

CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MSU Extension Conference Room
120 N. Broadway Street, Cassopolis, MI 49031
November 12, 2015

6:00 p.m. - CALL MEETING TO ORDER - President Campbell

INVOCATION - Commissioner Rodebush

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Commissioner Campbell

ROLL CALL - Director Wyman

Director Wyman - P

Commissioner File - P Commissioner Rodebush - P

Commissioner Blyveis - P Commissioner Hershberger - P Commissioner Washington - P

Commissioner Campbell - P Commissioner Kring - P

Commissioner Claire - P Commissioner Pruett - P

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Commissioner Rodebush

Support: Commissioner Pruett

Passed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Commissioner Pruett

Support: Commissioner Rodebush

Passed

NO VISITORS

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

NO COMMITTEE REPORTS

DIRECTOR REPORT

1. Reviewed. Discussed Doane Lake project with dock sections acquired and donated by Commissioner Blyveis. Claire asked about plan.
2. File commented on Sauk Trail RC&D grant for Russ Forest bridge repair.
3. Director Wyman commented on grant submission for \$2,500.
4. Director Wyman distributed pictures of viewing area recently completed (built over old viewing area). He noted it is now better/safer and they will be adding rocks alongside however, is unsure about adding rails at this time. He also

explained trout habitat that was previously created using lunger devices in that area.

BUDGET REPORT

1. Beginning of budget year. Parks budget is \$134,000. Director Wyman noted the Board of Commissioners is considering a mileage under 1 mil for the Parks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Timber Harvest: At Lawless Park the plan is to remove dead and dying ash trees. Forrester Jeff Steinkraus marked (147) trees in the group camp with an estimated income of \$14,000. Logging can begin 1/1/2016. (80) of these are ash trees. In response to last month's question - Wyman clarified the hickory tree was injured. At Dodd Park there are (64) trees marked with (1) veneer quality walnut. Wyman noted he plans to use income for grant match and cabin construction. **Motion** by Pruett supported by Rodebush to give Parks Director authority to have Forrester Jeff Steinkraus proceed with bids for timber sale at both Dr. T.K. Lawless and Dodd Parks as presented. Discussion followed. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
2. Dodd Park Mobile Home: The possible electrical problem was unfounded. New tenants have worked with staff to get it back into shape and will begin paying rent next month.
3. Trust Fund Grant: Preliminary grant score was scored 350. The final score is 385 which is tied for 11th. It appears we have the top County application in our region, so am hopeful we will receive it.
4. Equestrian Fee: Director Wyman requests everyone think about what fees should be established. Discussion followed including showing examples of improvements to be made with funds, placing a sign at park notifying of upcoming changes or a notice of workshop to establish equestrian fee program, reviewing fees at other parks, and organizing a facilitated workshop inviting key people in the community to develop a fee program.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Young/Griner Crop Lease: Director Wyman explained discrepancy of acreage.
 - a. Griner contract is for 104 acres however planter indicates it is only 88 acres and review of Farm Service maps shows 89 acres. Griner is requesting we charge for 89 acres from now on (\$110/acre). This would be \$4,180 less than original contract. Griner also is requesting to change the contract to (5) years (an additional 2 years from current) and allow him to trim back edges of field.
 - b. Young contract is for 104 acres however it appears from the maps to only be 99 acres.
 - c. Discussion followed included Master Plan to be redone in 2017 which would come into effect in 2023, contract specifies certain guidelines for some crop to be left for wildlife (Griner's staff mistakenly did not follow contract however, they will be dropping corn to help correct their oversight), and contract adjustment. Board generally agreed to not

change contract. **Motion** by Rodebush supported by Blyveis to adjust both contracts to actual acreage shown by Farm Service Agency calculations. Motion passed with one abstention by Claire. Further discussion - Wyman noted Griner will over-seed rye this winter. Board generally agreed to allow trimming as Griner sees fit. Discussed 5 year contract in future to help with the investment by the farmer i.e. lime.

2. Dog Policy: Currently there is a leash requirement. Director Wyman suggested there have been more loose dogs reported as it appears some people will put leash on dog at parking lot but then let them run as they get back on the trails. Discussion followed.

COMMENTS

1. File asked about state/federal grant for Lawless. Wyman stated and grant proposal would be due March 31.
2. Director Wyman reported there is a request to allow the placement of a Memorial bench at Russ Forest by the furthest bridge. Wyman distributed copies of a photo of the McKaye memorial bench as an example. General agreement to allow placement of bench similar to other benches at park for consistency. He also noted a donation was received for a bench at Lawless as well.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn: Commissioner Rodebush

Support: Commissioner Blyveis

Adjourned: 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Parks Commission member Korie Blyveis and Director Scott Wyman