

Chair
Tim Machowicz, Citizen Rep.

Vice-Chair
Chuck Nelson, Citizen Rep.

Secretary
Phil Hanes, 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, August 6, 2021 AT 8:45 A.M.
Motz County Park
4630 N. Dewitt Rd., St. Johns, MI 48879

I. Call to Order - Declaration of Quorum

Chair Tim Machowicz declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 8:34AM

Members Present: Tim Machowicz, Chuck Nelson, Phil Hanes, James Graham, Kevin Holt, Natalie Elkins, Dwight Washington, Pat Jackson, Dave Pohl

Guests Present: Kelcie Sweeney

Staff Present: Kyle Thornton, Todd Campbell, Gillian Chirillo

- A. Approval of August 6, 2021, Agenda
Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by Natalie Elkins, to approve the August 6, 2021, meeting Agenda. Motion carried.
- B. Approval August 6, 2021, Per Diems
Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Dave Pohl, to approve the August 6, 2021, meeting Per Diems. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of July 9, 2021, Meeting Minutes
Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Pat Jackson, to approve the July 9, 2021, meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

Kelcie Sweeney from the Clinton Conservation District reported the Friends of Looking Glass River and CCD clean-up on the Looking Glass River was rescheduled to August 15th due to weather. CCD is hosting a native plant workshop on August 26th at Motz Park. The annual CCD fall tree sale will be October 1st, will also be hosted at Motz and Clinton Lakes County Parks. Lastly, Kelcie reported they are partnering with CISMA to offer a Woody Invasive Workshop in October, more information to come on dates, times, and locations.

III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton

- A. Kyle Thornton asked Gillian Chirillo to talk about the buoy project. Gillian then reported after trying multiple ways to keep the buoy markers in the water, they have developed a system using earth anchors cemented into buckets. They are going into the lakes today to mark the swim areas. Kyle then reported about an EMS call at Motz Park, after conversations with family members; the guest who needed EMS assistance are doing better.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Water Based Recreation – Phil Hanses & Chuck Nelson
- a. Phil Hanses reported the Drain Commission is working with Mid-Michigan District Health Department to identify a few sewage/E.Coli levels around the County.
 - b. Chuck Nelson asked about the Mid-Michigan State of our Waters webinar hosted in July. Kelcie Sweeney reported there was 35 participants, and the committee is meeting to discuss the next steps moving forward. Kyle reported that according to the levels on [Michigan BeachGuard System - Home \(state.mi.us\)](http://MichiganBeachGuardSystem-Home.state.mi.us) (BeachGuard); the Park Lake E.Coli levels have dropped and the beach is back open.
- B. Non-Motorized Facilities – Chuck Nelson & Dave Pohl
- County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
 - FMCIS Trail
- a. Natalie Elkins asked about parking on the CIS Trail. The map www.cistrail.org was discussed. Tim Machowicz mentioned the St. Johns Football Team cleaned the graffiti off at the US-127/CIS Trail overpass.
- C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson
- a. Dwight Washington mentioned it is nice to hear the accessibility on the trailheads. Natalie mentioned if the Parks and Greenspace Department spotlights greenspaces in the county once a month, she could help repost on facebook.

- D. Finance Committee – Tim Machowicz

- a. Kyle Thornton reported a few line items are showing over 100% with some unexpected expenses throughout the year. Yet the Parks and Greenspace Department budget is still in good shape and under budget.
- E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson & Jim Graham
- a. Chuck Nelson mentioned the cottonwood trees in the grassland need to be brush hogged, snipped and/or treated; before they get too big. Tim Machowicz asked Kyle Thornton to investigate some options before the September PGSC Meeting.
- F. Southern County Park Search Team – Chuck Nelson, Tim Machowicz, Phil Hanses, and Dave Pohl
- a. Will be covered under old business.
- G. Health Committee – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson
- a. Dwight Washington reported that he did a presentation for the National Association for Local Public Health, which was exciting and different at the same time. He also mentioned it is nice to see the levels dropping at Park Lake and residents are happy about the progress.

V. Old Business

- A. Clinton Lakes Improvements
- a. Kyle Thornton reported the three options presented to the Ways and Means Committee last month for the Clinton Lakes Improvement Project. The Ways and Means Committee voted to complete the entire project, as designed, which includes paving the access road, the new parking lot towards the west and half of the east parking lot on Dewitt Road.
 - b. Todd Campbell discussed the option of paving the entire East Parking Lot and estimated it would cost an additional \$20,000 to complete the entire parking lot. **Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Natalie Elkins, to pave the entire East Parking Lot on Dewitt Road.** Motion carried.
 - c. Kyle Thornton has submitted the signed letter of agreement to the DNR. He also reported the entire Clinton Lakes Park will be closed to guest during construction.
- B. Wood Road Property & Property Tours
- a. Jim Graham reported that during the Wood Road tour of the property, a foam was noticed on the lake. Kelcie Sweeney completed a feel test, and figures it was a detergent making its way to the lake through ground water. Phil Hanses mentioned the ditch between the wet land and the lake looked to be a way to pump access water out of the lake during the mining process. Tim Machowicz and Chuck Nelson reported the amount of Japanese Knotweed, Phragmites and other invasive species around the property. On a trail note, Kelcie mentioned how dry the trails where in the woods, being muck soil.

- b. On the Pratt Road Property, the abundance of accessibility for trails and excellent water quality was discussed. Board members were impressed with the flexibility of options on the property to develop a park.
- C. Exotic Plant Watch Monitoring
 - a. Kyle Thornton provided the additional days that he has worked with CISMA to provide Exotic Plant Watch Monitoring in August as they look for volunteers to complete the program.
- D. Waterfowl Hunt
 - a. Kyle Thornton reported that after conversations with the County Administration team the 2021 Waterfowl Hunt will be canceled due to park construction.

VI. New Business

- A. Nothing on Agenda

VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items

- A. None

VIII. Adjournment –Next Meeting:

Friday, September 10, 2021, at 8:30 am
Motz County Park

Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by Natalie Elkins to adjourn the meeting until Friday, September 10, 2021. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 10:03AM