

The Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson McKeen on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 3:00 pm.

Present: Chairperson McKeen, Mr. Spitler, Mr. Wyns, Mr. Mikkelsen, Mr. LundBorg, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Hiddema, Mr. Warner, and Mr. Chandler.

Absent: None

Also present: Ms. Brittany Bostrom, Accounts Payable Clerk

Approval of the May 4, 2023 Agenda

Moved by Mr. Hiddema and supported by Mr. Warner to approve the May 4, 2023 meeting agenda, with the addition under new business for the purchase of Hybrid Blue Gils for Black Lake and the addition of discussion regarding picnic tables. Voice Vote. All ayes. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

No Public Comment at this time.

Approval of the April 6, 2023, Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Moved by Mr. Wyns and supported by Mr. Chandler to approve the April 6, 2023 minutes with the amendment under the chairperson's report, which stated Cedar Creek Dam to Crystal Creek Dam and the clarification under Parks Reports of the Marshville Dam project. Voice Vote. All ayes. Motion Carried.

Financial Report

- **Fund 408 Revenues & Expenditures** – as of March 31, 2023, has a Year to Date Balance of \$20,744.10.
- **Fund 288 Revenues & Expenditures** – as of March 31, 2023, has a Year to Date Fund Balance of \$25,929.24.
- **Fund 208 Revenues & Expenditures** – as of March 31, 2023, has a Year to Date Fund Balance of \$58,102.17.

Motion made by Mr. Wilson to accept the Revenues & Expenditures as presented, supported by Mr. Warner. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Claims for Payment

Fund 208 – Parks and Recreation Commission for March 2023

Prepaid Claims - \$4,660.58
To Be Paid Claims - \$189.06

Motion made by Mr. Mikkelsen to approve the Fund 208 claims for payment amounting to \$4,849.64 supported by Mr. Erickson.

Roll call vote: Mr. Wyns, Yes; Mr. Spitler, Yes; Mr. Wilson, Yes; Mr. Hiddema, Yes; Mr. Chandler, Yes; Mr. Mikkelsen, Yes; Mr. Erickson, Yes; Mr. Lundborg, Yes; Mr. Warner, Yes; Chairman McKeen, Yes. Motion carried.

Fund 408 – Parks and Recreation Capital Projects Fund for March 2023

Prepaid Claims - \$149.16

To Be Paid Claims - \$59.96

Motion made by Mr. Hiddema to approve the Fund 408 claims for payment amounting to \$209.12, supported by Mr. Warner.

Roll call vote: Mr. Wyns, Yes; Mr. Spitler, Yes; Mr. Wilson, Yes; Mr. Hiddema, Yes; Mr. Chandler, Yes; Mr. Mikkelsen, Yes; Mr. Erickson, Yes; Mr. Lundborg, Yes; Mr. Warner, Yes; Chairman McKeen, Yes. Motion carried.

Correspondence

- Chairman McKeen received a call from Char VanderStelt from the Grange Hall. She wants to lead a program at Gale's Pond this summer, providing park cleanup. A specific date has not been set yet, but it will likely be sometime in July.
- Chairman McKeen received a phone call regarding vandalism to a sign at Cedar Point Park. The sign stated, "No Dogs Allowed Unless on a Leash," and someone scratched off "unless on a leash." This sign will need to be replaced or fixed.
- Chairman McKeen had a phone call with Kevin Mann, Sea Lamprey Biologist with USFWS, regarding the Crystal Creek Dam. Mr. Mann stated they are considering options, and they still have a lot of people they need to talk with going forward regarding the Crystal Creek Dam. Mr. McKeen and Mr. Mann will stay in touch monthly to provide updates.

Chairperson's Report

- Chairman McKeen attended two county board meetings to discuss the postponement of the Stony Lake Bridge.
- Chairman McKeen attended one Road Commission meeting. Mr. McKeen recognized Dave Spitler's continued help with the road commission. Mr. McKeen made reference to scheduling a meeting with Mark Timmer, OCRC Managing Director.
- Started Jon's To Go service at all the parks effective May 1, 2023. This is the second year of a two-year contract at \$8,000.00 annually.
- Trash service was started at Cedar Point and Stony Lake with Son's Disposal with a slight price decrease. Trash service at Black Lake with Republic Services slightly increased by \$10.00.
- Chairman McKeen talked with Roger Wiegand regarding removing the old Cedar Point walkway. Mr. Wiegand recommended contacting Ken Adams, who has the proper equipment for the job.

