
Chair

Natalie Elkins, Citizen Rep.

Vice-Chair

Chuck Nelson, 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.



Clinton County Parks and Greenspace Commission



Staff

Kyle Thornton
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MINUTES

PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

Friday, May 5, 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 | 8) Chuck Nelson |
| 3) Pat Jackson | 6) Phil Hanses | 9) Dwight Washington |

Guests Present:

- Kurt Wolf, Clinton Conservation District
- Katie Hafner, Clinton Conservation District
- Barry Culham, CIS Trail

Staff Present:

- Kyle Thornton
- Todd Campbell

A. Approval of May 5, 2023, Agenda as amended.

Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by David Pohl, to approve the May 5, 2023, meeting Agenda. Motion carried.

B. Approval of April 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes

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

II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

- A. Kurt Wolf from Clinton Conservation District reported the CCD tree was a success with over 17,000 trees sold and the Conservation District filled over 300 orders. Additionally, half of the seed has been received for the 2-acre lot at Clinton Lakes County Park.
- B. Katie Hafner from the Clinton Conservation District mentioned the Forestry Workshop is May 11th and CCD has received over 40 RSVPs. Katie reported the Clinton Conservation District will be hosting their annual meeting on June 6th.

III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton

- A. Kyle Thornton reported the summer staff has been hired and provided their May/June staff schedule. Training will start the week of May 15th and continue as staff are available, as they complete classes/graduate. Thornton mentioned the well was flushed and spring start-up water samples complete. Additionally, Coordinator Thornton mentioned the Spring Recycling event hosted at Motz County Park by the Waste Management Department seemed to be a success with little to no weather issues.

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 did postpone the river clean up scheduled for April 22nd and is scheduled to complete on May 6th. Volunteers can meet at the Elsie Dam at 9:00am.
 - b. Phil Hanses provided information on a discussion he had about five-years ago with the landowner regarding Jones Road and a river access site. A discussion was had centered around liability, staff availability and accessibility if Clinton County was involved in development of a Grand River access site on Jones Road.
- B. Non-Motorized Facilities – Chuck Nelson & Dave Pohl
 - County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
 - FMCIS Trail
 - a. Barry Culham, provided a reported the CIS Trail
 - i. During the annual meeting – it was determined the would be DNR reevaluating E-bike requirements on the CIS Trail.
 - ii. Mowing and spraying will start next week along the trail.
 - iii. So far this spring 26 woodchuck holes between Krepps Road and Hollister Road have been filled.
 - iv. In 2022 volunteers filled 80 woodchuck holes between St. Johns and Ovid.
 - v. Barry is unsure of what material the DNR is going to use to resurface the trail yet. He is expecting the possibility of a new limestone.

- vi. Discussion was had on trail usage, in 2016 Chuck Nelson had a class complete an onsite survey project to collect data of trail use. Gary Boersen questioned trail usage data might be beneficial to the Clinton County Parks and Green Space Master Plan. The option of trail counter was discussed with the pros and cons of the use of trail counters.
- vii. Barry mentioned Tri-County is hosting a trail meeting on May 11th in Dewitt to discuss the options of a trail coming north out of Lansing.
- viii. Dave Pohl outlined the representation between the trail authority and each municipality.

C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Dwight Washington reported that Psychological/metal awareness, professionals have noticed the positive impacts of parks/open space on mental health. Washington additionally, raised the question if Narcan is available for the park staff to use. A discussion was had regarding the pros and cons of the park staff having Narcan available to use and administer if needed. Dwight Washington also asked what the average response time to the park is for the Clinton County Sheriff and Clinton Area Ambulance from a call to arriving at the park. Coordinator Thornton said he would contact Clinton County Sheriff and Clinton Area Ambulance to see what the average response time is to Motz and Clinton Lakes County Park.
- b. Pat Jackson provided information that the County RESA Career Connection class is providing a Day in the Park May 24th at Motz County Park from 8:00 am – 10:00 am & 12:30pm - 2:30pm (weather permitting). The event is free of charge and offers the opportunity for the community to learn more about multiple topics including (yet not limited to) calculation of BMI, basic auto inspection, avoiding financial scams and the importance of exercise and nature.

D. Finance Committee – Natalie Elkins

- a. PGSC Chair Elkins mentioned the 2023 YTD budget report was provided and PGSC and Coordinator Thornton if there is additional information to provide. Coordinator Thornton mentioned he is working on the 2024 budget and considering increases for the additional cost of adding the Pratt Road Property.

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

- a. Chuck Nelson said David Borneman did a great job with the burning of the north-half of the grassland. Within two-three hours the crew light, burn and extinguish the fire to help restore the native grasses. Coordinator Thornton added that he has been working with both his summer help and RESA help to snip and treat some of the cottonwoods and other hardwoods that are accessible in the grassland after the success prescribed burn.

- b. Jan Motz asked if the brush/sod pile in the 2-acre lot was scheduled to be burned/removed yet. Thornton mentioned he is still working with vendors to have this removed, so the land can be prepared for seeding.

- F. Health Committee – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson
 - a. See Universal Access.

V. Old Business

- A. Clinton Lakes Master Plan & Five-Year Plan
 - a. Nothing to report.
- B. Clinton Lakes Dog Beach
 - a. Kyle Thornton reported the actual permit is still not in hand, Clinton County is still waiting to receive from EGLE. Additional at this time the water level of Little Clinton is high enough that the County would wait to complete the work when the level drops again/lowers down the beach.
- C. Pratt Road Property/Tours
 - a. Coordinator Thornton reported with Phase I being complete, Tetra Tech will be completing Phase II. The Phase II assessment will include soil boring in the area the diesel tanks have been sitting on the Pratt Road Property site. Thornton mentioned he needed to complete an additional water sample for the EGLE – Dewatering Permit. Todd Campbell reported with the requirement of soil borings, the Board of Commissioner has approved a 60-day extension on the contract due diligence and closing of the purchase of the property.
- D. Hesse/Earl Youth Fishing Program
 - a. Coordinator Thornton mentioned Hesse/Earl Youth Fishing Program at Motz Park for May 20, 2023, has at least 44 registered youth. Thornton said it is expected to see 50-60 youth registered for May 20th.

VI. New Business

- A. PGSC July 7th from July 14th
 - a. Chair Natalie Elkins addressed the commission to see if the July 14th PGSC meeting could be moved back to July 7th (the first Monday of the month). Additionally Chair Elkins reported that Coordinator Thornton would not be available to attend the PGSC meeting if hosted on July 14, 2023.

Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Natalie Elkins, to amend the 2023 Parks and Green Space Commission meeting from July 14, 2023, to July 7, 2023, if a quorum is available. Chair Elkins instructed Coordinator Thornton to email the PGSC members for quorum numbers for a July 7, 2023, meeting: Motion carried.

VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items

A. June 2nd PGSC Meeting

- a. Chuck Nelson asked if the June 2nd PGSC meeting is at Motz Park or the Clinton County Courthouse. Coordinator Thornton responded that Nelson is correct, the June 2, 2023, PGSC should be at Motz Park.

Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by Phil Hanes, to amend the May 5, 2023, Parks and Green Space meeting agenda to reflect the location of the June 2, 2023, PGSC meeting to be hosted at Motz County Park: Motion carried.

VIII. Adjournment –Next Meeting:

Friday, June 2nd, 2023, at 8:30 am
Motz County Park - Larry Martin Pavilion
4630 N. Dewitt Road
St. Johns, MI 48879

Moved by Dave Pohl, seconded by Pat Jackson to adjourn the meeting until Friday, May 5th, 2023. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.