



# Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Commission

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

Held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 – 1:30 p.m.  
as convened in the Commissioners' Board Room of 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:** -- *Vacant* -- (Board of Commissioners), David Barrios, Steve Erickson, Cynthia Kapa (Planning Commission), Bob Mantey (Drain Commissioner), Julie Matuszak (Designated Road Commissioner), Robert McKay (Chairman), Gerald Peterson (Vice Chairman), Mary Stec, Kim Vaughan.

**Call to order:** With quorum present consisting of David Barrios, Steve Erickson, Cynthia Kapa, Julie Matuszak, Robert McKay, and Gerald Peterson, the January 20, 2016, regular quarterly meeting of the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 1:32 pm.

**Others present:** Mike Miller, Director of Tuscola County Buildings and Grounds Department, as well as Vicky Sherry of Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation.

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

**Approval of minutes:** Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2015, Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting moved by Barrios, supported by Erickson, and approved unanimously.

**Review of correspondence(s) received, and/or relevant actions by the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners:** email correspondence by Pam Shook announced mentioning her absence from meeting and views on priorities for Vanderbilt County Park and Campgrounds that emphasized potable water as highest priority item. Mention that the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners had approved receipt of resignation letter by Roger Allen from Board of Commissioners stating that his resignation was to become effective January 10, 2016 (from minutes of December 17 meeting, motion as follows):

-- 15-M-207 --

*Motion by Bierlein, seconded by Kirkpatrick that the letter of resignation from Commissioner Allen be received and placed on file with said resignation to be effective January 10, 2016. Motion carried*

**Review of Newsworthy items:** two items presented, both from Tuscola County Advertiser:

1) Tuscola County Advertiser, January 9, 2016, "Caro receives two grants for Chippewa Trail";

2) Tuscola County Advertiser, January 2, 2016, "Tuscola Twp. \$100,000 grant to expand park.

Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commissioner Gerald Peterson, also a member of the Tuscola Township Parks and Recreation Board, gave a thorough explanation of both the subject of the grant which consists of property acquisition to expand park and recreation space immediately adjacent to the Township Hall grounds so as to provide substantially more public access to the Cass River. He also mentioned other grant-funded projects that had been obtained by Tuscola Township in recent years to improve the parks and recreation environment and offerings at the Tuscola Township complex.

**Public comments:** There were no specific public comments at this time, though the expertise of Mike Miller, Director of the Tuscola County Building and Grounds Department, was subsequently solicited later in the meeting -- this also being the case with Vicky Sherry of the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation.

### **Business:**

- 1) Vice Chairman Peterson provided the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission with a thorough report on activities by the sub-commission established at the October 21, 2015 meeting that consisted of himself and Chairman McKay to maintain contact with State Senator Green and keep abreast of further developments related to the proposed land conveyance in the vicinity of the Caro Regional Center with a focus on developing horse-riding trails on the acreage.
- 2) Commissioner Steve Erickson announced that within an upcoming Brownfield grant submission, there is a component earmarked for an environmental study of the area of the potential land conveyance from the State of Michigan to the County of Tuscola in the vicinity of the Caro Regional Center as well as for "matching funds" regarding a phragmites control/elimination program targeting the phragmites problem in the water of Saginaw Bay adjacent to Vanderbilt County Park and Campgrounds.
- 3) Chairman McKay passed along comments made to him by a member of the public who thought that Vanderbilt County Park and Campgrounds would be well served by the addition of a boat launch similar to the one the DNR boat ramp nearby on the Quanicasse River. Steve Erickson commented that the water near the Vanderbilt County Park and Campgrounds was not sufficiently deep enough to accommodate the sort of boat ramp launch mentioned, but that the idea of a canoe – kayak dock or launch facility might be one that would fit nicely into the general Saginaw Bay water trail concept.
- 4) Chairman McKay reported on the DNR Grant-writing workshop held in Frankenmuth MI on Tuesday, January 14, stating that in addition to himself, Steve Erickson and Vicky Sherry of the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation were in attendance. The Chairman then went on to further mention some of the relevant "point scoring" that would be enhanced with respect to items he would later suggest as inclusions in any upcoming DNR grand submission submitted by the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners.
- 5) Discussion of the timetable of events pertaining to DNR grant submissions took place, particularly in conjunction with need for public input to be made at or before the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners meeting that would approve the submission of the grant application. It was mentioned by Vicky Sherry of the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation that notice of the meeting for public input should be provided no less than five days prior to the meeting, but preferably ten days, by whatever method is commonly used by the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners to provide notice to the public of such events. This could be a notice being placed on the public notice board in the H.H. Purdy Building in addition to either/or notice being placed on the Tuscola County website or appearing in the Tuscola County advertiser under "Legal Notices".

