

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MSU CONFERNECE ROOM
120 N. BROADWAY ST.
CASSOPOLIS, MI 49031**

FEBRUARY 9, 2023

4:00 A.M.- CALL MEETING TO ORDER - President Kucklick

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Commissioner Locke

ROLL CALL – Secretary Dohm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

PUBLIC COMMENT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Director Wyman

BUDGET REPORT - Director Wyman

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Dark Sky Update**
- **Grant Strategies**
- **Meeting Dates / Times**
- **2023 Fees**

NEW BUSINESS

- **Great Start Collaborative**
- **2022 Year in Review**

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Next regular meeting March 9, 2022. Please call 445-4456 if you cannot attend.

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CB Meeting Room – 120 N Broadway
Cassopolis, MI 49031
January 12, 2023**

4:00 p.m. – CALL MEETING TO ORDER –Secretary Dohm

INVOCATION – Director Wyman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Parrish

ROLL CALL –

Director Wyman – P

Bruce Campbell –P

Skip Dyes –A

Annie File –A

David Kring – A

Fritz Kucklick – P

Lyndon Parrish - P

Robert Parrish – P

Ryan Laylin - A

Jaimie Stafne - P

Jeff VanBelle - P

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion to retain current officers for another year: Commissioner Campbell

Second: Commissioner Stafne

Approved

President – Fritz Kucklick

Vice President – Robert Parrish

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Commissioner Stafne

Second: Commissioner L. Parrish

Approved

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER’S MINUTES

Motion to accept: Commissioner Stafne

Second: Commissioner L. Parrish

Approved

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS –

Joyce Locke, Board of Commissioners

Jake Young, Director Cass County Conservation District

PUBLIC COMMENT –

1. Joyce Locke – hoping to be appointed to the Cass County Parks Board
2. Jake Young – would like to partner with Cass County Parks in the future. Offered to sell annual passes in their office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

None

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.
 - a. In June there will be an opportunity to share an Ameri-core worker with Camp Tannadoonah for some big projects.
 - b. Arts in the Parks – 15% of what they make during that program will come back to the parks.
 - c. Thomas Rea property will be handled by the SW Michigan Land Conservancy.
 - d. Will be having a meeting with Ambrosia regarding the website.

BUDGET – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.
 - a. Maintenance is always the struggle.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dark Sky
 - a. Commissioner R. Parrish investigated what was thought as a light issue from the Amazon building in Elkhart, only to find that it was dark.
 - b. Midwest Energy is replacing home lighting with downward facing lights.

- c. County needs lighting policy for new construction.
 - d. App available on phones – “Globe at Night” to record what you see.
 - e. IDA report was accepted.
 - f. Virtual presentation in January at Detroit library
2. Grant Strategies
 - a. Presented report, there were 100 applications, 30 were approved, we finished #40.
 - b. The haven’t announced the 2nd round for the Spark Grant
 3. Point Park
 - a. We will need to schedule a meeting at this park when the weather allows.
 - b. Director Wyman will be meeting with Administrator Newton.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Meeting Dates/Times
 - a. Discussion and decision to be made at February meeting.
2. 2023 Fees
 - a. Discussion and decision to be made at February meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Commissioner R. Parrish

Second: Commissioner L. Parrish

Meeting Adjourned

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Respectfully submitted,
Patty Dohm
Recording Secretary

Next regular meeting February 9, 2023; 2nd floor meeting room, County Services Building

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT
CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
FEBRUARY 9, 2023**

Dr. Lawless:

- Hosted more than 200 visitors for Discover Winter Nights
- Re-opened tubing hill and cross-country skiing trails
- Finished grant proposal with Camp Tannadoonah to get AmeriCorps work crew.
- Met with Great Collaborative leadership to discuss educational signage of Dr. Lawless.
- Took water samples (negative results)

Dodd:

- Plow parking area
- Take water samples (Negative results)
- Clean up wind damage.

Russ Forest:

- Cleaned up wind damage on trails.
- Filled in potholes.
- Met with engineer for bridge improvements.
- Took water samples (negative results)

Stevens Memorial Park:

- It is closed for the season.
- Will remove snow for the ice fisherman.

Sears Park:

- Will remove snow for the ice fisherman.

Harmon Park East / West:

- It is closed for the season.
- Will be removing snow for the ice fisherman.
- Contacted DNR for meeting concerning boat launch.
- Talk with conservation district on assisting with bank stabilization at East Harmon.

Jay worked hard getting ready Discover Winter Nights. He was also busy grooming and setting track on the cross-country ski trails. When we had no snow he cleaned the trails at Russ Forest and cut wood at Lawless. He is using this time to do a complete inventory of tables and grills within our parks so we can hit the ground running in the spring.

Patty and her team did a great job creating activities for Discover Winter Nights. She put the final touches on our winter newsletter and is currently working on refining our media press release list. She is also refining our end of the year review sheet for the parks and recreation commission. She also handles all our credit card transactions which include annual passes and reservations.

Cass County Park Fees

CATEGORY	CURRENT	SUGGESTED/POSSIBLE	CHANGED/SAME
Discover Winter Nights	Entrance - \$2/person	Suggest no change	
Dodd Entrance Fee	No entrance fee		
Lawless Park Entrance Fee	Daily: \$2.00/person in-county \$3.00/person out-of-county	\$2.00/person/in-county \$4.00/person/out-of-county	
Annual Pass (11/2022)	\$15 in-county \$30 out-of-county	Suggest no change	
Group Camp Reservations	\$1.50 per night	\$20 per night/per campsite	
Shelter Reservations:			
Schug Pavilion	Weekends - \$75 + \$50 deposit Weekday - \$40 + \$50 deposit	Suggest no change	
Shelters	Weekends - \$65 + \$50 deposit Weekday - \$35 + \$50 deposit	Suggest no change	
	Rentals are from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Additional time \$25/hour		
Cabins	\$55/night + \$50 deposit		
	Discount of 20% for staying 7 consecutive nights		
Special Events	\$2.00/person or 1 canned good	\$5/car	
School groups			
Wagon Rides		\$100/hour	
Tubing Party	\$100		
Community Room	\$75/3 hours		
Dark Sky Nights	Same as daily entrance fee, allow annual pass to be used		
Dark Sky Nights	Same as daily entrance fee, allow annual pass to be used		

Note: An annual pass allows for daily admittance and Dark Sky viewing, but not for special events.