

**KALAMAZOO COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT  
PARK COMMISSION MEETING**

**June 6, 2019**

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

**Members Absent:** Matt Lechel

**Discover Kalamazoo Liaison:** Greg Ayers - Absent

**Staff Present:** David Rachowicz Lisa Conley

**Citizens:** Steve Grieve, Gourdneck Lake Governmental Lake Board

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was held at Scotts Mill County Park 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. **Motion:** Moore made a motion to approve members not present. Seconded by Hill. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. **Approval of Minutes – May 2, 2019 Meeting** – Members reviewed the minutes. **Motion:** Stehouwer moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Moore. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. **Citizen’s Time** – Mr. Steve Grieve from the Gourdneck Lake Governmental Lake Board gave an update on weed treatment in Hogsett and Gourdneck Lakes. Hogsett Lake was treated at four small locations in the first round of treatment. Another survey is being conducted today to determine if there is a need for additional treatment. Mr. Grieve will report back with the results of the survey.
5. **Communications** – Rachowicz shared an informational flyer with members regarding the Kalamazoo County Non-Motorized Summit to be held on June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center. The goal of the meeting is to help establish a non-motorized vision and to discuss local priorities for bicycling and pedestrian facilities. Public input will contribute to the Southwest Michigan 7-County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Map.
6. **Old Business**
  - a. **KRV Trail Update**-Rachowicz informed members that right-of-way issues have been resolved for the next segment of Trail construction. The next step for the project is the MDOT approval, bidding, and letting. Plans are to start construction in August/September and continue through late fall. The project will be completed in spring 2020.
7. **New Business**
  - a. **Park Activity Report** – Members reviewed the report.
  - b. **Park Foundation Update-Toni Thompson**- Thompson reported that the golf outing registration is now available online. Still looking for teams and silent auction items. Reported that the Foundation recently hired a new Capital Campaign Coordinator, Amy Post.
  - c. **Kalamazoo County Fair Update- Marion Hill** -Hill reported that planning continues for the Fair. The council is currently working on the details of the Rodeo that will be held on Saturday night in the Grandstand.

- d. **Park Foundation Office Lease-Motion to Approve** -Members reviewed the contract received in their meeting packet. **Motion:** Moore moved to approve the contract as submitted with correction to the written amount of \$1820 in Section 5. Seconded by Crowley. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Agenda item 7.f. was discussed before item 7.e.**

- f. **Park Preservation and Natural Resources Protection Policy-Presented at Meeting-Discussion Only-** Rachowicz reported that a committee including the Deputy County Administrator, County Attorney, County Commissioners, Park Commissioners and the Director of Parks recently held their 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to discuss the Park Preservation and Natural Resources Protection Policy. The committee is requesting that the Park Commission comes up with suggestions/ideas to present to the County Board. Members received an informational packet including potential areas to explore/consider along with a copy of the current Kalamazoo County Parks Rules and Regulations Ordinances. Discussion ensued. Rachowicz said that further discussion will be held at the July and August Park Commission meetings.

**Tuinier departed meeting @ 4:00 p.m.**

- e. **Cold Brook County Park Master Plan Draft-Presented at Meeting-Discussion Only-** Sandy Bliesener of OCBA Landscape Architects shared with members a draft copy of the Master Plan for Cold Brook County Park. Members reviewed the draft copy as Bliesener explained each of the proposed changes. Discussion ensued.

## **8. Director's Report**

- a. **Budget Report** – Members reviewed the report included in their meeting packet.
- b. **May Update** – No update

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

- 10. Members' Time** – Thompson shared a copy of the latest addition of Michigan Trails Magazine. Crowley shared with members that a new outdoor fitness center has opened on Alcott Street. Crowley also shared an article from Recreation Management magazine on dog park activities.

## **11. Adjournment-** The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

**Minutes approved at the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.**