

The Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Mr. Hiddema on Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 3:00 pm.

Present: Mr. LundBorg, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Bengston, Mr. Mikkelsen, Mr. Warner, Mr. Wyns, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Spitler and Mr. Hiddema.

Absent: Mr. McKeen.

Also Present: Brandon McDougall, Drain Commission.

Approval of the September 5, 2024 Agenda

Moved by Mr. Warner and supported by Mr. Erickson to approve the September 5, 2024, meeting agenda as amended. Voice vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of the August 8, 2024, Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Moved by Mr. Bengston and supported by Mr. Wilson to approve the August 8, 2024, minutes as amended. Voice vote - all ayes. Motion Carried.

Public Comment on Agenda items

No public comment.

Financial Report

- **Fund 408 Revenues & Expenditures** – as of July 30, 2024, Revenues were \$16.32; Expenditures were \$220.41, with a Fund Balance of \$22,656.56.
- **Fund 408 Revenues & Expenditures** – as of August 31, 2024, Revenues were \$33.45; Expenditures were \$32.46, with a Fund Balance of \$22,657.55.
- **Fund 288 Revenues & Expenditures** – as of July 30, 2024, Revenues were \$133.40; Expenditures were \$0.00, with a Fund Balance of \$37,956.63.
- **Fund 288 Revenues & Expenditures** – as of August 31, 2024, Revenues were \$15.24, Expenditures were \$0.00, with a Fund Balance of \$37, 971.87.
- **Fund 208 Revenues & Expenditures** – as of July 30, 2024, Revenues were \$22.40; Expenditures were \$1,244.87, with a Fund Balance of \$28, 454.91.
- **Fund 208 Revenues & Expenditures** – as of August 31, 2024, Revenues were \$3,753.04; Expenditures were \$13,100.70, with a Fund Balance of \$19, 107.25.

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

Roll call vote: Mr. Erickson – yes; Mr. Bengston – yes; Mr. Mikkelsen – yes; Mr. Wyns – yes; Mr. Warner – yes; Mr. Hiddema – yes; Mr. Spitler – yes; Mr. LundBorg – yes; Mr. Wilson – yes; Chairman McKeen – Absent.

Claims for Payment

Fund 208 – Parks & Recreation Commission for September 2024

Prepaid Claims - \$12, 810.95

To Be Paid Claims - \$0.00

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

Prepaid Claims - \$32.46

To Be Paid Claims - \$0.00

Moved by Mr. Bengston and supported by Mr. Wilson to approve the Fund 208 in the amount of \$12, 810.95 and Fund 408 Claims for Payment in the amount of \$32.46.

Roll call vote: Mr. Erickson – yes; Mr. Bengston – yes; Mr. Mikkelsen – yes; Mr. Wyns – yes; Mr. Warner – yes; Mr. Hiddema – yes; Mr. Spitler – yes; Mr. LundBorg – yes; Mr. Wilson – yes; Chairman McKeen – Absent.

Correspondence

- Complaint regarding the boat ramp on School Section Lake. The ramp is the property of Oceana County Road Commission.
- Contacted by Dan Denike regarding a large Maple tree that had split and fell into the north side of Gale's Pond picnic area and roadway.

Chairman's Report

- Attended various 3 Township and Village meetings as well as County Commissioner's meeting and one ORC meeting.
- Submitted the Parks 2025 budget request to the County Administrator for \$78,000 as voted on at the August meeting.
- Contacted via phone, Ken Johnson as API Asphalt to schedule quotes for parking and trail paving at various parks.

Parks Reports

- Black Lake – Mr. Bengston shared that he spoke with Ms. Erickson, the campground host, who reported that everything is going smoothly at the campground. She mentioned that she has some money to turn in from the past month. Mr. Erickson noted that the mosquito situation has improved. He also observed an increase in kayakers and fishermen on the lake, which led to further discussion.
- Cedar Point Park – Mr. LundBorg reported that things are starting to quiet down at the park, allowing him to focus on finishing the last two benches. He has been in discussions with Great Lakes Energy regarding some underground wiring they plan to install and is awaiting a call back from them. Additionally, Mr. LundBorg has been in touch with Ms. MaryJo Baker, who organizes the provision of life vests and life rings at Great Lakes beaches. He would like to create a sign explaining the program and clarifying that the life vests and rings are for borrowing only, not for taking home. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Mr. LundBorg, to purchase a sign for the beach at Cedar Point Park and lumber and fasteners to hang the sign, to not exceed \$150.00, pending review from the county attorney regarding liability, supported by Mr. Erickson.

