



# Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Commission

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## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE TUSCOLA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Held on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.  
as convened at the  
H.H. Purdy Building, 125 W. Lincoln Street, Caro MI

**Pledge of Allegiance to U.S. Flag:** Recited in unison as led by Chairman McKay

**Roll call:** Roger Allen (Board of Commissioners), David Barrios, Steve Erickson, Cynthia Kapa (Planning Commission), Bob Mantey (Drain Commissioner), Robert McKay (Chairman), Gerald Peterson (Vice Chairman), Mary Stec, Kim Vaughan, and Chairman of Road Commission (or designated Road Commissioner).

**Call to order:** With quorum present consisting of David Barrios, Steve Erickson, Bob Mantey, Robert McKay, Gerald Peterson, Mary Stec, and Kim Vaughan, the October 21, 2015, regular quarterly meeting of the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Robert McKay with Cynthia Kapa subsequently arriving at 6:40 pm.

**Others present:** Michigan State Senator Mike Green; Members of Tuscola County Trail Riders: Judy Suttle, Marcia Weilbach, Kathy Meyer, and Laura Strzelewicz; Mike Hoagland, Tuscola County Controller; Mike Miller, Director of Tuscola County Buildings and Grounds Department; Vicky Sherry of Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation; Pam Shook, Vanderbilt County Park and Campgrounds Host; Tuscola County Commissioner Craig Kirkpatrick; Nancy Barrios, Cass City Parks and Recreation Board; as well as Zig and Sean Little as public meeting attendees.

**Approval of agenda:** Approval of revised agenda moved by Erickson, supported by Stec, and approved unanimously.

**Approval of minutes:** Approval of Minutes of July 29, 2015, Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting moved by Erickson, supported by Barrios, and approved unanimously.

**Review of correspondence(s) received, and/or relevant actions by the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners:** extract of Tuscola County Board of Commissioners meeting minutes from 2015-10-01 as follows:

**-- 15-M-162 --**

*Motion by Kirkpatrick, seconded by Bierlein that the County Park Ordinance concerning vehicle parking be adopted and take immediate effect. Also, ordinance adoption procedures as explained in correspondence from corporate council be implemented.*

**Review of Newsworthy items:** nothing presented

**Public comments:** Comments by State Senator Green pertaining to the matter of State of Michigan land in the vicinity of the Caro Regional Center being conveyed to Tuscola County for recreational purposes centered on the idea of developing horse-riding trails there, and his further inquiry as to interest on the proposal being embraced by the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners.

Members of Tuscola County Trail Riders, Judy Suttle, Marcia Weilbach, Kathy Meyer, and Laura Strzelewicz also spoke to support the acquisition of the land for the purposes of establishing horse-riding trails.

Tuscola County Commissioner Craig Kirkpatrick also spoke to the issue, elaborating on some concerns previously discussed by Tuscola County Board of Commissioners.

Tuscola County Controller Mike Hoagland informed the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission of multiple studies and legal analyses pertaining to property ownership related to the area in question and also participated in discussion related to potential grant proposal content pertaining to Vanderbilt County Park and Campgrounds.

Other members of the audience made occasional relevant comments pursuant to topics at hand with Zig and Sean Little announcing their presence at the meeting as being for personal edification.

Vicky Sherry presented information and details to the Commission with respect to Michigan DNR grants that she hoped to begin writing subsequent to further direction from the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission now that the grant eligibility requirement of the Tuscola County 2014-2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan approved by the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners has been submitted to the Michigan DNR.

**Business:**

- 1) Moved by Peterson, supported by Barrios, and passed unanimously that a sub-committee of Chairman McKay and Vice Chairman Peterson be established to assemble pertinent material as well as contact relevant parties to further examine matters pertaining to the conveyance of State land to the County of Tuscola primarily for recreational purposes that could include horseback riding in addition to other activities.
- 2) Moved by Vaughan, seconded by Barrios, and passed unanimously that a DNR grant proposal be prepared by the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation that would include the provision of potable water to the Vanderbilt County Park and Campgrounds.
- 3) Moved by Vaughan, seconded by Barrios, and passed unanimously that a DNR grant proposal be prepared by the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation that would include the provision of playground equipment for Vanderbilt County Park and Campgrounds.
- 4) Moved by Vaughan, seconded by Barrios, and passed unanimously that grant opportunities be explored and acted upon with respect to acquiring energy-efficient lighting at Vanderbilt County Park and Campgrounds.

**Public comments:** none

**Business to be carried over to next meeting:**

- 1) Adjustments to, and refinement of, matters, topics, and specifics to be included in any upcoming 2016 DNR grant request(s) to be prepared by the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation;
- 2) Discussion of any developments pertaining to horse-riding trails and/or acquisition of State land by Tuscola County for recreational purposes;

**Announcements and/or further comments by Commissioners:** none

**Scheduling of next meeting:** The next meeting of the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission, Regular Meeting, is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room of the Purdy Building, the location of which is 125 W. Lincoln Street in Caro MI.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Erickson, supported by Barrios, voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:03 p.m.

**Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Commission Mission Statement**

*The mission of the Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Commission is to provide and coordinate year-round recreational opportunities for people of all abilities, and to meet the needs of area residents and regional visitors while protecting wildlife and nature.*