

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Arthur Dodd Memorial Park  
Niles, Michigan 49120  
July 13, 2017**

**9:00 a.m. – CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – President Campbell

**INVOCATION** – Commissioner Rodebush

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Respectfully omitted

**ROLL CALL** – Recording Secretary Dohm

Director Wyman – P

Kevin Claire – P

David Kring – P

Bruce Campbell – P

Annie File – P

Linda Pruett – P

Korine Blyveis – P

Kevin Hershberger – P

Johnie Rodebush - P

Jamie Stafne – A

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Commissioner Rodebush

**Second:** Commissioner Hershberger

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS** –Commissioner Rodebush introduced his daughters – Vicki and Diane; Karl Biggs; Michael Campanello; Kari Thompson

**PUBLIC COMMENT** –

1. Karl Biggs regarding the pier at Birch Lake: states that other property owners are having issues with the gentleman that got the pier permit and put the pier out at Birch Lake. He asked that:
  - a. There be strict enforcement of the rules
  - b. Perhaps do away with the pier entirely
  - c. Have the property owners do a fundraiser to purchase a pier for all to use
  - d. Modify the current pier policy by adding these items:
    - i. Add to #1: “and said owners shall not be accommodated on the public pier”
    - ii. Add to #2: “Once pier is installed according to submitted sketch, no physical changes are to be made for the duration of the season (unless approved by the Cass County Parks Commission)”
    - iii. Add to #11: “Visitors from out-of-county or state must be accommodated by the visited person or family having a vessel on the pier”
    - iv. Add to #13: “The owner’s authority over his or her pier ends when pier is placed in park waters, and resumes when pier is removed”
2. Michael Campanello gave his remembrance of what originally transpired 30-some years ago, when that park was donated in a will. He suggested that next year no pier permit is given out and allow no boats at all there; let it go back to being a swimming hole.
3. Kari Thompson reported that only 3 people use their pier, and that there is no problem except for the person that owns the pier and gets the permit. She would like to see a pier remain so people could use it. She gave more samples of the disagreements between the owner and others wanting to use the pier.

President Campbell referred this matter to the policy committee to investigate further and come up with possible solutions.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** Commissioner Hershberger

**Second:** Commissioner Rodebush

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** –

## Marketing –

1. Commissioner Blyveis recently found some park's litter bags and wants to use them in the future to advertise the parks.
2. Commissioner Blyveis suggested that there is a need to promote for trunks for the trunk-or-treat event among area companies to get more sponsorship of the event.
3. Commissioner Blyveis showed a sample of a "patch" or "badge" that could be designed and purchased for park promotion.
4. Commissioner Rodebush suggested that Commissioner Blyveis research the patches further and get pricing and report back to the commission.
5. Commissioner Blyveis attended the BLISS Festival and found kids being very entertained with a playhouse area at the event. It was stocked with stuffed animals, blankets, and toys. Suggested that we should add this for events.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director Wyman

1. It was a beautiful day for the bike race, but lightly attended. Those that did participate were surprised that the event coordinator had them ride the course backward for a new challenge.
2. Commissioner File questioned if many people use the bike trail in the evenings. Director Wyman replied that they do, and that we will be adding more night ride events, as it was a big hit last year.

## BUDGET – Director Wyman

1. In the last quarter of this budget year.
2. Director Wyman's budget meeting is scheduled for next week.
3. The BOC already took \$130,000 out of the treasury to make the first payment on the Dodd project. We will have 7 years now to pay this loan back to the treasurer's department.
4. Need to work on capturing available revenue.
5. Commissioner Pruett suggested making sure grants are padded enough at the beginning, since it is such a long process from start to finish, to make sure there is enough money available to fulfill the grant obligations.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dodd Grant
  - a. Director Wyman is meeting with the landscape architect and general contractor next week.
2. Dodd Park Mobile Home
  - a. Two interns through Trouts Unlimited will be renting it from through August 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Rental committee will need to meet to review the new applicant for renting the mobile home after August 18<sup>th</sup>.
3. Sears Park
  - a. Boat ramp – Director Wyman met with the contractor on Monday. The Birch Lake Association is going to pay \$1100 of the \$2000 for the repair of the ramp.
  - b. Many thanks to President Campbell for helping to secure the permit from DEQ so quickly.
  - c. The ramp should be finished within the next couple of weeks.
4. Entrance Envelope
  - a. Patty will email the latest version for comments, but we do want to get these ordered as soon as possible to get them in use.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. We-Can-Ride usually have a ride-a-thon in October. This year, they are requesting the use of both pavilions, but are only wanting to pay \$60.  
**Motion: Commissioner Blyveis** - To allow We-Can-Ride the use of both pavilions for their fundraiser for the price of one - \$60.00  
**Second: Commissioner Pruett**
2. Lake Park Pier – was platted in 1923. There are 2 sides with every story. Director Wyman and President Campbell will be meeting with the permit holder, Ray Geik this afternoon. Next week President Campbell will have the opportunity to meet with a municipality attorney and hopes to talk to him regarding ways to proceed.

- a. Director Wyman clarified that this is NOT a swimming area. It would have to be buoyed, etc. for it to be. It has had many signs over the years indicating that there is no swimming allowed, but the signs have all been taken down or stolen.
  - b. Commissioner Claire asked who issued the permit – it is the Parks Department.
  - c. Commissioner Kring asked if there had been an inquiry to the Yacht Club of Birch Lake regarding regulations of piers – Director Wyman has talked to the Yacht Club on occasion, their information has been general information.
  - d. The new Under Sheriff visited the pier in plain clothes, and was met by a lady wanting to know if she could assist him with something... he ended up telling her who he was, and since that time, we have had no complaints regarding this issue.
3. Cabin Rental Fees
    - e. President Campbell referred cabin rental fees to the policy committee to research and report back to the commission.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. When the board adjourns, we will tour the park to see the progress with the improvements.
2. Director Wyman announced that yet another person from the Birch Lake pier issue was on her way to Dodd Park to speak; she thought the meeting was at the courthouse. (Note: the members remained at the park for an additional length of time enjoying the tour, and this person never arrived.)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: Commissioner Rodebush**

**Second: Commissioner Pruett**

**Next regular meeting August 10, 2017 – 9:00 a.m. at the MSU Extension conference room. Please call 445-4456 if you cannot attend.**