- Chairman McKeen met with Alice and Brian Johnson at Black Lake, and they are all set for a May 1, 2023, open date. Mr. McKeen stated that the water test results came back and were all in the passing range. Eight of the nine seasonal sites are filled for the year. One of the long-time campers did the park cleanup for Black Lake.
- Chairman McKeen attended the Colfax Township meeting and had the opportunity to discuss the proposed Black Lake plans. The community didn't provide much feedback on the proposed Black Lake plans.

Parks Reports

- Black Lake – Mr. Spitler reported that he talked with Alice, who noted that the only cleanup left was in the day area off to the North. Mr. Wyns also pointed out that the “free night” needed to be removed from the county website.
- Cedar Point Park – Mr. LundBorg reported that since the project started in 2017, they have received \$42,000.00 in donations, with the main contributor being the Lathers Family. Mr. LundBorg provided photos of some of the progress at Cedar Point Park. A meeting with Mark Timmer needs to be scheduled to discuss the parking lot and making it ADA accessible. Mr. LundBorg's continued help and time spent with the Cedar Point Park project was recognized by Mr. McKeen. Mr. Mikkelsen reported some problematic vegetation out by the road that should be dealt with.
- Crystal Valley Park – Mr. Chandler reported that the new lighting had been installed with one motion sensor under the pavilion, which is not vandalism resistant. Mr. Mikkelsen suggested having the lights wired into a timer already in place, and the lights would be on from dusk to dawn. Mr. Chandler talked with Great Lakes Energy about installing a light on the pole at the North end of the parking lot, which would cost \$9.00 a month.

Motion made by Mr. Chandler to authorize the expenditure of \$ 9.00 per month to Great Lakes Energy to install lighting on a pole at Crystal Valley, supported by Mr. Mikkelsen and seconded by Mr. McKeen.

Roll call vote: Mr. Wyns, Yes; Mr. Spitler, Yes; Mr. Wilson, Yes; Mr. Hiddema, Yes; Mr. Warner, Yes; Mr. Chandler, Yes; Mr. Mikkelsen, Yes; Mr. Erickson, Yes; Mr. Lundborg, Yes; Chairman McKeen, Yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Chandler to authorize the expenditure of an additional \$100.00 to Howards Lawn Care and Plowing for spring clean up at Crystal Valley Park, supported by Mr. Erickson.

Roll call vote: Mr. Wyns, Yes; Mr. Spitler, Yes; Mr. Wilson, Yes; Mr. Hiddema, Yes; Mr. Warner, Yes; Mr. Chandler, Yes; Mr. Mikkelsen, Yes; Mr. Erickson, Yes; Mr. Lundborg, Yes; Chairman McKeen, Yes. Motion carried.

- Doolittle – Chairman McKeen reported putting the three posts in the ground on the Southwest corner and putting up two signs. Mr. McKeen stated that the individuals they were having issues with had moved out, and the atmosphere at Doolittle Park had improved.

- Gale's Pond – Mr. Mikkelsen reported that he had installed roughly 48ft of railing and is now starting on the deck itself. Mr. McKeen said that Blackmer is supposed to begin the middle of May.
- Mill Pond – Mr. Hiddema reported he is having trouble finding lawn care. He will contact Howard's Lawn Care and Casey's Lawn Care to get a quote for the mowing that needs to be done. Mr. Hiddema will get quotes to remove the stump on the South side of Mill Pond. Mr. McKeen suggested to Mr. Hiddema about getting quotes to have the pavilion repainted.

Motion made by Mr. Hiddema to authorize the expenditure to not exceed \$130.00 every two weeks for lawn care at Mill Pond, supported by Mr. Erickson.

