

CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Conference Room – County Services Building
Cassopolis, MI, MI 49031
June 10, 2021

9:00 p.m. – CALL MEETING TO ORDER –Vice President R. Parrish

INVOCATION – Commissioner L. Parrish

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Stafne

ROLL CALL – Recording Secretary Dohm

Director Wyman – P

Thomas Atkinson – p

Annie File - P

Bruce Campbell - A

Hailey Harman - A

David Kring – P

Fritz Kucklick – A

Lyndon Parrish -P

Robert Parrish - P

Jamie Stafne - P

Jeff VanBelle - P

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Commissioner Atkinson

Second: Commissioner Kring

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion: Commissioner Stafne

Second: Commissioner File

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS –None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director Wyman

1. Director's report was presented.
2. No questions

BUDGET – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.
2. Will be presenting to the BOC on June 25th

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dark Sky
 - a. Have upwards of 30 people signed up for Yoga Under the Stars for this weekend.
 - b. Connecting Chords will be providing music at the park on the 11th.
 - c. The zoom call with the president of Pure Michigan had to be rescheduled.
 - d. The Cass County BOC passed a resolution to make July dark sky month for Cass County.
 - e. State Senator LaSata will be promoting a resolution to make July a dark sky month for Michigan.
 - f. The #1 complaint heard from star gazers at Lawless is regarding the vehicle headlights shining in the viewing field.
2. Parks/Recreation/Culture/Tourism
 - a. The committee and subcommittee worked hard and came down to two options:
 - i. Levy by the BOC
 - ii. Go for a millage
 - b. Director Wyman has since had conversations with Administrator Carmen and Deputy Administrator Moore regarding another possible option that would be monies available from the COVID-19 monies the county is set to receive.
 - i. Directives regarding exactly how the COVID funds can be used have not been shared with the county yet.
3. Lawless Master Plan

- a. The in-put session is scheduled for June 15th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
 - b. Results from the survey (which is still live) were shared.
4. Dowagiac River Tree Removal
- a. One main goal of the parks is to open up the river from Dodd Park to at least Kinsey Street in Berrien County, but there is a major blockage area about ½ mile from Dodd.
 - b. The tri-county Drain Commissioners are continuing to work on this issue, along with Marcy Hamilton of the SWMPC. The difficult issue is opposition from a landowner who owns about a mile along the river that wants the blockage to remain.
 - i. Marcy Hamilton would like to apply for a grant to clear the blockage, as she has found a professional that would be willing to do it for about \$5,000.

NEW BUSINESS

1. West Harmon Boat Launch
 - a. Director Wyman indicated that he will be talking to the DNR to see if they will take it over and maintain it.
 - b. Our boat launches get a lot of business because they are free.
2. Employment Options
 - a. The announcement has been out for over a month, any interest shown In the position hasn't come to fruition.
3. Team Cass County
 - a. Director Wyman shared that with all the new employees that have been hired in Cass County, attention is being given to the Parks Department.
 - i. Jacob Smith with the IT Department has been hired for Social Media. He is almost finished with the new park page update. We are excitedly waiting to see it.
 - ii. Erika Esplan has been hired as the director of the new GIS Department. Director Wyman has met with her, and she has many ideas of how her department can work to bring new technology to the parks.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner VanBelle commented on Erika Esplan – and what great things she is capable of bringing his department as well as Cass County.

Adjournment:

Motion: Commissioner L. Parrish

Second: Commissioner Atkinson

10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Dohm
Recording Secretary

Next regular meeting July 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.