

EATON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

March 2, 2022

The Eaton County Parks and Recreation Commission met at Lincoln Brick Park.

PRESENT: Christopher Arndt, Duane Eldred, Eric Deibel, Brian Droscha, Jack Duffy, Sarah Ferguson, Jon Horford, Alisa Gonzales-Pennington, Barbara Rogers, Jane Whitacre

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Tim Knutsen – Beckett & Raeder, Tyler Pray – Charlotte Rotary, Brian Lautzenheiser – Charlotte Rotary and Eaton County Commissioner, and Sue Spagnuolo – Eaton Conservation District

STAFF: Jackie Blanc – Interim Director/Operations Manager/Naturalist, Melody Smalley – Administrative Assistant, and Crystal Smith – Event and Recreation Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ferguson called the Parks Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

2. INTRODUCTIONS/CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by Droscha, second by Deibel to approve the March 2022 agenda and December 2021 minutes. **Motion carried.**

4. Election of 2022 Park Commission Officers

Motion made by Rogers, second by Eldred to re-elect 2021 officers again for 2022. **Motion carried.**

5. STAFF REPORTS

- Smith gave a brief overview of her Recreation and Events report that was distributed by email. Smith also stated that she has accepted a new job and her last day with Eaton County Parks will be March 25, 2022.
- Blanc gave a brief overview of her naturalist programs, operational projects, and Interim Director Report that was distributed by email.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion made by Droscha, seconded by Rogers, to receive December 2021, January 2022, and February 2022 Master Vouchers and December 2021, January 2022, and February 2022 Financial Reports. **Motion carried.**

8. PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- A. **Friends of Eaton County Parks** – No report

9. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Kiwanis Manor Proposal – Regional Connector Trail**

***Troy Stowell, Former Director Report 2021-12
Kiwanis Manor (Eaton Rapids) Trail Proposal***

*A detailed pitch for the potential use of funds provided by the Kiwanis Manor nonprofit group based in Eaton Rapids for the development of a regional connector trail between Eaton Rapids and Charlotte. While the amount of funds does not cover the entire development of a trail, the proposal outlined the need of a professional engineered study as well as the possibility of using fund as leverage against MDNR/MDOT TAP funds for development. **Update:** After the pitch, we were notified that we would receive \$70,000 to fund a professional feasibility study to fully explore and investigate route options. These funds will be distributed to our Friends Group to be held in a restricted account. Should no progress be made on the plan, funds will be forfeited and reverted to the Eaton Rapids Teen Space (who received the bulk of the Kiwanis funding)*

Blanc explained that the funding that the Friends of Eaton County Parks were going to receive from the Kiwanis Manor nonprofit group based in Eaton Rapids for a feasibility study for a connecting trail between Eaton Rapids and Charlotte was not approved by the Eaton County Board of Commissioners at this time.

Blanc contact the Kiwanis Manor to decline the project and to thank them for support.

- B. **City of Grand Ledge 2022 Mowing Contract**

Blanc stated the current contract expires September 2022.

- C. **Charlotte Optimist Pak Lease**

Blanc stated the lease for the Charlotte Optimist Park is progress of being updated for its renewal.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **2022 MDNR Grand Application Public Input Session – Crandell Park**

Tim Knutsen with Beckett & Raeder gave a presentation for the proposed fishing pier for Crandell Park. Discussion was held. Public was in support and no objections were noted.

- B. **Motorized Boat Ski Show – Crandell Park**

Tyler Pray and Brian Lautzenheiser, both with the Charlotte Rotary, asked the commission to consider hosting a motorized ski show on the lake at Crandell Park. The event would be a

fundraiser for the continuing development of the trail at Crandell Park. Discussion was held. The Commission stated they would consider their request and stated it would be added to next month's agenda for further discussion.

C. Parks Director Transition

Chairman Ferguson stated a new director has been selected for Eaton County Parks. His name is Travis Keeton and is coming to us from the City of Midland Parks and Recreation. His first day is scheduled for March 21, 2022.

Chairman Ferguson also thanked Blanc for being the Interim Director during this process.

D. Crandell Farming Lease Extension Approval

Motion made by Whitacre, second by Droscha to extend the current Crandell Farming Lease with Duane Smuts another year. **Motion carried.**

E. FY 2023 Capital Requests

Blanc stated the Capital Budget for 2023 is currently being worked on for submission. A couple of big ticket items included a bobcat for the Parks and Wi-Fi for Lincoln Brick Park.

11. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT

None

12. OTHER BUSINESS

None

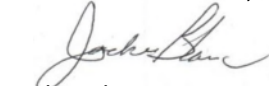
13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None

14. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at Lincoln Brick Park, 13991 Tallman Road, Grand Ledge. There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made. The regular meeting was adjourned by Chairman Ferguson at 7:49 p.m.

For the Commission,



Jackie Blanc,
Interim Director
MLS