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EATON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

August 5, 2020

The Eaton County Parks and Recreation Commission met virtually.

PRESENT: Brian Droscha, Duane Eldred, Jack Duffy, Sarah Ferguson, Robert McConnell, Rob Piercefield, Kathy Webber, Jane Whitacre

ABSENT: Eric Deibel, Steven Weigel

GUESTS: Riley Spayde (Friends of Eaton County Parks), Sarah Nelson (Barry Conservation District), Carrie Klingelsmith (Beckett & Reader)

STAFF: Troy Stowell-Director, Jackie Blanc-Operations Manager/Naturalist, Crystal Smith – Recreation & Event Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McConnell called the Parks Commission meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

2. INTRODUCTIONS/CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Agenda

August Agenda was reviewed and amended. Motion made by Droscha, second by Whitacre to approve the agenda with the change to allow Old and New Business items to be presented after the approval of consent items. **Motion Carried.**

B. Approval of Minutes

June minutes were reviewed. Motion made by Piercefield, second by Weber to approve the minutes. **Motion Carried.**

4. STAFF REPORTS

- Jackie Blanc gave a brief overview of her report that was distributed by email.
- Crystal Smith gave a brief overview of her report that was distributed by email.
- Director Stowell gave a brief overview of his report that was distributed by email.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. Master Voucher

June/July Master Voucher was reviewed. Motion made by Droscha, second by Piercefield to approve the Master Voucher. **Motion carried.**

B. Financial Report

June/July Financial Report for was reviewed. Motion made by Droscha, second by Whitacre to receive the Financial Report. **Motion carried.**

7. PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

A. Friends of Eaton County Parks – Friends President Riley Spayde informed the Commission that the Annual Fundraiser has been canceled due to concerns with Covid-19. Mr. Spayde also noted that the group has a new Board Member, Meegin Heeney who will be tasked with marketing, member recruitment and social media efforts for the group.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2021-2025 Parks Master Plan – Carrie Klingelsmith from Beckett & Reader led Commissioners through discussion of the draft goals and objectives for the Master Plan, Proposed Action Item Projects and discussion on the Crandell Park Development Plan. Commissioners and Staff offered several suggestions throughout the process which will be included in the Draft Plan in the coming months.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Barry Conservation District request for Shoreline Demonstration Area at Crandell Park – Sarah Nelson of the Barry Conservation District present an opportunity to install a grant funded Shoreline Demonstration Area at Crandell Park. The area would be roughly 20-30 linear feet along a West facing shore and include appropriate educational and interpretive signage. Motion made by Droscha, seconded by Whitacre to allow Barry Conservation District to install a Shoreline Demonstration Area at Crandell Park. **Motion Carried.**

B. Crandell Park Development and Additional Parking Proposal. Director Stowell informed the Commission that during the permitting process, the County Planning Commission recommended that the existing parking lot on East Clinton Trail be expanded to fit more cars and to ease congestion and potential traffic concerns. Naturalist/Operations Manager Blanc met with Community Development staff on site to review potential options. Staff is currently awaiting a plan from the County.

C. Fitzgerald Lease Negotiations Update. Director Stowell introduced an approved motion by the Public Works and Planning Committee which supported a two year lease with the City of Grand Ledge, however did motion not support the waiving of entry fees for Grand Ledge Residents. Also presented was the current parcel map based on the known legal description of Fitzgerald Park and the proposed new “footprint” of the park by Grand Ledge. Discussion was held on the potential future impact of the planned infrastructure upgrades by the City. Motion by Droscha, support by Duffy to recommend to County Administration and support the Public Works and Planning Committee’s motion for a two-year lease with the City of Grand Ledge and to not waive vehicle entry fees for City of Grand Ledge residents. **Motion Carried.**

10. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT

None

11. OTHER BUSINESS

None

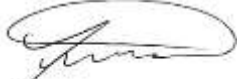
12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None

13. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at either Lincoln Brick Park, Grand Ledge OR virtual based on Executive Order. There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made. The regular meeting was adjourned by Chairman McConnell at 8:31 p.m.

For the Commission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Stowell', is written over a faint, circular watermark or stamp.

Troy Stowell- Director of Eaton County Parks