

**KALAMAZOO COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT  
PARK COMMISSION MEETING**

**April 11, 2019**

**Members Present:** Toni Thompson, Thomas Matteson, Matt Lechel, Robert Moore, Marion Hill  
Larry Stehouwer, Sandy Bliesener, Roger Tuinier, Pat Crowley, Mildred Taraszka

**Members Absent:**

**Discover Kalamazoo Liaison:** Greg Ayers

**Staff Present:** David Rachowicz Lisa Conley

**Citizens:** James Spurr - 42 Degree North Rowing Club  
Michael Boersma – Kalamazoo County Road Commission

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was held at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center and was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairperson, Thomas Matteson.
2. **Roll Call** – Roll was taken and a quorum was established. All members present.
3. **Approval of Minutes – March 7, 2019 Meeting** – Members reviewed the minutes. **Motion:** Moore moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Thompson. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. **Citizen’s Time** – Mr. James Spurr will speak on item 7.d
5. **Communications** – Rachowicz shared with members a LARA update on CBD & Industrial Hemp dated March 29, 2019.
6. **Old Business** - None
7. **New Business**

**Agenda item 7.d moved to the top of the Agenda for New Business**

- d. **Rowing Club-Information Only-** Mr. James Spurr of 42 Degrees North Rowing Club spoke to members about his club and their desire for approval to launch and retrieve their boats at Prairie View County Park. The group is able to launch and retrieve from the shore, but are interested in installing a special dock that would be open to the public and valuable to those using paddle boards, kayaks and canoes. Members received additional information about the club in their meeting packet.
- a. **Park Activity Report** – Members reviewed the report. Rachowicz reminded members that we are hiring for seasonal park attendant positions.
- b. **Park Foundation Update-Toni Thompson-** Thompson informed members that Jodi Havera of Landscape Forms will be the Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign. The first cabinet meeting for the campaign will be held on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Also reported that the Trailblazer fundraiser is coming up on May 11, 2019.
- c. **Kalamazoo County Fair Update- Toni Thompson-** Thompson attended the meeting in place of Hill who was on vacation. Thompson reported a positive meeting with many good ideas for theme days and possibilities of a Grand Stand show on Saturday.

- e. **2019 Park Special Event Requests:** Members reviewed the special event requests received in their meeting packet. **Motion:** Lechel moved to approve all the requests as submitted. Seconded by Bliesener. Motion carried by voice vote. Approved events:

<b>PEDAL-Kona Bike Demo</b>	<b>Maple Hill Trail</b>	<b>May 3, 2019</b>
<b>Your Turn Triathlon Training</b>	<b>Prairie View County Park</b>	<b>May 26 –August 10, 2019</b>
<b>Zoo City Cycle &amp; Sport</b>	<b>Maple Hill Trail</b>	<b>June 5, 2019</b>
<b>Kal Tour 2019</b>	<b>Scotts Mill, Prairie View Parks</b>	<b>June 29, 2019</b>

- f. **Northern Exposure Training Event –Motion to approve-** Members reviewed the agreement included in their meeting packet. Rachowicz explained that the agreement is with the Michigan Army National Guard for a training exercise to be held on the grounds of the Expo Center & Fairgrounds. The event is coordinated with the Kalamazoo County Office of Emergency Management. They are conducting a joint, multi jurisdiction emergency response training exercise. **Motion:** Crowley moved to approve the agreement as submitted. Seconded by Moore. Motion carried by voice vote.
- g. **KRV Trail Special Event Fees-Presented at Meeting-** Members received and reviewed a handout of the proposed fees for events held on the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail. The fee will be used to offset expenses related to the maintenance and operation of the Trail and direct expenses related to the event. Discussion ensued. **Motion:** Matteson moved to approve the fees as presented. Seconded by Moore. Motion carried by voice vote.
- h. **2019 Fair 4-H Premium Book Updates-**Members reviewed the proposed changes to the 2019 4-H Premium Book that were included in their meeting packet. The changes would update the vaccine/testing required for beef, feeder calf and swine species. **Motion:** Moore moved to approve the proposed changes as presented. Seconded by Hill. Motion carried by voice vote.

**8. Director’s Report**

- a. **Budget Report** – Members reviewed the report included in their meeting packet.
- b. **March Update** – Rachowicz informed members that the County Board of Commissioners instituted a new step in the annual budget process that would allow departments to submit projects for public feedback that if approved would be eligible for matching funds. Also reported that he recently met with the Markin Glen Memorial Bike group and the project should be wrapped up within the next 45 days. The projects to be completed are concrete work, bike repair station, bike racks, sidewalks and benches.

**9. Sales Report** - Members reviewed the report received in their meeting packet.

**10. Members’ Time** – Lechel reported that he is pleased to see the Northern and Western portions of the Trail are being enjoyed by families, kids and seniors. However, he does have safety concerns for the on road stretch from Douglas to Nichols and would like to see us reinvest in this section.

**11. Adjournment-** The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

**Minutes approved by Park Commission @ May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.**