

**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.



# Clinton County Parks and Greenspace Commission



**Staff**  
Kyle Thornton  
Parks and Greenspace  
Coordinator

1327 E. Townsend Rd • St. Johns, MI 48879  
[www.clinton-county.org](http://www.clinton-county.org)

Phone: 989.224.5128 • Fax: 989.224-5102  
Email: [parks@clinton-county.org](mailto:parks@clinton-county.org)

## MINUTES

### PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

Friday, August 5, 2022, AT 8:30 A.M.  
Motz County Park  
4630 N. Dewitt Road, St. Johns, MI 48879

#### I. Call to Order - Declaration of Quorum

Due to the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair Chuck Nelson declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM

Members Present: Chuck Nelson, Dwight Washington, Dave Pohl, James Graham, Natalie Elkins, Pat Jackson, Kevin Holt, Roni Christmas, Phil Hanses, Gary Boersen

Guests Present: Kurt Wolf, Clinton Conservation District; Katie Hafner, Clinton Conservation District

Staff Present: Kyle Thornton, Todd Campbell, Corey Zverina, Christine Adamo

- A. New Parks and Green Space Member Gary Boersen was introduced.
- B. Approval of Chuck Nelson as the new Parks and Green Space Chair for the rest of 2022 calendar year.  
**Moved by Natalie Elkins, seconded by Pat Jackson, to appoint Chuck Nelson as PGSC Chair.** Motion carried.
- C. Approval of Natalie Elkins as the new Parks and Green Space Vice-Chair for the rest of 2022 calendar year.  
**Moved by Phil Hanses, seconded by Roni Christmas, to appoint Natalie Elkins at PGSC Vice-Chair.** Motion carried.
- D. Approval of August 5, 2022, Agenda

**Moved by Roni Christmas, seconded by Pat Jackson, to approve the August 5, 2022, meeting Agenda. Motion carried.**

E. Approval June 3, 2022, Per Diems

**Moved by Roni Christmas, seconded by Pat Jackson, to approve the August 5, 2022, meeting Per Diems. Motion carried.**

F. Approval of June 3, 2022, Meeting Minutes

**Moved by Dave Pohl, seconded by Kevin Holt, to approve the June 3, 2022, meeting Minutes with recommended changes. Motion carried.**

## **II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items**

A. No Public Comments Provided

## **III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton**

A. Kyle Thornton reported that final reimbursements and closing out documents for Land and Water Conservation Grant have been submitted to the DNR. Thornton also reported the park has seen an increase in traffic with reservations of the Larry Martin Pavilion every weekend and many weekdays. He also mentioned that employment of summer staff is coming to an end as they prepare for their fall classes. Thornton reported that he has worked with Clinton County Road Commission and MDOT and the new signs will be going up soon to list both Motz and Clinton Lakes County Park.

## **IV. Committee Reports**

A. Water Based Recreation/Surface Water Quality – Phil Hanes & Chuck Nelson

- a. Phil Hanes reported water levels are low around the county on lakes and rivers. Chuck Nelson mentioned a recent survey of Victor Township residents showed the top two responses included public access to surface water-based recreation and non-motorized trails.

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

- County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
- FMCIS Trail
- a. Dave Pohl shared that the Trail Authority is still exploring the options of extending the board to include all seven counties.
- b. Kyle Thornton that he attended a meeting with David Pohl last month, as part of the non-motorized trail to connect the FMCIS Trail to the Lansing River Trail.

C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Nothing to report

D. Finance Committee –

- a. Kyle Thornton reported that the Parks and Green Space Department has spent about 65% of the 2022 annual budget and still in good condition to be under budget again this year.

E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson & Jim Graham

- a. Jim Graham reported the cottonwoods in the southern half of the grassland are still growing after the burn earlier this spring. Kurt Wolf of the Conservation District offered the use of pesticide daubers for treating the trees after they are cut.

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

- a. See Pratt Road Property in New Business

G. Health Committee – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Nothing to report

**V. Old Business**

A. Clinton Lakes Master Plan & Five-Year Plan

- a. Thornton opened discussion about updating the Clinton Lakes/Motz Master Plan and the Parks Five-Year Plan for 2025-2029.

**Moved by Natalie Elkins, seconded by Pat Jackson, a recommendation that Clinton County Parks and Green Space Department seek outside consultants for development of the 2025-2029 Five-Year Plan and to update the Clinton Lakes and Motz Master Plan.** Motion carried.

**VI. New Business**

A. SPARK Grant

- a. Kyle Thornton provided an update on the new grant from the DNR, called a SPARK. Projects discussed included a new ADA compliant vaulted toilet in Clinton Lakes County Park and a paved trail around the Motz County Park and additional fishing piers on the backside of the trail.

B. Park Traffic Counter

- a. Christine Adamo provided the board with a presentation of the collected car counter data from the inter paved parking lots at Motz and Clinton Lakes County Park. She reported total car counter data of 33,831 for Motz and 24,788 for Clinton Lakes from May 23 through July 24, 2022. Based off these numbers the estimated park guest for in 2022 for May-July would already be around 100,000 visitors. As noted by Ms. Adamo, the car counter data does not consider the vehicles using the roadside parking lots for either Motz or Clinton Lakes County Parks.

C. Waterfowl Hunt 2022

- a. Kyle Thornton provided the annual Clinton Lakes County Park Waterfowl Hunting dates and times of the hunts.

**Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by Roni Christmas, to approve the dates as presented for the Waterfowl Hunt at Clinton Lakes County Park.** Motion carried.

- D. Clinton Lakes Dog Beach
  - a. Kyle Thornton reported that no additional work has been complete on the Clinton Lakes Dog beach, as Clinton County is still waiting for response to the MIWater Permit requested from EGLE.
- E. Pratt Road Property
  - a. Kyle Thornton provided the preliminary designs for the Pratt Road Property that included the beach area, all season parking lot and emergency access trail.
- F. Motz Sidewalk Repair
  - a. Kyle Thornton reported on the failed sidewalk near the beach at Motz County Park. A quote was provided to complete the sidewalk Motz County Park and boardwalk Clinton Lakes County Park. Discuss followed about seeking alternative bids for the sidewalk at Motz County Park. After discussion the PGSC took the following action:

**Moved by Roni Christmas, seconded by Phil Hansas, a recommendation to the Clinton County Ways and Means Committee to complete the improvements to the sidewalk at Motz County Park and boardwalk at Clinton Lakes County Park within the 2022 calendar year. Additionally, the PGSC is recommending County staff seek alternative bids for the sidewalk improvements at Motz County Park. Motion carried.**

## **VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items**

- A. Kyle Thornton reminded the PGSC that the pre-approved Portuguese Water Dog Trails will be hosted on Big Clinton Lakes Beach on August 18-21.

## **VIII. Adjournment –Next Meeting:**

Friday, September 8, 2022, at 8:30 am  
Motz County Park  
4630 Dewitt Road  
St. Johns, MI 48879

**Moved by Roni Christmas, seconded by Kevin Holt to adjourn the meeting until Friday, September 8, 2022. Motion carried.**  
Meeting adjourned at 9:52 AM.