

**KALAMAZOO COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT
PARK COMMISSION MEETING**

August 1, 2019

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

Members Absent Roger Tuinier

Discover Kalamazoo Liaison: Greg Ayers

Staff Present: David Rachowicz, Lisa Conley, Andrew Wright

Citizens: None

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was held at River Oaks County Park and was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Chairperson, Thomas Matteson.
2. **Roll Call** – Roll was taken and a quorum was established. **Motion:** Moore made a motion to excuse members not present. Seconded by Stehouwer. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. **Approval of Minutes – July 11, 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** – None
5. **Communications** – Rachowicz informed members that Commissioner Matt Lechel resigned his position on the Park Commission effective 8/1/2019.

Agenda item 7.b moved to the top of the Agenda

- 7.b **Closed Session-if needed** – Closed session was not needed. Andrew Wright, Kalamazoo Corporate Council gave an update on ongoing litigation concerning a privately owned cottage on private property within Prairie View County Park.

Crowley entered the meeting @ 3:20 p.m.

6. **Old Business**
 - a. **Park Preservation and Natural Resources Protection Policy- Presented at Meeting for Discussion Only-** Members received a revised copy of the policy that was emailed to members prior to the meeting. Discussion ensued. Rachowicz will update the policy with comments and suggestions from the members. He will then share the policy with the main committee appointed by the Board of Commissioners and share the outcome with the Park Commission members at the September or October meeting. The final draft will need to be reviewed by corporate council.
7. **New Business**
 - a. **Park Activity Report** – Members reviewed the report.

- c. **Kalamazoo County Parks Endowment Funds Quarterly Report-Motion to Approve** –Members reviewed the report included in their meeting packet. **Motion:** Matteson moved to approve the report as submitted. Seconded by Moore. Motion carried by voice vote.
- d. **United Kennel Club Premier Dog Show 2022 Contract- Motion to Recommend approval by the County Commission-** Members reviewed the contract received in their meeting packet. **Motion:** Moore moved to approve and recommend as submitted to the County Commission for approval. Seconded by Hill. Motion carried by voice vote.
- e. **KRV Trail Easements- Motion to recommend acceptance by the County Commission-**Members reviewed a list of easements for the Kalamazoo Valley River Trail –Segment 6 Project that was included in their meeting packet. **Motion:** Stehouwer moved to approve the requests and recommend as submitted to the County Commission for acceptance. Seconded by Moore. Motion carried by voice vote.
- f. **KRV Trail Property Acquisition – Presented at Meeting for Discussion Only-** Rachowicz shared a map of a shaped parcel that the property owner has expressed interest in selling to the County. The parcel is located on Douglas Ave and is presently vacant. Discussion ensued. The Commission agreed not to pursue and will refer the property owner to the City of Kalamazoo.
- g. **Kalamazoo County Fair Update- Marion Hill** –Hill reported that there were over 150 volunteers on Saturday for barn clean up and set up. She also reminded members that the livestock auction will be held on Thursday and a Rodeo will be held on Saturday night in the Grandstand.
- h. **Park Foundation Update-Toni Thompson** –Thompson reported that the Trail campaign steering committee met this week and pledges continue to come in. Also reported that the golf outing in September is still looking for teams.

8. Director’s Report

- a. **Budget Report** – Members reviewed the report included in their meeting packet.
- b. **July Update** – Rachowicz gave an update on the Galesburg trail segment.

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

10. **Members’ Time** – Chairperson Matteson thanked Commissioner Taraszka for over 17 years of service serving on the Park Commission. Taraszka resigned her position on the Commission due to relocating out of state.

11. **Adjournment-** The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Minutes approved by Park Commission @ September 5th meeting.