

The Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson McKeen on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 3:00 pm.

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

Absent: Mr. Spitler and Mr. Chandler.

Also Present: Erik Bengston, Director of the Lake Michigan Campground.

Approval of the February 1, 2024 Agenda

Moved by Mr. Hiddema and supported by Mr. Warner to approve the February 1, 2024, meeting agenda as amended. Voice vote - all ayes. Motion carried. Absent: Mr. Spitler and Mr. Chandler.

Approval of the January 4, 2024, Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Moved by Mr. Warner and supported by Mr. Hiddema to approve the January 4, 2024, minutes as presented. Voice vote - all ayes. Motion Carried. Absent: Mr. Spitler and Mr. Chandler.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Financial Report

- **Fund 408 Revenues & Expenditures** – as of December 31, 2023, Revenues were \$39.14; Expenditures were \$342.23, with a Fund Balance of \$23, 974.78.
- **Fund 288 Revenues & Expenditures** – as of December 31, 2023, Revenues were \$10, 126.16; Expenditures were \$0.00, with a Fund Balance of \$36, 987.61.
- **Fund 208 Revenues & Expenditures** – as of December 31, 2023, Revenues were \$44.29; Expenditures were \$13, 368.29, with a Fund Balance of \$13, 368.29.

Motion made by Mr. Wilson and supported by Mr. Mikkelsen to accept the Financial Report Revenues & Expenditures as presented. Voice vote - all ayes. Motion carried. Absent: Mr. Spitler and Mr. Chandler.

Claims for Payment

Fund 208 – Parks & Recreation Commission for January 2024

Prepaid Claims - \$106.24

To Be Paid Claims - \$0.00

Moved by Mr. Warner and supported by Mr. Hiddema to approve the Fund 208 Claims for Payment in the amount of \$106.24.

Roll call vote: Mr. Hiddema – yes; Mr. Warner – yes; Mr. Mikkelsen – yes; Mr. LundBorg – yes; Mr. Wynn – yes; Mr. Wilson – yes; and Chairman McKeen – yes. Absent: Mr. Spitler and Mr. Chandler. Motion carried.

Fund 408 – Parks & Recreation Capital Projects Fund for January 2024

Prepaid Claims - \$98.24

To Be Paid Claims - \$0.00

Moved by Mr. LundBorg and supported by Mr. Wyns to approve the Fund 408 Claims for Payment in the amount of \$98.24.

Roll call vote: Mr. Hiddema – yes; Mr. Warner – yes; Mr. Mikkelsen – yes; Mr. LundBorg – yes; Mr. Wyns – yes; Mr. Wilson – yes; and Chairman McKeen – yes. Absent: Mr. Spitler and Mr. Chandler. Motion carried.

Introduce Erik Bengtson

- Erik Bengtson, Director of the Lake Michigan Campground, Pentwater, MI. Mr. Bengtson is interested in replacing Mr. Chandler on the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Mr. Bengtson is originally from Illinois. He did his Recreation and Leisure studies at Winona State University in Minnesota. After finishing his studies, he worked for ten years in Park Districts in Illinois. Mr. Bengtson returned to school in Springfield, MA, where he earned two Master's Degrees in Outdoor Recreation Leisure Studies and Industrial/Organizational Psychology. After graduating, he worked for the YMCA for about 15 years. Mr. Bengtson has been running a family campground in Pentwater, MI, since 2021. Mr. Bengtson brings with him many years of experience.

Correspondence

- Kompan Playground Equipment, inquiry regarding 2024 park plans. Mr. McKeen informed the gentleman that at this time there are no plans to purchase playground equipment for any of the county parks.
- Filed the quote with Jon's To Go. Cynthia agreed to one single billing at the end of the summer, August 31st, 2024.
- Spoke to Dan Shaw of D & L Shaw Co, regarding brush clearing at Crystal Creek Dam and Gale's Pond Dam. He would like to take a look at the sites in the Spring.
- Talked to Ben Perez with Perez Tree Service, regarding clearing at Gale's and Crystal Creek dams.

Chairperson's Report

- Attended the quarterly WMRSDC Watershed meeting. It is all of WMRSDC's area, which includes Lake, Oceana, Newaygo, Mason, and Muskegon Counties. It is an excellent way to learn what other Watersheds are doing and know what Grants are available.
- Attended two County Board Commissioner's meetings
- Attended the 911 Board Meeting.
- Ordered the Porter Donation sign.
- Worked with the Conservation District on the night walk at Gall's Pond there is another night walk on February 8th, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Parks Reports

- Black Lake – Mr. Bengtson discussed online reservation options that he has worked with.
- Cedar Point Park – Mr. LundBorg did a brief annual report of the time line of the progression and progress of the park. He stated it would be helpful if all the parks had a time line for the future commission members that take their places.
- Crystal Valley Park – None presented.
- Doolittle – Mr. McKeen reported that he talked with Pam Blough to get on the schedule for April or May 2024. Mr. McKeen would like Kari Wilson, Educator for Oceana County Conservation District to

walk the parks with them to give her ideas and input. Ms. Wilson is out at both parks' multiple times a week.

