

The Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson McKeen on Thursday, October 6, 2022, at 3:01 p.m.

Present: Chairperson McKeen, Mr. Hiddema, Mr. Myers, Mr. Warner, Mr. Wyns, Mr. Mikkelsen, Mr. LundBorg, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Wilson

Absent: Mr. Bowling

Also present: Ms. Jessica Long, Accounts Payable Clerk

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Approval of the October 6, 2022 Agenda

Moved by Mr. Hiddema and seconded by Mr. Warner to approve the October 6, 2022 agenda, as presented. Voice Vote. All ayes. Motion Carried.

Approval of the September 1, 2022 Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Moved by Mr. Warner and supported by Mr. Myers to approve the September 1, 2022 meeting minutes, as presented. Voice Vote. All ayes. Motion Carried.

Financial Report

- **Fund 208 Revenues & Expenditures** – as of August 31, 2022, has a Year to Date Fund Balance of \$36,501.32.
- **Fund 408 Revenues & Expenditures** – as of August 31, 2022, has a Year to Date Balance of \$23,465.44.
- **Fund 288 Revenues & Expenditures** – as of August 31, 2022, has a Year to Date Fund Balance of \$25,341.11.

Motion made by Mr. Wilson to approve the financial statements as presented, supported by Mr. Mikkelsen. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Claims for Payment

Fund 208 – Parks and Recreation Commission for September 2022

Prepaid Claims - \$5,851.69
To Be Paid Claims - \$466.00

Motion made by Mr. Myers to approve the Fund 208 claims for payment amounting to \$6,317.69, supported by Mr. Wilson.

Roll call vote: Mr. Wyns, Yes; Mr. Hiddema, Yes; Mr. Warner, Yes; Mr. Mikkelsen, Yes; Mr. Myers, Yes; Mr. Erickson, Yes; Mr. LundBorg, Yes; and Mr. McKeen, Yes. Motion carried.

Fund 408 – Parks and Recreation Capital Projects Fund for September 2022

Prepaid Claims - \$180.85
To Be Paid Claims - \$34.96

Motion made by Mr. Wilson to approve the Fund 408 claims for payment amounting to \$215.81, supported by Mr. Hiddema.

Roll call vote: Mr. Mikkelson, Yes; Mr. Wyns, Yes; Mr. Warner, Yes; Mr. Myers, Yes; Mr. Hiddema, Yes; Mr. LundBorg, Yes; Mr. Erickson, Yes; and Mr. McKeen, Yes. Motion carried.

Correspondence

- Chairman McKeen received a post card from a member of the community that stated that she visits Gales Pond multiple times per year, and she enjoys the scenery and changing seasons.
- Chairman McKeen stated that Dave Dister has identified 234 different plant species at Gales Pond.
- Chairman McKeen received an email from the County Administrator, Tracy Byard, to inform him that a company from Grand Rapids called Superior Ground Cover Inc has fleet trucks that blow mulch into playgrounds and swing set areas. Chairman McKeen recommended getting a quote for Mill Pond and Crystal Valley.

Chairperson's Report

- Chairman McKeen informed the rest of the commission that Parks and Rec has received a \$25,000 increase in their budget.
- On September 6th, Chairman McKeen attended the village council meeting in the Village of Shelby.
- On September 8th, Chairman McKeen attended a meeting with the Hart, Walkerville, Pentwater, and Shelby recreation clubs to discuss combining recreation clubs. The Shelby Rec club did not seem to be interested, all the others were in favor.
- On September 24th, Chairman McKeen walked with the Oceana County's 6th grade classes at Gales Pond.
- On September 24th, Chairman McKeen met with Dave Dister at Gales Pond to review several species of invasive plants.
- On September 24th, The Hart Recreation Club's 7th and 8th grade girls painted seven picnic tables at Doolittle Park.
- Chairman McKeen attended two County Board meetings, one Township meeting, two Road Commission meetings, and one Stony Creek Restoration meeting.

Parks Reports

- Black Lake – Mr. Myers shared that the park is closed for the season. The well has been treated. Chairman McKeen stated that he placed the keys to Black Lake in the Administrator's office.
- Cedar Point Park – Mr. LundBorg reported that he and Mr. Mikkelsen installed 32 steel plate posts. Mr. LundBorg installed posts for the observation landing. Mr. McKeen stated that there will be a dedication of a plaque. The date has been set for Saturday, October 22nd at 12:00pm. Chairman McKeen requested that an announcement be added to the County website.

- Crystal Valley Park – No report.

Motion made by Mr. Myers to approve Howard Lawn Care for garbage service at \$20 per week to end September 30th, 2022, supported by Mr. Mikkelsen.

Roll call vote: Mr. Meyers, Yes; Mr. Hiddema, Yes; Mr. Warner, Yes; Mr. Wyns, Yes; Mr. Mikkelsen, Yes; Mr. Lundborg, Yes; and Chairman McKeen, Yes. Motion Carried.

- Doolittle Park – Chairman McKeen reported that picnic tables were painted.
- Gales Pond – Mr. Mikkelsen reported that there are fish that are making beds approximately five feet from the bridge. The bridge – of which Mr. Mikkelsen calls the Lutheran Bridge, has sustained its original condition with minimal modifications. Mr. Mikkelsen walked the 300-foot walkway, and he stated that top boards are showing a lot of decay but the bottom boards are still intact. Mr. Mikkelsen questioned if the bottom layer could remain while the top layer is replaced. Chairman McKeen responded that the plan is to replace both the bottom and top layers. Mr. Mikkelsen stated that, if the commission agrees to the plan of only replacing the top layer, he will donate his labor to complete that project. Chairman McKeen stated that the funds have been received from ARPA and a quote has been received to replace both the top and bottom layers. Mr. Mikkelsen has requested that the whole board vote on the project. Mr. Myers stated that the project should be done completely and not just the top layer. Mr. Wilson stated that he does not agree with the “band-aid” approach to the project. Mr. Hiddema agrees that the project should be done completely. Mr. Warner stated that it would be best to replace both layers. Mr. Erickson agrees to replacing both layers. Mr. LundBorg stated that, from a liability standpoint, it would be best to replace both layers.

Motion made by Mr. Wilson to completely replace the walkway at Gales Pond, supported by Mr. Myers.

Roll call vote: Mr. Wyns, Yes; Mr. Hiddema, Yes; Mr. Warner, Yes; Mr. Mikkelsen, No; Mr. Myers, Yes, Mr. Erickson, Yes; Mr. LundBorg, Yes; and Mr. McKeen, Abstained. Motion carried.

- Mill Pond – Mr. Hiddema stated that the park is now closed and inquired if the road commission can mow one more time.
- Stony Lake – Mr. Mikkelsen reported that he and John took elevations starting at the concrete by the boat launch and ending at the parking lot. They determined that the walkway will have to be 96 feet long to be considered barrier free.
- Marshville – Mr. Wyns reported that he met with two architectural historians and found part of the foundation of an original mill that was built in 1863. A rubber stamp and report will be created.

Old Business

- Mr. Wilson stated that the ADA reports for Doolittle, Mill Pond, and Black Lake are still outstanding. Once all of the reports have been received, he and Mr. Hiddema will create a presentation to address ADA compliance needs for all the parks.
- Mr. Myers presented his recommendation for the pavilion location at Black Lake. Mr. Mikkelsen presented his recommendation for the pavilion location at Black Lake.
- Chairman McKeen stated that the Black Lake electrical project has started.
- Chairman McKeen stated that the Planning Commission meeting discussed the 5-year plan. Stephen Carlson has a QR code for Parks that will be sent to the whole Parks & Recreation committee.
- Chairman McKeen read an article from the local newspaper regarding the merging of recreation clubs in Oceana County. Chairman McKeen requested feedback from the rest of the committee to help determine a forward motion for the merger. Mr. Hiddema recommended contributing financially to start. Mr. Mikkelsen recommended that the merged recreation group provide a service and invoice the County, rather than the County providing donations. Mr. Mikkelsen recommended that different entities host recreation events. For example, Shelby Township could host a soccer tournament.
- Chairman McKeen was notified by Bob Walker that the Board of Commissioners will be acting on the Crystal Valley Dam at their November 10th meeting.

New Business

- Mr. Mikkelsen spoke about creating a list of important accomplishments for each park.
- Chairman McKeen informed the committee that there is a public meeting for the Stony Lake Restoration Project on October 20, 2022 at 6:00pm at the Benona Township Hall. The engineers from GEI will be presenting.
- At a previous County Board meeting, the Sheriff stated that there are 6 or 7 pages of confiscated tools. Chairman McKeen inquired with the Sheriff on whether or not some of the tools can be donated to the Parks. The Sheriff was given permission to donate tools to the Parks. Chairman McKeen sorted through and chose tools for the Parks.

Motion made by Mr. Mikkelsen to accept the gift from the Sherriff's Department, supported by Mr. Wilson. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Warner to spend up to \$200 for batteries for the gifted tools, supported by Mr. Wilson. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

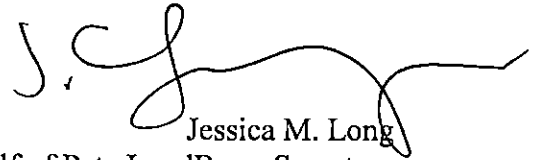
- Chairman McKeen informed the committee that the new website will have a dedicated Parks section.
- Chairman McKeen discussed whether or not hunting should be allowed in the Parks. The County Parks have a rule that prohibits hunting, but it is not enforceable. Chairman McKeen recommended putting up "No hunting" signs in the parks.
- Mr. Mikkelsen requested to add to the minutes that, in regards to Gales Pond, there were two other contractors that were contacted but they did not respond.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, Chairperson McKeen adjourned the Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting at 4:57 p.m. The next meeting will be November 3, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Long', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jessica M. Long
On behalf of Pete LundBorg, Secretary
Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission