

CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
T.K. Lawless International Dark Sky Park/Michigan Dark Sky Preserve
Cassopolis, MI, MI 49031
July 8, 2021

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

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 – P

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 –

Dan Carrick

Paul Fallon

PUBLIC COMMENT –

1. Dan Carrick from Senator Kim LaSata’s office presented Senate Resolution 69 making July Dark Sky Awareness Month.
2. Paul Fallon from Birch Lake Home Owners Association expressed gratitude for all we do. Talked about the challenges at the boat launch which requires short and long term maintenance.
 - a. Director Wyman shared his appreciation for the group’s willingness to help.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Director Wyman

1. NIMBA is working on the trail for the race.
2. Campers from Camp Tannedoona spent 3 nights at our campsite for training.
3. Road Commission is donating their old scale to the parks which will be used for a bridge at Russ.
4. Hired a part time person.

BUDGET – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.
 - a. Having to adjust some line items, but in good shape.
 - b. \$6,500 for a study done by county was billed to parks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dark Sky
 - a. Was open last weekend with 18 visitors from Detroit, 4 from Chicago, and 3 from Kalamazoo.
2. Parks/Recreation/Culture/Tourism Committee
 - a. Director Wyman talked to the administrator regarding the findings, and for now the millage campaign will not be happening.
 - b. Director Wyman would like to refine the numbers on updating the Schug.
 - c. CARES Act – the governor received \$150 million to go to parks, but the budget hasn’t been passed.

- i. If passed (October), the monies will be available until FY 2022.
3. Lawless Master Plan
 - a. Commissioner Kucklick suggested more help is needed within the Parks Department.
 - b. Director Wyman indicated the Board need to decide the final place for the Dark Sky portion of the park and the final place for the nature center.
 - c. Director Wyman indicated that 30 acres of cropland could be taken out of the crop rotation if needed, and would result in less crop rental money coming in.
 - d. We need to fix/update things that need it first.
4. Special Events
 - a. Lawless 50
 - b. Star Party
 - c. Mike Lowe
 - d. Harvest Fest
 - e. Sand Hill Crne
 - f. Art in the Park
 - g. Yoga Under the Stars

NEW BUSINESS

1. None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner VanBelle – has a water quality survey online.
- Commissioner Stafne reminded everyone of the Melting Man event on September 18th and also thanked those that were able to be on the Pure Michigan phone call.

Adjournment:

Motion: Commissioner R. Parrish

Second: Commissioner Stafne

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Dohm
Recording Secretary

Next regular meeting August 12, 2021 at Lawless