

Chair
Chuck Nelson, Citizen Rep.

Vice-Chair
Jack Enderle, BOC Rep.

Secretary
Phil Hanses, Drain Commissioner

Members
Jamie Clover Adams, BOC Rep.
Bob Kudwa, Planning Comm. Rep.
Don Sisung, Road Commission Rep.
Don Potts, Pat Jackson, Andrea
Polverento and Tim Machowicz,
Citizen Representatives



CLINTON COUNTY PARKS AND GREEN SPACE COMMISSION

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Staff
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COORDINATOR'S REPORT

March 2012

ACTIVITIES:

The Birth of a Lake Continues ...



Lake Basin – August 1, 2011



Lake Basin – October 26, 2011



Lake Basin – December 28, 2011



Lake Basin – February 22, 2012

St. John Knights of Columbus All-Terrain Wheelchair Project

Knights of Columbus Council members successfully completed fund raising efforts to purchase a second all-terrain wheelchair for use at Motz County Park. The new chair was received on Monday, February 13 and immediately sent to Clinton County Building and Grounds Department for assembly. The Commission offers a heartfelt "Thank you" to members of St. John KC Council for purchase of a Mobi-chair valued at \$2,179. The gift of the Mobi-Chair provides opportunity for physically challenged visitors to enjoy the out-of-doors in new and beneficial ways. Rather than watching family and friends recreate from afar, the Mobi-Chair enables wheelchair-users to be nearby and part of the action. The best "thank you" to Council members will come from smiling faces and expressions of well-being of Mobi-Chair users.

Fred Meijer C-I-S Trail

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has been awarded a \$300,000 grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for Phase I development of the trail. Phase I will allow paving of the trail within the municipal boundaries of City of St. Johns and Villages of Muir, Pewamo, Fowler and Ovid; a cumulative 8 miles of trail development.

A \$2.4 million grant application is pending consideration for Federal Transportation Enhancement funds for Phase II development. A decision on the application is possible by April. Phase II work includes non-paved surfacing of the rural segments of the trail and bridge work along the full 42-mile corridor between the cities of Owosso and Ionia.

An effort spearheaded by Friends of the Fred Meijer CIS Trail is underway to obtain funding from counties and municipalities along the trail corridor as well as The Fred Meijer Foundation to meet cash match requirements for both grants.

Passport Recreation Program Grant

The County Board Finance and Personnel Committee gave preliminary approval for submittal of a grant application to the Passport Recreation Program in the amount of \$8,200. Final approval will be considered at the County Board's February 28 regular monthly meeting.

The grant, if awarded, will finance construction of a vault toilet and planting of 15 shade trees at Francis Motz County Park. The vault toilet will serve visitors who fish or walk the perimeter lake trail during the cold weather months when the modern beach house is closed for use. Planting of shade trees will add to 26 trees planted in 2011. The park presently offers little shade for visitor comfort. It will be five or more years before existing and proposed trees grow to a size that provides practical shade; however, someday the picnic area will have a forest canopy above it.

Universal Access Committee

The Universal Access Committee met on February 15 to review plans by the City of St. Johns to construct a water spray park on the site of the closed swimming pool and a recreational development proposal for Rotary Trailside Park. Five committee members were present, including two new members. Committee members expressed support for both City projects. Recreation Director Bill Schafer and Community Development Director Steve Wagner presented the proposals. Meeting Minutes will reflect a number of design or operational suggestions made by the members to enhance the projects for individuals with different abilities.

The proposed Passport Recreation Program Grant project was presented for review. The members voiced satisfaction with the design of the vault toilet. The only recommendation heard was to install an area light to illuminate the toilet structure and adjoining parking area.

Committee members were thanked for the support and ideas given to the Motz County Park Development project. The five design awards made to the County were displayed for viewing.

BILL EARL YOUTH FISHING PROGRAM

Mid-Michigan Steelheaders will conduct this program at Motz County Park on Saturday, May 12 to introduce area youth to the sport of fishing. The organization will also conduct programs in Ingham and Eaton County on other dates. It is a wonderful program and youth participants will be given a personal fishing rod, reel and tackle to take home with them. John Hesse, Program Chairperson, will attend the March 2 Commission meeting to provide program information and answer questions.

Mid-Michigan Steelheaders recently established a committee for the purpose of creating and publishing a "fishing map" for this area of mid-Michigan. John provided me with an electronic copy of an Oakland County fishing map, which is the model for the mid-Michigan map. The Oakland County map will be included in the March 2 meeting packet.

Other Duties Assigned to Parks and Green Space Coordinator

- Agricultural Preservation Board – Administration Staff Liaison
- Community Development Department – General Management
- "Authorized Organization Representative" for Federal Grants