

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AND PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The Health & Human Services and Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting was called to order in the Board Conference Room at the Oceana County Building by Chairperson Erickson on Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Ms. Meyette, Mr. Walker, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Beggs, Mr. Morse, Mr. Christians, and Mr. Erickson.

Also present were: Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Coon, Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk; Mr. McKeen, Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission; and Mr. LundBorg, Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission.

Moved by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2021 meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairman Erickson asked if there were any changes to the agenda items.

Dr. Sobie asked that the agenda be reordered and the two items switched so that the Opioids Litigation update can be conducted first since the attorney is available now via Zoom. Mr. McKeen can then follow with the Parks and Recreation update.

Moved by Mr. Morse and seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the agenda items as amended.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Morse to go into closed session to discuss the 2018 opioids litigation.

Roll call vote: Mr. Walker - yes; Mr. Morse - yes; Mr. Erickson - yes;
Mr. Christians - yes; Mr. Beggs - yes; Mr. Hardy - yes;
and Ms. Meyette - yes.

Motion carried.

The board recessed at 9:05 a.m. to discuss the 2018 opioids litigation.

At 9:25 a.m. the board reconvened.

Mr. McKeen, Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission, provided an update on the activities of the Parks and Recreation Commission. He opened with a summary of the three grants that have been awarded to the commission already for the Stoney Creek/Marshville Dam Project. He also noted that the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) is coordinating with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on a grant that could fund the entire project.

He stated that the project should be completed in three years. He expects an October 1, 2021 start date, which will involve the engineering of the project, and hopefully implementation of the project in 2022.

Mr. Walker asked if the grants awarded could all be used together or if the commission would have to decide which grants to accept funds from.

Mr. McKeen indicated that the commission hoped to utilize all four grants. There are specific qualifications for the use of the funds, however, and so that will have to be coordinated carefully.

One project that has been ongoing is the Cedar Point County Park Project in Golden Township. The project has received funding from the William Lathers Fund, \$10,000 in 2021, \$35,000 total, that has allowed for the complete restoration and rebuilding of the stairs to the beach and the deck. The Community Foundation for Oceana County also contributed \$3,000 for the project. Mr. McKeen invited Mr. LundBorg to provide a summary of the activities he has been doing at Cedar Point County Park. He is the member in charge of that park.

There have been other grants received that have funded American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant picnic tables for the parks as well as funds for a shelter at Doolittle County Park and the creation of an Oceana County Parks brochure.

Mr. McKeen provided several photos in his presentation of the stairway and deck at Cedar Point County Park, the erosion they hope to fix at the Stoney Lake boat launch and a nature camp held at Gales Pond County Park by the Oceana Conservation District. He indicated they are in the process of getting the appropriate permits to perform the work in Stoney Lake. It has taken nearly 60 days already.

He also provided a photo of a lily that has never been recorded as being seen in Oceana County before. It has been entered into the University of Michigan Herbarium and we are now listed as a location of the Michigan Lily.

Mr. McKeen reported that Governor Whitmer announced that she would like the legislature to set aside \$150 million to improve community parks. He indicated that Mr. John Wilson, the Parks and Recreation Commission grant writer, is already looking into what options could be available through that program.

In closing, Mr. McKeen summarized the projects they hope to complete and reported an increase in revenue at Black Lake County Park and an increase in large gatherings at the Crystal Valley County Park.

There were no public comments at this time.

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Morse to adjourn the Health & Human Services and Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Erickson adjourned the Health & Human Services and Parks and Recreation Committee meeting at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie A. Coon
Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk