

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, October 14, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

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

Also present were: Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal; and Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission.

Moved by Christians and seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2021 meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

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

Hearing none, the agenda items stand as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

No public comment on agenda items at this time.

Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission, provided an overview of the capital projects intended for fiscal year 2022.

Black Lake County Park has electrical line upgrades scheduled for 2022. The expense is suspected to cost approximately \$15,000; however, Mr. McKeen expects to apply for different grants to offset the cost.

Gales Pond County Park requires board replacements for the boardwalk. The previous replacement, done in the early 1990's, was positioned over existing boards and has led to instability and rot. The replacement will cover approximately 1,200ft² and the estimated cost is \$4,000 per section; which can be done over a three-year span. In September, Mr. McKeen and the Parks & Recreation Insurance Inspector pointed out various issues with each park.

Black Lake County Park is potentially going to have a day park/hiking trail located at the southern end. This would be completely separate from the campground and would require approval from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to have a parking lot built.

Cedar Point County Park has had extensive work done within the last year. There are now sixty stairs that lead down to the beach area. The Parks & Recreation Commission has estimated that it will cost approximately \$45,000 to complete a picnic area at Cedar Point.

Black Lake County Park currently does not have any form of trailer dump station. Because camping trailers are self-contained, the port-a-potty company who provides and services the portable restrooms, has been charging the campers for removing their waste from each individual site. The cost associated with providing a trailer dump station is approximately \$15,000; campers will then pay for using the dump station.

Mr. McKeen believes that there is a need for a part-time Parks & Recreation Commission employee, as well as providing the equipment used for park upkeep. Before the pandemic, Progressions provided weekly park upkeep. Currently, this task has been performed by commission members with their own personal equipment.

Dr. Sobie asked Mr. McKeen what the Parks & Recreation Commission's priorities were in regards to capital projects. Mr. McKeen believes that the electrical and water line upgrades at Black Lake are essential. Black Lake brought in approximately \$9,000 this past season and Mr. McKeen believes if the sites were upgraded, then the campground fees could be increased. Mr. McKeen noted that the renovation at Gales Pond could be paid for out of the Parks & Recreation Commission budget. The other projects could potentially be put on hold.

Mr. Erickson thanked Mr. McKeen for his presentation and for the work he has done with the Parks & Recreation Commission. Mr. Erickson also praised Mr. Wilson's grant writing abilities. He is highly impressed with the dedication and time that each member has put in.

Mr. Christians asked Mr. McKeen to take pictures of the Cedar Point renovations and bring them back to the Board.

There were no public comments at this time.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Erickson adjourned the Health & Human Services and Parks & Recreation Committee meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk