

ISABELLA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vasold at 6:00 pm.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Craig Clingan, Jeremy Murphy, Jordan Bruursema, Bob Busch, John Dinse, Randy Vasold, Bob Willoughby and Frank Engler

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Travis Keeton, Tim O'Neil

OTHERS PRESENT

Director Sue Ann Kopmeyer, Parks Supervisor Kurt Burnia, Assistant Parks Supervisor Emma Vanacker, Office Clerk Nichole Miller, Alternate County Commissioner Terry Hutchinson

INTRODUCTIONS

N/A

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda which was accepted as presented (Willoughby/Clingan).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Director called for Chairman Nominations.

It was moved (Busch/Dinse) to nominate Randy Vasold as Chairman.

Moved (Engler/Dinse) to close nominations and have a unanimous ballot cast for Randy Vasold as Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

Newly reelected Chairperson Vasold called for Vice-Chair Nominations.

It was moved (Engler/Willoughby) to nominate John Dinse as Vice Chairman.

Moved (Engler/Murphy) to close nominations and have a unanimous ballot cast for John Dinse as Vice Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Vasold called for Secretary Nominations.

It was moved (Murphy/Busch) to nominate Craig Clingan as Secretary.

Moved (Engler/Murphy) to close nominations and have a unanimous ballot cast for Craig Clingan as Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

The December 1, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed. **It was moved**

(Willoughby/Busch) to approve the December 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion

carried unanimously.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Busch stated that he received a call from a county resident, Wendy Hovee, regarding the dogs not being allowed on groomed trails during the winter months at Deerfield Nature Park. The Director noted she spoke with the resident and that the signage has been updated to state if the trails are ungroomed, dog walking is welcome.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Director presented the bills for December 2021 as well as January 2022. **It was moved (Engler/Clingan) to approve the Financial Summary Report for December 2021 as well as January 2022 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

CAMPGROUND SUMMARY REPORT

Director Kopmeyer gave an update on the Campground Summary Report for January 2022.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Parks

Winter signage at Deerfield Nature Park has been updated.

The cross-country ski trails have not been able to be groomed yet this winter due to lack of snow. There needs to be 6-8 inches of snow in order to groom.

The sledding hill has been popular this season.

Park Staff has been working on painting the interior of the cabins at Herrick Recreation Area.

Events

The Frigid Doe Ice Bowl Disc Golf Tournament was on January 15. Commissioner Clingan noted they had a great turnout this year and raise \$2,500 for EightCAP.

Employee/Volunteers

Seasonal positions are now being advertised. The seasonal positions needed are Park Managers, Park Rangers, Gate Attendants and Night Rangers.

Incidents/Accidents

Two Park Staff members were subpoenaed as witnesses regarding an August 2020 incident at Deerfield Nature Park.

Projects/Capital

The County Parks recently sold two Ford trucks and one dump truck on Ranger Bid. A new truck, stand-on lawn mower and two gators were recently purchased through MiDeal.

Opening Day for reservations begins February 10 and 9:00am for online reservations and

February 16 at 9:00am for over the phone reservations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Coldwater Lake/Beal City Public Sewage Meeting

The Director noted that Beal City received an extension for their project and it must now be completed by June 15, 2022. The Coldwater Lake area project has now been pushed back and is expected to begin in 2023.

Deerfield Nature Park – Chippewa River Erosion Project

The mandatory meeting was held last week at the Deerfield Township Hall. One company sent a representative, who also was at the first mandatory meeting before the rebid.

Meridian Park – Acquisition Project

Through the grant, \$85,000 was awarded for the acquisition. Isabella County Parks and Recreation will put forth a \$30,000 match for the acquisition. The grant now has to be approved by Congress; this process may take 3-4 months.

Deerfield Nature Park Memorial

No update at this time.

Deerfield Nature Park Turn Lane

MDOT is still looking into this and will be in contact with the Director. Director Kopmeyer called MDOT on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 to request an update and is hopeful for one soon.

2022 Meeting Schedule

The Director asked the Parks Commission to look at the dates and at the next meeting the summer locations for the Commission meetings will be finalized.

NEW BUSINESS

Open Meetings Act

The Director noted that there have been changes to the Open Meetings Act as of the new year. Commissioner Engler stated that all public officials must attend the meetings in person to be able to count towards a quorum or to vote. The public as well as speakers do not have to attend in person. Commissioner Engler did note that there are special exemptions for some groups.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Hutchinson noted that he believes new County Administrator Nicole Frost is doing a great job so far.

Commissioner Engler stated that the County recently ended their State of Emergency from the pandemic.

Commissioner Busch stated that the Isabella County Road Commission audit is finished. He also noted he is excited to host the March Isabella County Parks and Recreation Board Meeting at

the Isabella County Road Commission Building.

Commissioner Willoughby gave an update on the current drain projects, noting that the Mission Creek project is going well.

The next Parks and Recreation Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at the Isabella County Road Commission building.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved to adjourn (Clingan/Murphy) at 7:06 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Clingan, Secretary