Roll call vote: Mr. Wyns, Yes; Mr. Spitler, Yes; Mr. Wilson, Yes; Mr. Hiddema, Yes; Mr. Warner, Yes; Mr. Chandler, Yes; Mr. Mikkelsen, Yes; Mr. Erickson, Yes; Mr. Lundborg, Yes; Chairman McKeen, Yes. Motion carried.

- Marshville Dam – Mr. Wyns reported that a picnic table was damaged during a storm. Mr. Mikkelsen will see if he has an extra picnic table frame so they do not have to throw it away. Mr. Wyns stated during a meeting the decision was made to postpone the bridge project until next year, weather permitting. This is due to needing a 4-5-month lead time to get the bids in and the delay in funding. Mark Timmer stated that the Road Commission would store the lumber once it arrived.
- Stony Lake – nothing to report by Mr. Mikkelsen

Old Business

- County Wide Rec. Program- Mr. McKeen has talked with several individuals, one with the Hart Rec group, and they would like to meet with Shelby. Walkerville and Pentwater are very interested in participating with whatever Hart and Shelby decide. Mr. McKeen was asked to be the mediator but stated he was uncomfortable with that decision.
- Parks Five-Year Plan schedule has been adjusted. Stephen Carlson from WMSRDC presented an updated schedule at the Planning Commission Meeting. Mr. Carlson will have a completed version of the Five-Year Plan that can be signed in January 2024. Any Grants going forward for Spring of 2024 will have a complete Five-Year Plan in place.
- Mr. Erickson stated that the information received regarding the Sea Lamprey issue was very informative. The issue was discussed twice at the County Board, and headway is being made; the board would like to see a commitment from the people of Crystal Valley.
- Mr. Wilson discussed the various grants that have been filed, including \$4,800.00 to the Community Foundation for picnic tables and park benches. A grant was received from Great Lakes Energy for \$1,717.00 to purchase three 6ft tables for Cedar Point Park. Mr. Wilson stated there isn't enough time to assemble a Spark Grant for Black Lake as planned.
- Mr. Mikkelsen discussed his concerns with some damage at the Lutheran Bridge out at Gale's Pond. Mr. McKeen believes this can be handled out of the budget and will be discussed at a later date.
- Discussion ensued on the Black Lake Park long-term plan and the course of action to take, including the pros and cons of closing the campground vs. keeping it open.

- o Without any additional funding, there is \$57,000.00 of ARPA money to be used at Black Lake.

Motion made by Mr. Mikkelsen to close Black Lake Campground on September 30, 2023, for good, supported by Mr. Wyns. Voice vote. One aye and nine nays. Motion failed.

- o Discuss with PM Blough where the best places would be to put a pavilion, parking area, and a boardwalk leaving the campground where it currently is.

New Business

- Mr. McKeen discussed the Roskam Plowing bill for Gale's Pond for the plowing done during the winter.

Motion made by Mr. McKeen to authorize the expenditure of \$120.00 to Roskam Plowing for Gale's Pond for the winter season, moved by Mr. Warner and seconded by Mr. Hiddema.

Roll call vote: Mr. Wyns, Yes; Mr. Spitler, Yes; Mr. Wilson, Yes; Mr. Hiddema, Yes; Mr. Warner, Yes; Mr. Chandler, Yes; Mr. Mikkelsen, No; Mr. Erickson, Yes; Mr. Lundborg, Yes; Chairman McKeen, Yes. Motion carried.

- Mr. Mikkelsen stated that he has five brand new picnic tables being stored at his place.
- Mr. McKeen would like to restock Black Lake with Hybrid Blue Gills per request from the township supervisor. Mr. Wyns discussed his concerns about restocking the lake due to the possibility of Pike being the issue and eating the Blue Gill put into the lake. Mr. Wyns will contact Mark Tonello for his opinion on the situation. Mr. Mikkelsen will look into getting Blue Gills and report back at the June 1st meeting.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

There being no further business, Chairperson McKeen adjourned the meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission at 5:02 pm.

The next meeting will be held on June 1, 2023, at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Brittany Bostrom
On behalf of Pete LundBorg, Secretary
Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission