

EATON COUNTY
PARKS

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EATON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

April 13, 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, Alisa Gonzales-Pennington, Barbara Rogers, Jane Whitacre

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: John Fuentes – Eaton County Controller and Riley Spayde – Friends of Eaton County Parks

STAFF: Travis Keeton – Director, Jackie Blanc –Operations Manager/Naturalist, and Melody Smalley – Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ferguson called the Parks Commission meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

2. INTRODUCTIONS/CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Ferguson introduced Travis Keeton, the new Park Director. Brief introductions followed by all that were present.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by Rogers, second by Whitacre to approve the April 2022 agenda and March 2022 minutes. **Motion carried.**

4. STAFF REPORTS

- Keeton gave a brief overview of his Director report that was distributed by email.
- Blanc gave a brief overview of her Naturalist and Operations Report that was distributed by email.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion made by Droscha, seconded by Rogers, to receive March 2022 Master Voucher and Financial Report. **Motion carried.**

7. PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- A. Friends of Eaton County Parks** – Riley Spayde reminded the commission that the Fundraiser golf outing is Friday, May 13, 2022 and that the Friends are beginning their Spring drive for memberships.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. DNDR Grand Application

The application for Crandell Park fishing pier was submitted on April 1st and is now in the review process.

B. Crandell Farm Lease Extension

The lease has been extended for another year. Droscha stated he would like to see the next extension lease be for 3 years instead of 1 year.

C. 2023 Budget

The budget for the next fiscal year has been submitted with a few adjustments made and capital improvements have been requested.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fitzgerald Park Lease

Park lease with the City of Grand Ledge has been extended for another year.

B. Seasonal Staff

Interviews have started for the hiring of summer staff for gatekeepers, operations, and summer camp.

C. Parks Director Position

New director, Travis Keeton, started on March 21st.

D. Special Use Permit

The board was presented with a draft of a Special Use permit. Discussion was held. Motion made by Deible and second by Rogers to approve the draft to be sent on to MMRMA and Legal for their input. **Motion carried.**

E. Elect new Vice-Chairman

Motion made to elect Droscha Vice-Chairman by Whitacre, seconded by Duffy. **Motion carried.**

10. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT

None

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Droscha expressed concerns of introducing invasive species to Crandell Park if a ski show was allowed at the lake.

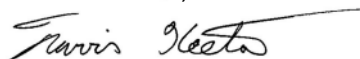
13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Deible stated that he has been approached about extending the trail around the lake at Crandell to accommodate future 5K races and triathlons.
- Droscha stated Eaton County is looking into dissolving the Parks Commission.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for May 4, 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 7:11 p.m.

For the Commission,



Travis Keeton, Director
Eaton County Parks and Recreation

MLS