

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, Pat Jackson and
Natalie Elkins, Citizen Rep.



Staff
Kyle Thornton
Parks and Greenspace
Coordinator

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MINUTES

PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

Friday, June 5, 2020 AT 8:30 A.M.

VIA TELEPHONIC CONFERENCE

Dial 1-312-626-6799 US

ZOOM Meeting ID: 886 9053 2923

PER STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2020-15 CONCERNING OMA AND COVID-19

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, Chuck Nelson, Phil Hanses, Dwight Washington, Dave Pohl, Pat Jackson, Natalie Elkins, Roni Christmas

Guests Present: Barry Culham, Seth Gibson, Kelcie Sweeney

Staff Present: Kyle Thornton and Ryan Wood

- A. Approval of June 5, 2020 Agenda
Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Pat Jackson, to approve the June 5, 2020 meeting Agenda. Motion carried.
- B. Approval June 5, 2020 Per Diems
Moved by Dave Pohl, seconded by Roni Christmas, to approve the June 5, 2020 meeting Per Diems. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of May 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Moved by Dave Pohl, seconded by Pat Jackson, to approve the May 1, 2020 meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

Kelcie Sweeney from the Clinton Conservation District reported habitat projects Muskrat Lake, Clinton Lakes, Rose Lake and Invasive Species work have stopped due to freezing of DNR Grants Funds. Zack Pitman the CISMA, coordinator has accepted a new position.

Kelcie reported CCD is going to do a larger fall tree sale and the Stony Creek and Upper Maple planning grants are moving forward. CCD is looking into options for additional survey and pesticide work in the county.

Ryan Wood reported the County's Courthouse will be back open Monday, June 8, 2020 and the county is going through possible budget cuts due to COVID-19. Starting design work for the Clinton Lakes projects and to the best of his knowledge the county is still supporting the acquisition of the property in Riley Township. He also reported the County revenue is going to take a significant hit due to COVID-19.

III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton

- A. Kyle reported that Park is running under staffed due to two rangers unable to start. Chuck mentioned intern's numbers are low too due to COVID-19, but hopes some of the intern students will be able to start back once things open back up.
- B. Able Eyes has filmed Motz Park for the 360 degree view - <https://goo.gl/maps/jwbNJ7oYQQXdAeqNA>
- C. EGLE is sending water samples kits for Surface Water Sampling.
- D. The Parks and Greenspace website has a new page - Parks & Greenspace Resource.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Water Based Recreation – Phil Hanses
Phil reported they are continuing to work with Road Commission to get culvert under north side of Park Lake Rd. Rivers are seeing more kayaking with high rivers.
- B. Non-Motorized Facilities – Chuck Nelson/Dave Pohl
 - County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
 - FMCIS TrailChair Barry Culham reported unable to do any mowing or maintenance on the trails, due to COVID-19, only able to remove trees across the trails. Grass is getting tall and he is just starting to receive clearance from the DNR to start mowing. No new projects for the 2020 season. Barry reported about a dozen or more down trees off the trails from the storm.
- C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington
Dwight mentioned he is excited about moving forward with Able Eyes.

D. Finance Committee – Tim Machowicz

Kyle reported we are starting to spend more funds with parks being open. He also advised that the department's budget meeting with Ryan Wood and Craig Longnecker is scheduled for next week.

Chuck asked about PPE for rangers and Kyle reported rangers have gloves, masks and disinfectants to use.

E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson/Jim Graham

Chuck reported on the 2-acre plot is on hold and might have to wait for a fall plant. Seth reported Parks Department can use the CCD's drill when planting moves forward. Kelsey reported that Chad Thelen might be resource to help.

F. Southern County Park Search Team

Barry mentioned the pond by US 127 would be another good option for a county park if it come up for sale someday, with backing up to the trail.

G. Health Committee – Dwight Washington

Dwight mentioned the park staff has done a great work on promoting social distancing and disinfecting throughout the park.

V. Old Business

A. COVID-19 – Park Operations Summer 2020 – Kyle Thornton

- a. Kyle reported that the park was opened about 11:00am on Friday, May 22nd, before Memorial Day Weekend. Park activity has been high with higher temperatures. He reported that disinfecting and cleaning procedures and the rotating bathroom schedule. Placed social distancing signage around the park to remind guest. He mentioned opening of the park has gone really good with the short notice on opening for the holiday weekend. Lastly he reported the playground and pavilion are closed for the entire 2020 season.

B. Grassland Seeding – Chuck Nelson

- a. Reported under Grassland Committee

VI. New Business

- A. Nothing to Report

VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items

- A. Nothing to Report

VIII. Adjournment –Next Meeting: Friday, July 10, 2020 at 10:00 am

Motz Park, 4630 N. Dewitt Rd, St. Johns, MI 48879

Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by Roni Christmas to adjourn the meeting until Friday, July 10, 2020. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25AM