

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MSU Conference Room – 2nd Floor
Cassopolis, MI, MI 49031
January 10, 2019**

9:00 a.m.. – CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Recording Secretary Dohm

INVOCATION – Commissioner Parrish

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Campbell

ROLL CALL – Recording Secretary Dohm

Director Wyman – P	Kevin Claire – P	David Kring – P
Bruce Campbell –P	Annie File –P	Fritz Kucklich - P
Korine Blyveis –P	Kevin Hershberger –P	Robert Parrish - P
Jamie Stafne – A		

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion: Commissioner Blyveis
To cast a unanimous ballot for the current officers with the inclusion of Kevin Hershberger as secretary.
Second: Commissioner File
Motion passed by unanimous vote

2019 officers are:

President – Commissioner Campbell
Vice President – Commissioner Claire
Secretary – Commissioner Hershberger

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – with the addition of organization prior to the minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Kucklich
Second: Commissioner Claire

ORGANIZATIONAL

1. Meeting times and dates

Motion: Commissioner Blyveis
To keep the meetings the second Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m.; location - the MSU Conference Room, unless otherwise noted.

Second: Commissioner Claire

Discussion:

- a. Commissioner Kucklich – add that the meetings will not exceed one hour.
- b. Director Wyman – our goal is always to keep the meetings as short as possible, however sometimes due to the amount of business needing attention, an hour isn't always enough time.
- c. It is understood that sometimes board members need to leave before the meeting is adjourned.

Motion passed without amendment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion: Commissioner Blyveis
Second: Commissioner Kucklich

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS – Nor Serocki

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ms. Serocki continued her update with identifying, monitoring and managing invasive species.

1. Reported that they had submitted 3 proposals and received 2 of them. They did get a \$113,000 grant for operations and a \$53,000 grant for signage and materials. They will be depending on other organizations for much help with things like placement of signs.
2. Reported that they will be partnering with Michigan Sea Grant for paddler training sometime in August or September to help with identifying invasive species within the waterways.
 - a. Commissioner Blyveis inquired as to the possibility to combine this with a river clean-up. The response was absolutely.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

1. Policy Committee members: Commissioner Claire (chair) and Commissioner File.
2. Advertising/Marketing Committee members: Commissioner Blyveis (chair), Commissioners File & Stafne.
3. Director Wyman announced that the advertisement laminated on the tables at Broadway Café is complete.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.
2. Commissioner File commented positively on the accomplishments of new employee, Jody Wade.
3. Commissioner Blyveis commented positively about the new trails at Lawless.

BUDGET – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.
2. We are in the second quarter, and the county audit is still in progress.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dark Skies
 - a. Commissioner Parrish updated the progress
 - b. Gave number information on a possible "GoFundMe Me" project
 - c. Light Management Plan
 - i. Handed out to each board member to look over to read and will ask for a vote at the next meeting.
 - d. Reported price difference of retro-fitting versus installing new light packs at Lawless.
2. RFP (5-year Recreation Plan)
 - a. There is money in the budget to have this done out-of-house.
 - b. SW Michigan Planning Commission is who we have partnered with in the past and hope to again with this plan.
 - c. Decision will be made next month regarding SW Michigan Planning Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Hunting Stats
 - a. Were provided in a hand-out
2. Great Lakes Park Training Institute
 - a. A 3-day training opportunity for Director Wyman. Since it is in Angola, IN he will travel back and forth to save expenses of overnight stays.
3. Dodd Park
 - a. From all reports, the dam removal on Pucker Street is on schedule for 2019 which will change the dynamics at Dodd Park fishing opportunities.
 - b. Commissioner Campbell is working on getting quotes for cleaning up the downed trees along the Dowagiac River, as it is an inter-county drain board concern.
 - c. Director Wyman is working on how to collect fees at Dodd Park since the board voted to activate the entrance fees at all county parks. For sure on days reservations take place, there will need to be a person able to collect parking fees and not just a fee box.
4. East Harmon Park
 - a. New home owner next to the park has a flooding issue. Director Wyman is working with the road commission regarding the ditch the road commission dug to get assistance in cleaning it out.

b. Also one of the willow trees is hanging over her house, and will need to be taken down.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Commissioner Parrish – there will be a full lunar eclipse Sunday, January 20th. Would like to invite the Michigan Astronomical Society to Lawless and have the park dark. The eclipse should start around 9:00 p.m. and be full at midnight. This will be what they call a blood red moon.
2. Commissioner Blyveis – the hike with a naturalist will be moving to Mondays instead of Wednesday. She would like each board member to host a day between March and November. The hikers gather at 5:00 and the hike starts at 5:30 p.m.
3. Commissioner Kucklich – would like a notice sent to NIMBA that the bike trails are open.
4. The Spring Egg-Stravaganza will be April 13th.

Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Parrish

Second: Commissioner File

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Dohm
Recording Secretary

Next regular meeting February 14 at 9:00 a.m. Please call 445-4456 if you cannot attend.