

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.



Clinton County Parks and Greenspace Commission



Staff
Kyle Thornton
Parks and Greenspace
Coordinator

1327 E. Townsend Rd • St. Johns, MI 48879
www.clinton-county.org

Phone: 989.224.5128 • Fax: 989.224-5102
Email: parks@clinton-county.org

MINUTES

PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

Friday, April 2, 2021 AT 8:30 A.M.

JOIN VIA TELEPHONIC CONFERENCE: Dial 1.929.205.6099 ~ MEETING ID: 893 5136 9264

OR VIDEO CONFERENCE: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89351369264>

PURSUANT TO PA 228 of 2020, DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I. Call to Order - Declaration of Quorum

Chair Tim Machowicz declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 8:31AM

Members Present: Tim Machowicz (Ovid Township), Chuck Nelson (Victor Township), Phil Hanses (Virginia Beach, VA), James Graham (Greenbush Township), Patricia Jackson (Olive Township), Kevin Holt (Dewitt Township), Dwight Washington (Bath Township)

Guests Present: Seth Gibson, Gayla Phillips

Staff Present: Kyle Thornton, Todd Campbell, Kate Neese

- A. Approval of April 2, 2021 Agenda
Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by Chuck Nelson, to approve the April 2, 2021 meeting Agenda. Motion carried.
- B. Approval April 2, 2021 Per Diems
Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Pat Jackson, to approve the April 2, 2021 meeting Per Diems. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of March 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by James Graham, to approve the March 5, 2021 meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

Gayla Phillips mentioned the Historical Society is working with Barry Culham with signage on the CIS Trail. Chuck mentioned to talk to the local communities too.

Kate Neese with Clinton County Waste Management Department gave an over-view of the upcoming recycling collection event. She mentioned if anyone is interested in participating in recycling their hazardous waste or electronics to contact their office. Kate mentioned the event is not being held at the Road Commission and the event is not taking tires at the spring collection.

Seth Gibson reported the annual Spring Tree Sale for Clinton Conservation District will be located in downtown St. Johns.

III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton

- A. Kyle Thornton reports that he participated in the Pave Your Path with Clinton County RESA. Summer rangers are all hired that includes a summer intern and a new park manager from Michigan State University. Some of the summer staff will be starting early to help with spring grounds clean-up with the Clinton County Maintenance Department. Kyle mentioned he has started year two of the mentorship program with MPARKS and was paired with Nick Smith of Newaygo County Parks. He also reported the Board of Commissioners approved the Clinton Lakes Project to move forward and construction will not start until Fall 2021, so the park doesn't have to be closed during the summer. Kyle also mentioned the quad is being retired from service.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Water Based Recreation
 - a. Phil mentioned a contractor has started clean-up between Hollister Road and Upton Road last week to open up more of the Looking Glass River.
 - b. Kyle reported he was contacted by the Mid-Michigan District Health Department, who is applying for a grant to complete surface water testing in three Clinton County lakes that include Motz County Park, Sleepy Hollow with Lake Ovid and Park Lake. Seth Gibson also reported additionally to E.Coli detection the MMDHD is requesting additional funding to complete E.Coli source tracking.

Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Phil Hanses, allowing Kyle Thornton to provide a letter of support on behalf of the entire Clinton County PGSC to the Mid-Michigan District Health Department for the beach monitoring/surface water quality testing. Motion carried.

- c. Fish Stocking report, Kyle Thornton mentioned he received communication from Stoney Creek and largemouth bass are not an option this year as supply is limited. A discussion was had on other fish to stock to replace the bass. Such as smallmouth bass or increasing the current fish scheduled to be stocked. Chuck and Seth mentioned Big Clinton would be an option for smallmouth bass.

B. Non-Motorized Facilities – Chuck Nelson/Dave Pohl

- County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
- FMCIS Trail

- a. Chuck reported the Lake-to-Lake film will start to be aired on PBS in April, times will vary by station.
- b. Tim reported over the past few weeks some trail clean-up has taken place.

C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington

- a. Dwight Washington and Kyle Thornton mentioned that universal access has nothing new to report.

D. Finance Committee – Tim Machowicz

- a. Tim Machowicz and Kyle Thornton reported the year-to-date budget is in good condition with spring nearing. Plus, it's good that some of the summer employees are able to start early.

E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson/Jim Graham

- a. Tim asked if the sinkholes have been fixed yet, Kyle mentioned no, the sink holes where not fixed over the winter, he is expecting this to be a spring/summer project.

F. Southern County Park Search Team

- a. Kyle Thornton reported the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant deadline was April 1st and the Clinton County grant was submitted two weeks before the deadline.

G. Health Committee – Dwight Washington

- a. Kyle Thornton reported that Clinton County has extended the state of emergency. Tim asked about vaccines for the summer employees, Kyle responded on Monday, April 5th that ages 16 and older can now be vaccinated. He offered to reach out to MMDHD if any summer employees are unable to find vaccine clinics. Pat Jackson mentioned that she fully supports Clinton County with keeping the COVID-19 safety policies in place, as Clinton County has seen a rise in COVID cases.

V. Old Business

A. Summer Park Rangers

- a. Kyle Thornton mentioned there will now be two summer rangers returning for some part-time work this summer.

B. PGSC Sub-Committee Appointments

- a. Water Based Recreation/Surface Water Quality
 - i. Phil Hanses and Chuck Nelson

- b. Non-Motorized Facilities
 - i. Chuck Nelson and Dave Pohl
- c. Universal Access
 - i. Dwight Washington and Pat Jackson
- d. Finance Committee
 - i. Tim Machowicz
- e. Grassland Committee
 - i. Chuck Nelson and Jim Graham
- f. Southern County Park Search Team
 - i. Chuck Nelson, Tim Machowicz, Phil Hanses and Dave Pohl
- g. Health Committee
 - i. Dwight Washington and Pat Jackson

Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by James Graham, to approve PGSC Sub-Committee appointment. Motion carried.

VI. New Business

- A. No New Business to report

VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items

- A. Kyle mentioned Board of Commissioners will decide at their April meeting if the Larry Martin Pavilion and Clinton County Fairgrounds will be reopened for the summer of 2021.

VIII. Adjournment –Next Meeting:

Friday, May 7, 2021 at 8:30 am
Zoom

Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by James Graham to adjourn the meeting until Friday, May 7, 2021. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 10:23AM