

Chair
Tim Machowicz, Citizen Rep.

Vice-Chair
Chuck Nelson, Citizen Rep.

Secretary
Phil Hanses, Drain Commissioner

Members
Dwight Washington, BOC Rep.
Dave Pohl, BOC Rep.
Roni Christmas, Planning Comm. Rep.
Kevin Holt, Road Comm. Rep.
James Graham, Citizen Rep.
Pat Jackson, Citizen Rep.
Natalie Elkins, Citizen Rep.



Staff
Kyle Thornton
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MINUTES

PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

Friday, March 4, 2022, AT 8:30 A.M.
Clinton County Courthouse
Board of Commissioners Boardroom
100 E. State Street, St. Johns, MI 48879

I. Call to Order - Declaration of Quorum

Chair Tim Machowicz declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM

Members Present: Tim Machowicz, Chuck Nelson, Dwight Washington, Dave Pohl, Phil Hanses, Natalie Elkins, James Graham

Guests Present: Jill Detwiler-Clinton County Conservation District, Barry Culham-FMCIS Trail.

Staff Present: Craig Longnecker, Todd Campbell, Alisha Johnson, Doug Riley

- A. Approval of March 4, 2022, Agenda
Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by Dave Pohl, to approve the March 4, 2022, meeting Agenda. Motion carried.
- B. Approval March 4, 2022, Per Diems
Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Kevin Holt, to approve the March 4, 2022, meeting Per Diems. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of February 4, 2022, Meeting Minutes
Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Dave Pohl, to approve the February 4, 2022, meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

- A. Jill Detwiler from the Clinton County Conservation District reported that the Board of Directors has been conducting interviews to fill the Executive Director position with the Conservation District. The Spring tree sale is now available, and orders can be placed on the Clinton Conservation District website. CISMA is partnering with CCD to offer an invasive species training over Zoom in March.
- B. Craig Longnecker the Clinton County Administrator reported that Bernie Simon and County Administration had a successful meeting to discuss the Pratt Road property. Clinton County is planning to meet with an engineering firm to discuss future improvements. Craig also mentioned the Board of Commissioners and Mr. Simon both are looking forward to finalization of the sale of the Pratt Road property in the year 2023.

III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton

- A. Kyle Thornton thanked Alisha Johnson for stepping in to take minutes during the February Parks and Green Space Commission Meeting. Thornton also reported that he was going to be out of the office for the next week as the annual Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MPARKS) conference is starting over the weekend.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Water Based Recreation/Surface Water Quality – Phil Hanses & Chuck Nelson
 - a. Phil Hanses reported the Drain Commission has removed a few ice jams over the winter. Hanses reported the Lake Victoria project will soon be going out for bid to dredge the south channel and west channels.
 - b. Jill Detwiler reported that Eric Elgin from Michigan State University is planning on touring Lake Victoria with lake board as they determine possible problem spots for surface water quality.
- B. Non-Motorized Facilities – Chuck Nelson & Dave Pohl
 - County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
 - FMCIS Trail
 - a. Barry Culham reported that the Friends of the FMCIS Trail will be hosting their annual meeting on April 13th at 7pm at the Muir Community Center and April 23rd will be trail clean-up day on the FMCIS trail. He stated trees are being cut and trimmed along the CIS trail from Muir to Ionia. Culham mentioned the City of St. Johns has been making a push to help get the FMCIS trail paved. Mr. Culham reported MDOT is working on options to extend the FMCIS trail into the City of Owosso.

- b. Dwight Washington mentioned after the FMCIS Trail is connected to the City of Lansing the paving of the trail could become more of a priority, as traffic increases on the trail. Thornton reported that the Tri-County Planning has been working with a committee to explore routes to connect the Riverwalk Trail in Lansing to extend Southeast through Ingham County, west across Eaton County and North through Clinton County. The part though Clinton County would connect to the FMCIS Trail and provide future opportunities for extensions for area such as Sleepy Hollow State Park.
- C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson
- a. Tim Machowicz posed the question asking if anything has been noticed that we missed with universal access and the Clinton Lakes Improvement Project. Thornton said that it is not a miss, yet a possible phase 2 improvement of adding a universal accessible walking path from the Dewitt Road parking lot to the new parking lot in the park.
- D. Finance Committee – Tim Machowicz
- a. Tim Machowicz and reported that not much has changed in the past month with the financial report and expenses.
- E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson & Jim Graham
- a. Chuck Nelson reported the grassland committee held a meeting on the burning of the southern half of the grassland. Nelson mentioned the grassland committee decided to use David Borneman LLC with restoringnaturewithfire.com for burning the southern half of the grassland at Clinton Lakes County Park during May.
- F. Southern County Park Search Team – Chuck Nelson, Tim Machowicz, Phil Hanses, and Dave Pohl
- a. Craig Longnecker reported on the Pratt Road Property during public comment.
- G. Health Committee – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson
- a. Dwight Washington reported that Bath Township has hired a new Parks and Recreation Director.

V. Old Business

- A. Clinton Lakes Dog Beach Rules
- a. Discussion took place regarding the Dog Beach Rules and Kyle Thornton provided the comments from the Clinton County Animal Control Office. Thornton also provided updated rules and copy of the Dewitt Township Dog Park rules, as the Animal Control Office mentioned the Dewitt Township rules is an excellent guide for developing the Clinton Lakes rules. Natalie Elkins provided improvements on the set of rules. Thornton will make the suggested improvements and corrections to the rules and bring back to the PGSC April meeting.

- b. Tim Machowicz mentioned during the season to add the park ranger phone number on the office phone's voicemail during the season.

B. Clinton Lakes Scale House Demo

- a. Thornton provided information about the options of abandonment or capping of the well at Clinton Lakes County Park.

Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Natalie Elkins, to approve capping of the well at Clinton Lakes County Park; instead of abandonment of the well. Motion carried.

VI. New Business

B. PCSC Board and Committees

- b. Discussion took place regarding the PCSC Board and Committees.

Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Dwight Washington, to approve the PGSC Board and Committees to remain the same with no changes. Motion carried.

VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items

- A. No additional public comment.

VIII. Adjournment –Next Meeting:

Friday, April 1, 2022, at 8:30 am

Board of Commissioners Room, Clinton County Courthouse – 2nd Floor

100 E. State Street, St. Johns, MI 48879

Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Dave Pohl to adjourn the meeting until Friday, April 1, 2022. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 AM.