

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
T.K. Lawless Park
Cassopolis, MI, MI 49031
February 11, 2021**

9:00 p.m. – CALL MEETING TO ORDER –President Kucklick

INVOCATION – Director Wyman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Kring

ROLL CALL – Recording Secretary Dohm

Director Wyman – P

Thomas Atkinson – p

Annie File - P

Hailey Harman - P

David Kring – P

Fritz Kucklick – P

Lyndon Parrish -P

Robert Parrish - P

Jamie Stafne -A

Jeff VanBell - P

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Commissioner R. Parrish

Second: Commissioner Atkinson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion: Commissioner Atkinson

Second: Commissioner L. Parrish

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS – County Administrator Carmen

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Director Wyman

1. Director’s report was presented.

9:15 a.m. - LAWLESS PARK CROP BID OPENINGS

Bid opening for 3-year contract

Hershberger Farms – 188 acres/\$120 per acre

Young Farms - \$100/acre north side

Young Farms - \$150/acre south side

LaPorte Farm - \$95/acre south side

LaPorte Farm - \$105/acre north side

Masten Farm - \$155/acre south side

Masten Farm - \$155/acre north side

Griner Farm - \$95/acre north side

Griner Farm - \$95/acre south side

MOTION by Commissioner R. Parrish: To accept highest bid Masten Farm

SECOND: Commissioner File

MOTION PASSED

BUDGET – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dark Sky
 - a. Director Wyman & Commissioner R. Parrish met with the yoga instructor wanting to do a class under the stars. The listing of dark sky nights was sent to her, she will look it over after she returns from vacation.
 - b. Has been a suggestion of themes for dark sky nights. (Ex: the fifties, Beatles night, etc.)
 - c. Working with Livingston County

2. Schug Retro Fit
 - a. The Schug retro fit plan makes the picnic table area into the nature center.
 - b. Estimated cost of retro fitting the Schug is \$300,000.
 - c. There will be a public input session at the park in the spring.
 - d. Commissioner File commented that the use of the Bombardi money should be used to leverage for a bigger grant.
 - e. The question was asked if estimates from local companies can be used. - Answer, of course local companies are welcome to bid.
 - f. Commissioner Kucklick stated the parks director and maintenance employee are spread very thin over all our parks, could people volunteer to help with park functions.
 - g. Commissioner Atkinson suggested forming a committee to look into corporate sponsors
3. Dodd Park Boat Launch
 - a. Float boat charter people are pushing for a boat launch that they can back their vehicles up to in order to remove their boats at Dodd.
 - b. We have a great canoe/kayak launch, but no vehicles are allowed inside the park.
 - c. Commissioner VanBelle stated that he is working with the Gateway Foundation and other entities in pursuing a \$5,000 grant to be able to help clear some logs from the river going from Dodd Park and Pucker Street.
 - d. Director Wyman is continuing his talks with the float boat charter people for a temporary solution.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mike Lowe
 - a. The committee met with Mike Lowe, a search & rescue trainer via a zoom meeting on February 8th regarding a possible fundraising opportunity at Lawless Park.
 - b. The meeting was very positive and the committee would like to go forward with “booking” Mr. Lowe for a date in September. Mr. Lowe said he would be willing to come to Cass County for \$100/day plus travel expenses, and would be happy to stay with someone to alleviate hotel/meal costs.
 - c. By the next park meeting, the committee of Commissioners Atkinson, R. Parrish & L. Parrish will have figured out a time and concept for approval by the board.
2. Hunting Stats
 - a. Director Wyman presented the hunting stats for Lawless Park.
 - b. Looking to the future, we will probably have to refine our hunting policy as the popularity of the park grows. Hunters have been able to enjoy the current policy for 35 years, but we will need to look at possible changes as we go forward.
3. Russ Donation
 - a. Out of the blue, a lady wishing to remain anonymous approached Director Wyman wanting to purchase a picnic table and new grill for Russ Park. After learning it would cost about \$1,000 to do that, she gave The Friends of the Cass County Parks a check for \$5,000 to be used to make improvements at Russ Forest.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner L. Parrish

Second: Commissioner Atkinson

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Dohm
Recording Secretary

Next regular meeting March 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

If we need to meet via Zoom, please use the following link:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/96594783586>

Meeting ID: 965 9478 3586

Passcode: 228749

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 965 9478 3586

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call 269-445-4456