

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
Parks and Greenspace
Coordinator

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MINUTES

PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

Friday, May 7, 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 8:33AM

Members Present: Tim Machowicz (Ovid Township), Chuck Nelson (Victor Township), Phil Hanses (St. Johns, MI), James Graham (Greenbush Township), Patricia Jackson (Olive Township), Roni Christmas (Bath Township), Kevin Holt (Dewitt Township), Natalie Elkins (Victor Township), Dave Pohl (Dallas Township)

Guests Present: Gary Boersen, Gayla Phillips

Staff Present: Todd Campbell

- A. Approval of May 7, 2021, Agenda
Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by Dave Pohl, to approve the May 7, 2021, meeting Agenda.
Motion carried.
- B. Approval May 7, 2021, Per Diems
Moved by Roni Christmas, seconded by Natalie Elkins, to approve the May 7, 2021, meeting Per Diems. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of April 2, 2021, Meeting Minutes
Moved by Phil Hanses, seconded by Pat Jackson, to approve the April 2, 2021, meeting Minutes. Roni Christmas - abstention, Motion carried.

II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

Gayla Phillips mentioned Gratiot County Parks passed a park millage for park improvements and will now be charging non-county residents.

Gary Boersen reported the annual The Clinton Conservation District is planning to host their annual meeting at The Larry Martin Pavilion at Motz County Park and Clinton County Lakes County Park on June 22nd as an open house format to go over invasive species and the grassland. The CCD staff is working on preparing a one-acre food plot in the grassland. The CCD working with the Friends of the Looking Glass has received a grant to work on river cleanup. The cleanup is tentative scheduled for July 31st between Babcock Landing and Gloria Miller Park.

III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton

- A.** Kyle Thornton thanked Phil Hanses and Jon Morrison from the Drain Commissioner's Office for helping to direct him to finding the drain between Big Clinton and Little Clinton Lakes. The Motz County Park bathhouse has been chlorinated, flushed, tested and ready for opening. Also, the first surface water test of the season has been submitted into EGLE. An update on the 2019 LWCF Grant from the Michigan DNR is agreements might be signed by late June from the National Park Service. Which matches with the Clinton Lakes Improvements timeline; with an upcoming bid meeting and construction would start after Labor Day. Kyle reported training has started with CIVIC Rec, the new reservation software being utilized by Waste Management and The Parks and Greenspace departments. Lastly, he mentioned the summer intern Corey Zverina has stated this week with Parks and Greenspace department.
- B.** Tim asked about a report on fish stocking; Kyle reported Stoney Creek said there is shortage of fish, so no date is yet confirmed for stocking. They also mentioned there is a shortage of both smallmouth and largemouth bass, so restocking of bass is not going to be an option this year.

IV. Committee Reports

- A.** Water Based Recreation – Phil Hanses & Chuck Nelson
 - a. Phil Hanses mentioned a contractor has completed fallen tree and log jam removal on the Looking Glass River from Hollister Road and downstream about three miles. Dewitt Township owns land at Wood Road on the Looking Glass River that is being explored for another kayak launch point.
 - b. Chuck Nelson reported he is regularly meeting with a group representing Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties regarding septic systems and water quality. There will be more information coming out soon.

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

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

- a. Barry reported that due to personal challenges his time on the trails may be limited over the next year. In Muir on the Maple River Bridge someone stole the steel rods out of the fencing on the bridge. Barry reported trail clean-up has taken place and the trail is in good shape. Through Ovid, the trail will be seal coated and crack sealed this summer.

C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. 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 included in your packet and the 2022 budget is due to administration June 1st. Kyle reported he will have a full crew in about two weeks. Half of the summer help has started early to help prepare the park for opening.

E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson & Jim Graham

- a. Chad Thelen is working on plan for the two-acre plot of land next to the maintenance garages at the parks to prepare for seeding. We are looking to partner with Pheasants Forever and develop more than just a grassland, but educational paths with different types of grasses for students and park users to walk through and see what the different types of grasses look like.

F. Southern County Park Search Team – Chuck Nelson, Tim Machowicz, Phil Hanses, and Dave Pohl

- a. Kyle Thornton reported he visited the Pratt Road Property with Craig Longnecker, Todd Campbell, and Corey Zverina to walk the property. We received notice from the DNR that our MNRTF Grant submitted for 2021 has passed through first stage of review and received administrative completeness.

G. Health Committee – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Kyle Thornton reported that Clinton County has extended the state of emergency for another month and is reviewing this monthly. He also reported that he attempted to visit the Clinton County Healthy Community Coalition, but due to connection issues was not able to fully participate.

- b. The PGSC board discussed the option of meeting in June at Motz County Park if available. Todd Campbell agreed now the weather is improving he will have Kyle work with Craig Longnecker to see if this is an option for the PGSC June meeting.

V. Old Business

A. Summer Park Rangers

- a. Kyle Thornton mentioned two of the rangers have started helping Maintenance staff and Corey has been doing a lot of painting. He also mentioned once the full staff is available, we have a few training sessions planned.

B. Clinton Lakes Improvements

- a. Bid meeting is schedule for Tuesday, May 11th.

VI. New Business

A. Larry Martin Pavilion

- a. The Clinton County Board of Commissioners voted to open the Larry Martin Pavilion and playground at Motz County Park.

VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items

- B. 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, July 9, 2021, at 8:30 am
Motz County Park

Moved by Natalie Elkins, seconded by Roni Christmas to adjourn the meeting until Friday, May 7, 2021. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 10:12AM