

Chair
Chuck Nelson, Citizen Rep.

Vice-Chair
Natalie Elkins, Citizen Rep.

Secretary
Phil Hanses, Drain Commissioner

Members
Dwight Washington, BOC Rep.
Dave Pohl, BOC Rep.
Jan Motz, Planning Comm. Rep.
Kevin Holt, Road Comm. Rep.
James Graham, Citizen Rep.
Pat Jackson, Citizen Rep.
Gary Boersen, Citizen Rep.



Staff
Kyle Thornton
Parks and Greenspace
Coordinator

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MINUTES

PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

Friday, April 14, 2023, AT 8:30 A.M.
Board of Commissioners Boardroom
100 East State St.
St. Johns, MI 48879

I. Call to Order - Declaration of Quorum

Chair Natalie Elkins declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM

Members Present:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1) Natalie Elkins | 4) James Graham | 7) Gary Boersen |
| 2) Dave Pohl | 5) Jan Motz | |
| 3) Kevin Holt | 6) Phil Hanses | |

Guests Present:

- Kurt Wolf, Clinton Conservation District
- Gayla Phillips, Clinton County
- Fred Cowles, Middle Grand River Organization of Watershed

Staff Present:

- Kyle Thornton
- Todd Campbell

A. Approval of April 14, 2023, Agenda

Moved by Jan Motz, seconded by David Pohl, to approve the April 14, 2023, meeting Agenda. Motion carried.

B. Approval of March 3, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Moved by Phil Hanses, seconded by Jan Motz, to approve the March 3, 2023, meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

- A. Kurt Wolf from Clinton Conservation District reported the CCD tree sale is next week and is seeking volunteers to help with wrapping and packing trees on Monday and Tuesday (April 17th and 18th) from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Clinton County Fairgrounds. K. Wolf mentioned that seed has been ordered for the 2-acre grassland.
- B. Fred Cowles, Middle Grand River Organization of Watershed provided handout information on MGROW. Fred mentioned MGROW working to keep the watershed clean with the Grand River, Maple River, Looking Glass River, and Red Cedar River. Recently the DNR has approved the middle section of the Grand River as a DNR approved water trail. Additionally, F. Cowles reported Jones Road has a potential site for a kayak launch onto the Grand River. Fred Cowles mentioned the Red Cedar River is attempting to receive DNR water trail approval. Phil Hanses mentioned he spoke with the landowner in 2018. DNR looked at the site and agreed it would be a good site. DNR would develop the site more than what landowner was comfortable with. Discussion was had mentioning if PGSC was assisting with a Jones Road kayak launch, that a kayak launch similar to Latoff Landing on the Maple River (French Road).

III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton

- A. Kyle Thornton reported the well at Motz Park has been chlorinated and flushed. The 2023 park rangers have been hired and will be starting in May/June depending on school schedule. J. Miller with Clinton County RESA has started working at the park again this week. Mr. Miller has had a successful week with brush removal, re-installing a broken Storywalk post and installed the Mobi Mat on Big Clinton Lakes Beach. Coordinator Thornton thanked the Facilities and Fleet Services Department for helping to get the park equipment tuned-up and ready for the season.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Water Based Recreation/Surface Water Quality – Phil Hanses & Gary Boersen
- a. Phil Hanses reported that the Friends of the Maple River will be conducting a river clean-up on April 22nd with a rain-day of May 5th. Crews will be meeting at the Elsie Dam at 9:00am.
- B. Non-Motorized Facilities – Chuck Nelson & Dave Pohl
- County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
 - FMCIS Trail
- a. David Pohl reports from Barry Culham, has been in meetings to discuss the CIS Trail going into Owosso, with the Owosso City Manager.

C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Nothing to report.

D. Finance Committee – Natalie Elkins

- a. PGSC Chair Elkins mentioned the 2023 YTD budget report was provided and nothing new to report on finance after the first quarter of the year.

E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson, Jim Graham & Jan Motz

- a. Jim Graham mentioned the grassland is needed to be burned. Coordinator Thornton said David Borneman reached out about burning the north half of the grassland with the goal of burning within the next week or two.

F. Health Committee – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Nothing to report.

V. Old Business

A. Clinton Lakes Master Plan & Five-Year Plan

- a. Nothing to report.

B. Clinton Lakes Dog Beach

- a. Kyle Thornton reported EGLE is approving the permit, altering the depth of sand/pea stone mix to 6 inches instead of the requested 24 inches. Coordinator Thornton mentioned he has signed the altered plans provided by EGLE.

C. Pratt Road Property/Tours

- a. Jan Motz opened the discussion on the Pratt Road Property, mentioning the opportunities on the trail system and educational opportunities throughout the property. Parks and Green Space Commission echoed the opportunities throughout the park with trails, wetlands, educational opportunities, and accessibility.

VI. New Business

A. Hesse/Earl Youth Fishing Program

- a. Coordinator Thornton mentioned the program will be at Motz on May 20th from 9:00am to 12:00pm and registration is still open for youth 5-16 years old. Additionally, volunteers can register through 4-H to help.

VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items

- A. Coordinator Thornton additionally mentioned the Phase I for Pratt Road Property was complete and he is expecting the full report from Tetra Tech by the end of the week.

VIII. Adjournment –Next Meeting:

Friday, May 5th, 2023, at 8:30 am
Board of Commissioners Boardroom
100 East State St.
St. Johns, MI 48879

Moved by Kevin Holt, seconded by David Pohl to adjourn the meeting until Friday, May 5th, 2023. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:20 AM.