

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
120 N. Broadway St – Conference Room  
January 13, 2022**

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

**INVOCATION** – Commissioner R. Parrish

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Commissioner R. Parrish

**ROLL CALL** –

Director Wyman – P	David Kring - P	Robert Parrish - P
Bruce Campbell - P	Fritz Kucklick - P	Jaimie Stafne - A
Annie File - A	Lyndon Parrish - P	Jeff VanBelle - P

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Commissioner L. Parrish  
**Second:** Commissioner R. Parrish

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** –

**Motion:** Commissioner Van Belle  
**Second:** Commissioner Campbell

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS** –

Blair Garceau, Birch Lake Homeowners Association  
Scott Williams  
Matt Newton, Deputy County Administrator

**PUBLIC COMMENT** –

1. Ms. Garceau would wait until the topic was being discussed later.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** –

1. None

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.
  - a. The ski trails and tubing hills were able to be open a few days after the recent snowfall.
  - b. Director Wyman met with Ron Gunn regarding the Sandhill Crane Marathon plans, talking about the possibility of having a duathlon.
  - c. Director Wyman is looking forward to talking with the new officers of NIMBA regarding the possibility of a winter biking race.

**BUDGET** – Director Wyman

1. Unexpected repair to the park plow truck of \$2,200. Director Wyman spoke with county maintenance to inquire about any county trucks that may be headed to the auction in the near future in order to replace the park's old one.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Dark Sky
  - a. The Dark Sky Facebook page now has 3200 followers.
  - b. The annual report to ADA has been submitted.
  - c. Is working with a group for a statewide Michigan Dark Sky Trail.
  - d. He is now able to take images from his telescope through his camera to his computer and onto a monitor to help with dark sky viewing.

- e. Attended the Michiana Astronomical Society meeting via Zoom, but was disconnected before hearing the outcome of the date and place of the star party. They may move locations since they were asked not to have it over Memorial Day weekend at Lawless.
  - f. Planning on having the initial meeting with Notre Dame regarding the observatory next week. As soon as he has the date and time information, he is to let Patty know so she can set up a Zoom meeting with the county.
2. Grant Strategies
    - a. Director Wyman met with Mark from SW Michigan Planning Commission regarding the grant-writing process for this year.
      - i. Director Wyman presented some grant number possibilities – all dependent on AARPA funding.
  3. Sears Park
    - a. Director Wyman presented the figures from DNR for the temporary repair to the boat launch. With DNR doing the work, and the Park Department furnishing the supplies, the cost would be approximately \$3,125.
    - b. For the permanent repair to the launch structure, the estimate is approximately \$20,000.
    - c. Visitor Blair Garceau voiced her concern working with DNR, as she fears they would want to take the park over.
      - i. Again, Director Wyman assured her that is not the case. DNR does not want to take over the park.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Graham Woodhouse Award
  - a. Director Wyman presented the board with the placque awarded to the group for their contribution to the Dowagiac River Project.
2. Departmental Goals
  - a. Commissioner Kucklick would like to see the continuation of the Parks/Tourism/Committee.
  - b. Just keep following the goals of the Master Plan and continue expanding programming in the parks.

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

- Director Wyman announced the new 4-H Program Coordinator would be starting January 17<sup>th</sup> and anticipate partnering with her for programming in the future.

#### **Adjournment:**

Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Dohm  
Recording Secretary

**Next regular meeting February 10, 2022**