

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Conference Room – County Services Building  
Cassopolis, MI, MI 49031  
April 8, 2021**

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

**INVOCATION** – Commissioner R. Parrish

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Commissioner File

**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 -P

Jeff VanBelle - P

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Commissioner Atkinson

**Second:** Commissioner VanBelle

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES –**

**Motion:** Commissioner File

**Second:** Commissioner R. Parrish

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS** –BOC Member Marchetti

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None

**PRESENTATION – LODGE FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Joining via zoom – Carl baxmeyer and Matt Davis from Wightman & Associates

1. An overview of the feasibility study requested by Administrator Carmen was given.
  - a. After looking at baseline data, study confirmed that a lodge at Dr. T.K. Lawless Park could not be properly supported; however it would be ideal for camping (RV, tents, pop-up campers).
2. BOC Commissioner Marchetti offered to write a grant for a campground/rail trail
3. Director Wyman verified deadlines for DNR grants.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – Director Wyman

1. Director’s report was presented.

**BUDGET** – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Dark Sky
  - a. The astro-photography session was well attended.
  - b. Great presentation on Saturday.
  - c. T-shirts & sweatshirt sales are starting to pick up; need a method of keeping them neat as we don’t want them to look pre-worn and wrinkly.
2. Parks/Recreation/Tourism/Culture/FUNDING Committee
  - a. Commissioner Atkinson, co-chair of this committee gave an overview of the process the committee has been going through identifying partners. At the last meeting there was a speaker from the SW Michigan Tourist Bureau; next meeting Nicole Holloway from the Potawatami Tribe, and possibly Kevin Anderson, Dowagiac City Manager will be available to answer questions and present.
  - b. Possibly going to recommend going for a millage.

- i. Timing is critical, along with knowing what other entities will be going for a millage at the same time...  
COA? Library?

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. 2019-2020 Annual Report
  - a. Copies were handed out to each member to look over for the next meeting
2. Arts in the Parks
  - a. The ladies from "Blue Dart Art" have proposed having four day-camps at Russ, introducing arts to young and old.
  - b. They would charge participants approx. \$200 for the camp and provide all the supplies.
  - c. They are requesting the Parks Department to also sponsor scholarships.
3. Yoga Under the Stars
  - a. Amanda Losch of Innate Yoga will be doing yoga at Lawless from 8:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. on the following dates: May 15, June 12, July 10, August 14 and September 11.
4. Credit Cards
  - a. We now have the capability of taking credit cards in the office and over the phone; soon to be able to receive payment over the website.
5. Wood Chip Donation
  - a. BOC Chairman Dyes offered 100 yards of free wood chips from his workplace if the parks could find a way to transport them. Working together with Bob Thompson, Director of the Cass County Road Commission, 25 loads of woodchips were delivered so that each park that has play equipment has plenty of woodchips to be spread around the play area. Many thanks to BOC Chairman Dyes and Bob Thompson for this generous donation!
6. Egg-stravaganza
  - a. Was a success with beautiful weather and approximately 200 attendees.
  - b. Due to Covid-19 restrictions yet in place, the event was very scaled down and many of the activities normally planned were put off until next year.
  - c. Attendees indicated they had a great time, and many activities will be incorporated next year.

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

- Korie Blyveis is conducting her Tuesday hikes beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- Korie Blyveis hosts a bluegrass jam session on Wednesday evenings at Lawless.
- There will be in in-person review at Lawless in order to complete the Lawless Master Plan. Director Wyman is working on the date for that event with Sandy Bliesener from OCBA.

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion:** Commissioner R. Parrish

**Second:** Commissioner VanBelle

Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Dohm  
Recording Secretary

**Next regular meeting May 13, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**  
**Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor County Services Building**