry reported on the status of the grant under public comment.

G. Health Committee – Dwight Washington opened up discussion on Climate Change. He presented that the Board of Commissioners looking into Climate Change and/or global warming. They are looking to see how different departments within the County and communities address and feel about global warming. With greenspaces naturally reducing carbon emissions, he mentioned that Parks and Greenspace would be a good asset to have some input now what the plan looks like and will mean, as it is in the initial stages. Dwight let everyone know that if anyone in this group, schools and conservation district wanted to join the brainstorming that the additional input is welcome. Jerry mentioned the Healthy Community Coalition would be another valuable resource, Kyle told Dwight he would connect him to the Healthy Community Coalition.

V. Old Business

A. Invasive Species Motz and Clinton Lakes (32:06)

a. Seth reported that the CCD has walked the grounds of the parks to identify invasive species. The grounds looked to be in good shape, with a few spots of small manageable patches of phragmites. He mentioned the area between Big and Little Clinton Lakes has a lot of Honey Locust which would be beneficial to remove. The plan put together by the CCD will be more beneficial when the STRIKE Team CISMA is able to get boots on the ground at the parks.

B. Clinton Lakes Improvement Project

a. Kyle mentioned that Joe Wright with the Spicer Group is expecting to have some designs on paper to review sooner rather than later. Craig reported the LWCF Grant is noticing delays, due to the pandemic and tribal historic preservation offices closed or operating on a limited basis during this time. Plus the Department of Interior is transitioning to a new software on September 30, 2020, which will delay the ability to issue project agreements until January of 2021.

VI. New Business

A. Waterfowl Hunt

a. Kyle reported new this year the hunting applications are available on the Clinton County's website. The applications have gone paperless, but a paper copy could still be provided if someone needs a paper copy. The Waterfowl hunt has been promoted on the Clinton County website and Facebook page, along with press releases to local newspapers and emails sent to the 2019 hunters. As of September 10, 2020 the parks department had received 10 hunting applications.

B. Fall Hours

a. Kyle mentioned the fall hours have been posted at the parks and online. The park bathrooms and main gate will be closed as of September 20, 2020. He also reported the bathhouse will be winterized on September 28, 2020. Jerry mentioned this year we should make sure all the picnic tables make it under cover for the winter.

VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items

A. Dave said that he has talked to the new owner of the property to the south of Motz Park and was trying to connect Kyle with the new owner of the property.

- B. Craig provided a public thank you to Kyle and the park rangers on job well done for the summer of 2020.
- C. Kyle also provided an updated COVID-19 township map from the Health Department website was provided.

VIII. Adjournment –Next Meeting:

Friday, October 2, 2020 at 8:30 am
Smith Hall, 800 Sickles Street, St. Johns, MI 48879

Moved by Kevin Holt, seconded by Dave Pohl to adjourn the meeting until Friday, October 2, 2020. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:36AM