- Gales Pond – Mr. McKeen reported that he talked with Pam Blough to get on the schedule April or May 2024. Mr. McKeen would like Kari Wilson, Educator for Oceana County Conservation District to walk the parks with them to give her ideas and input. Ms. Wilson is out at both parks' multiple times a week. Two candlelit night walks have been done.
- Mill Pond – None presented.
- Marshville Dam – Mr. Wyns reported that they are still planning on starting the bridge project on April 15th, 2024. There will be a Zoom meeting to refresh everyone at where they are at with the project. Everything has been signed and the funds have been allocated for this project.
- Stony Lake – None presented.

Old Business

- Rent Fun Kayak's, Parks would purchase either 4, 8 or 12 kayaks and enter into a 5-year 50/50 rental agreement with the company. They would handle all equipment, equipment racks, and liability concerns. Up front payment of \$19,000, \$29,000, or \$39,000 (4, 8, 12) nonrefundable. Rent Fun Kayak's takes on the liability and does the maintenance of all the equipment. In the winter the equipment up and haul them to Kansas. At this time the commission members have elected not to pursue any further with Rent Fun Kayak's. Discussion ensued.
- Custom Tree Service to start on Cedar Point land clearing once the snow has melted.
- Mr. McKeen was not able to talk with Beckman's regarding the Gale's Pond pathway.
- Updates:
 1. County Wide Rec. Program - Mr. McKeen stated that Pentwater will have a meeting about what they would like to do with the rec program. The Shelby Rec program has a new leader.
 2. Parks Five Year Plan – Mr. McKeen stated he talked to Stephen Carlson, WMSRDC, and the Five-Year Plan is coming along quickly. It should be ready by April – May 2024.
 3. Crystal Creek Dam – The county board early in January 2024, Mr. Tiffany, on video chat, he reported the quality of the Dam. Mr. Tiffany stated that there are voids under the spillway itself, and he recommended further investigation, which the county board agreed to. The invoice presented to the County Board was for \$21,000 for soil and structures to do additional drilling and see how big the void is in the Dam.
 4. ADA Parks Report – Mr. LundBorg, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hiddema will work together to draw up a plan that the Parks and Rec Commission can start.
 5. Various Grants – Mr. Wilson wanted to make the rest of the commissioners aware that the received grants and funds need to be highlighted in a news article or a plaque at the park to help bring awareness to the different organizations that donated the funds for the projects.

New Business

- Adam Chandler submitted his letter of resignation due to personal reasons he decided it was in the best interest for his family and the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Mr. McKeen led discussion on the Parks and Recreation Commission's duties and laws from Mr. McKeen would like to purpose a ¼ mil for funding for the county parks. This would have to be approved by the voters, not something that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners can approve themselves.
- Set meeting and time Schedule for 2024.

Moved by Mr. Erickson and seconded by Mr. Wilson to approve the 2024 meeting schedule to be the first Thursday of every month, starting at 3:00 PM. Except for the July 4th, 2024, meeting will be canceled because it is a holiday. Voice vote - all ayes. Motion carried. Absent: Mr. Spitler and Mr. Chandler.

- Mr. Mikkelsen presented the Commission with an annual report idea that he would like to include the budget information, donation information, and details of what has been done at the parks. The intention of this report will be to show all the ways money is spent and how much is spent that is not from taxpayers. Mr. Mikkelsen would also like to be able to pass along annual reports to new members as a way to inform them of what has happened in the years prior. Mr. McKeen reported that he goes to the Board of Commissioners every year and does a video presentation with the annual report for Parks and Recreation. He will pass the report to the Parks and Recreation Commission this year. Discussion ensued.
- After Mr. Bengston stepped out the Parks and Recreation commission members discussed adding Mr. Bengston to the commission.

Moved by Mr. Mikkelsen and seconded by Mr. Wilson to appoint Erik Bengston for the balance of Adam Chandler's term. Voice vote - all ayes. Motion carried. Absent: Mr. Spitler and Mr. Chandler.

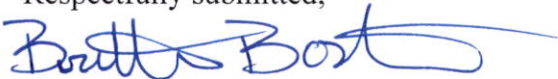
Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

There being no further business, Chairperson McKeen adjourned the meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission at 4:31 pm.

The next meeting will be held on March 7, 2024, at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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