

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.



Staff
Kyle Thornton
Parks and Greenspace
Coordinator

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MINUTES

PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

Friday, July 7, 2023, AT 8:30 A.M.
Motz County Park – Larry Martin Pavilion
4630 N. Dewitt Road
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 8:37 AM

Members Present:

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

Guests Present:

- Liz Braddock, MMDHD

Staff Present:

- Kyle Thornton
- Todd Campbell

A. Approval of July 7, 2023, Agenda as amended.

Moved by David Pohl, seconded by James Graham, to approve the July 7, 2023, meeting Agenda. Motion carried.

B. Approval of June 2, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Moved by Jan Motz, seconded by David Pohl, to approve the June 2, 2023, meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

- A. Liz Braddock from the Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) reported that the department has been in contact with the Parks and Green Space Department with phone calls coming into the Parks Department and Health Department from people allegedly getting sick after visiting Motz County Park on July 4th. MMDHD has completed the surface water sampling results on Wednesday, July 5, 2023, the surface water sample results included 12, 8, 52 (mg/L counts) for Motz County Park and 8, 4, <4 (mg/L counts) for Clinton Lakes County Park. Surface water samples that test under 300 mg/L counts are considered safe for swimming and other full body contact recreation activities. Braddock mentioned with the results of the surface water sampling that there is no issue with the water quality at Motz County Park and Clinton Lakes County Park. Braddock mentioned an Epidemiological Survey was offered to each person who contacted the Health Department and Parks and Green Space Department. Liz Braddock mentioned that based off the car counter Motz County Park had over 800 visitors on July 4, 2023, so the park was a busy place on a hot and sunny day with high heat. Braddock additionally mentioned that health departments around the State of Michigan have seen an increase concern with eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), as mosquitos in Bay County recently tested positive for EEE, a deadly virus that can infect humans and animals. MMDHD are reminding residents to protect yourself when outside.

III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton

- A. Kyle Thornton reported there was some vandalism on the Big Clinton Lakes Beach a few weeks ago and the park rangers who opened the park, where able to remove the graffiti quickly. Additionally, Thornton reported park staff has been able to successfully replace 5 story walk post that had rusted out at the base. Bengal Township provided the conceptual design of the proposed park and trail connecting to the CIS Trail. K. Thornton mentioned he attended the Clinton Conservation District meeting with David Pohl and Phil Hanses. Coordinator Thornton reported that after the 4th of July holiday the County received multiple phone calls to report that park guests got sick after attending Motz County Park. Thornton turned the information over to the MMDHD, who has been in contact with all the individuals to investigate the reported cases of illness. Coordinator Thornton mentioned he received a phone call just before the meeting from MMDHD and their weekly surface water test came back showing that Motz and Clinton Lakes County Park are safe for swimming. Surface water sampling results from July 5, 2023, completed by MMDGD included 12, 8, 52 (mg/L counts) for Motz County Park and 8, 4, <4 (mg/L counts) for Clinton Lakes County Park. Per EGLE surface water samples that test under 300 mg/L counts are considered safe for swimming and other full body contact recreation activities. Thornton mentioned the estimated of park guest between Clinton Lakes County Park and Motz County Park was over 1,400 people on July 4, 2023 (Motz at 800 and Clinton Lakes 680 people).

IV. Committee Reports

A. Water Based Recreation/Surface Water Quality – Phil Hanses & Gary Boersen

- a. Gary Boersen opened the discussion pointing out the photos for the Jones Road access site for the Grand River. In conversations with the property owner, Boersen mentioned that the owner isn't necessary looking to increase the traffic. Additionally, G. Boersen mentioned that sometimes people park overnight on the roadside, which is one of the biggest concerns of the property owner. During the discussion the PGSC decided not to pursue the Jones Road access site further at this time but could be a possibly pursue the site as a one-acre access site in the future. Chair Elkins mentioned that maybe the Road Commission could help the property owner with signage between the private property and road right away.
- b. Coordinator Thornton reported that per discussion during the June PGSC meeting he has added a surface water quality testing/sample page on the Clinton County website. This page provides the surface water sampling completed both by MMDHD and Clinton County. Additionally, he has posted QR codes around the park to provide park guest current and historical surface water quality testing results.
- c. K. Thornton mentioned the Michigan Department of Natural Resources was recently at Clinton Lakes County Park completing some geese banding. Duck banding programs are part of a nationwide monitoring effort for migratory game birds. To facilitate geographic specific recovery and survival rates, duck banding is targeted at local birds. As such, all duck banding is conducted between July 1 and September 30 before the onset of the majority of the fall migration in October.

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

- County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
 - FMCIS Trail
- a. David Pohl mentioned some challenges are being seen for the CIS Trail to go into Owosso, due to active railroad lines. Pohl reported accordingly to the Trail Authority the trail is going to be resurfaced.

C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Coordinator Thornton opened discussion on the possibility of applying for grants to construct new vaulted toilets in Motz, Clinton Lakes and Pratt Road. Following discussion Kyle Thornton and Dwight Washington will explore possible grants.

D. Finance Committee – Natalie Elkins

- a. Coordinator Thornton reported that 39.4% of the 2023 budget has been spent as of the meeting and 24.3% of part-time wages.

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

- a. James Graham mentioned that we are starting to see the results of the burn and some of the cottonwoods on the northside died and others lived, as we expected.
- b. Jan Motz reported the 2-acre lot does not seem to be taking due to heat and lack of water on the seeds.

F. Health Committee – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Pat Jackson provided an update on “A Day in the Park” offered by Clinton County RESA and Career Connections. Jackson mentioned that attendance was less than expected and Clinton County RESA will evaluate for 2024.
- b. Jan Motz led a discussion about where the surface water testing results are posted and available. Following the discussion, Coordinator Thornton mentioned the results are posted around the showcases of the park and he will work to post the surface water testing results on the Clinton County website.

V. Old Business

A. Clinton Lakes Master Plan & Five-Year Plan

- a. Coordinator Thornton mentioned he has started work on the RFP for the Clinton County Parks and Green Space Master Plan and Five-Year Plan. (Current Five-Year Plan is set to expire December of 2024).

B. Clinton Lakes Dog Beach

- a. Kyle Thornton reported the EGLE Permit and Soil Erosion Permit have been received for the Clinton Lakes Dog Beach. Conversation followed about ways to remind folks to keep dogs on a leash outside the dog beach area. Coordinator Thornton mentioned he will follow up with Animal Control and additional signage is being developed for around the trails.

C. Pratt Road Property/Tours

- a. Coordinator Thornton provided the Spice Group report and photos of the improvements and relocation of the Pratt Road Property. K. Thornton mentioned a future project will be to install boulders around the perimeter of the all-season parking lot. Thornton mentioned at the time of the meeting dewatering permit is currently within the two-week public notice.
- b. David Pohl opened the discussion of the naming of the Pratt Road Property, once this becomes an official county park property.

VI. New Business

A. No New Business

VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items

A. No additional public comments.

VIII. Adjournment –Next Meeting:

Friday, August 4th, 2023, at 8:30 am
Motz County Park - Larry Martin Pavilion
4630 N. Dewitt Road
St. Johns, MI 48879

Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by James Graham to adjourn the meeting until Friday, August 4, 2023. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:22 AM.