The current timetable of events is taken to be the following:

- a) Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission receives and approves grant proposal from Vicky Sherry of the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation prior to the Commission's Special Meeting to be held on February 17, 2016, at 1:30 pm in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the H.H. Purdy Building located at 125 W. Lincoln Street in Caro MI;
- b) notice would be made on the Tuscola County website that public input will be sought at the next meeting of the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners when the grant proposal will be on the Commissions agenda;
- c) any necessary revisions, alterations, and/or amendments would be made in the following two days, February 18 & 19, or very early the following week;
- d) the grant proposal(s) would appear on the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners agenda for its February 25 meeting; and
- e) in the event that there are unanticipated delays at any of the stages mentioned, the back-up plan for the grant proposal to be submitted to the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners will be for inclusion on the Board of Commissioners' March 10 meeting agenda with the grant application to be submitted to the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources prior to the submission deadline of April 1, 2016.

6) Considerable discussion related to the content of the DNR grant proposal was held, inclusive of input from Vicky Sherry of the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation as well as Mike Miller of the Tuscola County Buildings and Grounds Department.

Chairman McKay emphasized that additional "grading points" would be awarded to the submission for each of three considerations if included in the grant proposal; those being:

- a) ADA compliancy;
- b) use of recycled materials;
- c) actual accommodation for recycling;
- d) multi-purpose identification of proposal attributes (such as a paved pathway being wider than a normal sidewalk width to also serve as a bike lane or to facility other recreational activity such as roller skating).

Chairman McKay distributed photos and drawings of ADA compliant picnic tables, fire pit rings, and recycling containers to facilitate further discussion.

Commissioner Matuszak, the Tuscola County Road Commission's statutory member of the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission, made comments pertaining to the gravel and grading component of the discussion, and volunteered to obtain more precise information on that subject to facilitate the grant-writing by Vicky Sherry.

7) Moved by Erickson, seconded by Barrios, and voted yes unanimously that the following should be the basis for the DNR grant proposal to be prepared by Vicky Sherry of the Tuscola County Economic and Development Corporation:

- a) Twenty (20) ADA compliant and Michigan DNR approved double-walled fire pit rings such as those described by Mike Miller as being available from Cadillac Culverts;
- b) Twenty (20) ADA compliant hexagonal picnic tables made of recycled plastic;
- c) No less than two recycling bins made of recycled material;
- d) Grading and gravelling park outer loop and center drive;
- e) Installation of potable water line.

**Public comments:** Mike Miller, Director of the Tuscola County Department of Buildings and Grounds posed a question about any ongoing commitment that might have to be made should the current economic development grant that may include "matching funds" for phragmites elimination be successful. In short, "who would be responsible for the continued work on phragmites control in subsequent years, and how might that be funded".

**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:** Chairman McKay announced that for purposes of clarification, Regular meetings of the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation are the quarterly meetings scheduled for the third Wednesday in the months of January, April, July, and October at 1:30 pm. Special meetings, such as the upcoming February meeting, will be called as necessary when the work of the Commission dictates -- typically also on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m.

**Scheduling of next meeting:** The next meeting of the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission, a Special Meeting, is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 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 Barrios, supported by Erickson, voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:55 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.*