Roll call vote: Mr. Erickson – yes; Mr. Bengston – yes; Mr. Mikkelsen – yes; Mr. Wyns – yes; Mr. Warner – yes; Mr. Hiddema – yes; Mr. Spitler – yes; Mr. LundBorg – yes; Mr. Wilson – yes; Chairman McKeen – Absent.

- Crystal Valley Park – Mr. Spitler reported that the park is in great condition, and the tree from the neighbor's yard has been removed. Howard's Lawn Care has been doing an excellent job with lawn maintenance and garbage removal. The field saw a lot of activity in June and July, but usage has declined since then. Mr. Spitler made mention that Howard from Howard's Lawn Care might be moving, which could mean finding a new lawn service next year, although it's not certain yet.
- Doolittle – Nothing to report.
- Mill Pond – Nothing to report.
- Marshville Dam – Mr. Wyns reported that the area has been seeing a lot of activity, particularly with fishing, now that people can access it. The vegetation is coming in nicely. Construction on the walkway is set to begin later this month, although there is currently no specific timeline for its completion.
- Stony Lake – Nothing to report.

Old Business

- Pam Blough walk through if Gale's Pond and Doolittle moved to October.
- Discuss the Parks Rule signs placement and mounting. Mr. Mikkelsen brought to everyone's attention that there is an error on the sign under the second rule regarding the time that the parks are closed. Mr. LundBorg stated that he has the sign up at Cedar Point Park already.
- Updates:
 - Stony Creek Restoration – The contractor is working with his helical support supplier on a stamped set of project prints. As of 8/29.
 - Crystal Creek Dam – Mr. Erickson reported that he spoke with Mr. Tiffany today and he will be up next week to meet with Mr. Erickson and Mr. Hyslop to discuss the Dam. There should be a final report to bring back after the meeting next week.
 - Custom Tree Service – Work at Crystal Valley is complete.
- ARPA funds must be under contract before the end of 2024. All funds must be spent before years end 2025. Black Lake Shelter. Mr. Mikkelsen discussed asking the Oceana County Board for additional ARPA funds to help bring the walk way at Black Lake to fruition. Discussion ensued.

New Business

- \$2,000 was approved by the Executive Committee on August 28, 2024, for emergency removal of the fallen Maple Tree at Gale's Pond. The work was done by Custom Tree Service the following day. The County Administrator was also made aware of the approval. Mr. Wynn, Mr. LundBorg, Mr. Hiddema and Mr. McKeen all voted in favor of the expenditure.
- During the discussion of the 2025 budget with Ms. Byard the lack of funding to build out ADA Park projects was discussed. Ms. Byard suggested submitting a letter of intent to the County Commissioners for ARPA funding ASAP. Discussion ensued. During the same meeting the discussion was had for a part – time seasonal employee to perform various parks maintenance tasks. Ms. Byard would consider the request possibly sharing with another department.
- Discussion focused on the placement of the pavilion and concerns about day use if the campground remains operational. Issues regarding increased traffic and parking for day users were raised. Quotes for a playground, the pavilion, establishing 10 full hook-up sites, and completing a portion of the boardwalk will be presented at the October 2024 meeting.
- Mr. Wilson reported that on Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024, the Friends of the Hart-Pentwater Trail hosted a tour of the trail, followed by a lunch. Participants included representatives from our state associations in Detroit, staff from the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, staff from the Village of Pentwater, and representatives from several townships. This event served as a prelude to launching Phase 3, which aims to connect the trail from Pentwater to Hart and secure ongoing funding for the project.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

There being no further business, Vice Chairperson Hiddema adjourned the meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission at 4:28. pm.

The next meeting will be held on October 3, at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Brittany Bostrom

On behalf of Pete LundBorg, Secretary

Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission