

**KALAMAZOO COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT
PARK COMMISSION MEETING**

November 7, 2019

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

Members Absent: None

Discover Kalamazoo Liaison: Greg Ayers - Absent

Staff Present: David Rachowicz, Lisa Conley, Lisa Henthorn, Josh Gower, Andrew Wright

Citizens: None

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was held at Prairie View 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. All members present.
3. **Approval of Minutes – October 3, 2019 Meeting** – Members reviewed the minutes. **Motion:** Bliesener moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Stehouwer. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. **Citizen’s Time** – None
5. **Communications** – None
6. **Old Business**
 - a. **Natural Resource Protection Policy Update-Presented at Meeting-** Rachowicz reported that the next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12th and he will update members with the outcome of that meeting at the December Park Commission meeting.
7. **New Business**
 - a. **Park Activity Report** – Members reviewed the report.
 - b. **Proposed 2020 Park Commission Meeting Schedule-Motion to Approve-**Members reviewed the proposed 2020 meeting dates that were included in their meeting packet. Discussion ensued. **Motion:** Bliesener moved to approve the schedule with changes to the meeting location for the May and August meetings. Seconded by Crowley. Motion carried by voice vote. The approved changes will have the May meeting held at Markin Glen County Park and the August meeting will be held at Scotts Mill County Park.
 - c. **2019 Kalamazoo County Youth Fair Annual Report** – Josh Gower, Fair Coordinator gave a power point presentation on the 2019 Kalamazoo County Youth Fair. Members also received a printed copy of the report.

Andrew Wright entered the meeting @ 3:20p.m.

- d. **2020 Kalamazoo County Youth Fee Schedule**-Members reviewed the proposed 2020 Kalamazoo County Youth Fair fee schedule received in their meeting packet. The Fair Council approved recommending approval by the Park Commission. **Motion:** Hill moved to approve the fee schedule as proposed. Seconded by Moore. Motion carried by voice vote.
- e. **Kalamazoo County Fair Update- Marion Hill** – Hill reported that at their last meeting the Fair Council Officers were reappointed:
 - Marion Hill, Chairperson
 - Ruth Deboer, Vice Chairperson
 - Jackie Stasevich, Secretary
- f. **Park Foundation Update- Toni Thompson**- Thompson reported that the Parks Foundation will be making a matching donation to the KRV Trail’s Capital Campaign based on the gift given by the Friends of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway.
- g. **Rota-Kiwan Scout Camp – Discussion Only** -Members discussed if there would be an interest in exploring the possibility of the Rota-Kiwan Scout Camp becoming a County Park. The Scout camp is ceasing operation beginning January 1, 2020 and the decision of what will happen with the land has yet to be decided. Members expressed an interest in exploring should the opportunity be presented.

8. Director’s Report

- a. **Budget Report** – Members reviewed the report included in their meeting packet.
- b. **October Update** – Rachowicz reported that the new Animal Shelter is set to open on November 12th. Also reported that the design team for the KRV Trail expansion is working on modification to the design expansion due to a conflict with Amtrak at their crossings at the Augusta and Galesburg sections.

Andrew Wright, Corporate Counsel for the County gave a brief update on the Prairie View cottage and reminded members that all communication regarding the cottage should be referred to his office.

9. **Sales Report** - Members reviewed the report received in their meeting packet.
10. **Members’ Time** – Stehouwer invited members to join the Friends Group at their annual potluck breakfast on November 18th.
11. **Adjournment**- The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Minutes approved @ the December 5th meeting.