



Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Commission

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MINUTES OF THE 4TH QUARTER REGULAR MEETING OF THE TUSCOLA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, October 25, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.

H.H. Purdy Building Commissioners' Board Room

125 W. Lincoln Street, Caro MI 48723

Roll call: Terri Lynn Eden, Steve Erickson, Cynthia Kapa (Planning Commission), Bob Mantey (Drain Commissioner), Julie Matuszak (Designated Road Commissioner), Robert McKay (Chairman), Gerald Peterson (Vice Chairman), & Kim Vaughan (Tuscola County Board of Commissioners).

Excused Absences: - none -

Call to order: With quorum present consisting of Terri Lynn Eden, Steve Erickson, Robert McKay, Bob Mantey, Jerry Peterson, and Kim Vaughan, the 4th Quarter Regular meeting of the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 3:02 pm by Chairman McKay.

Others present: - none -

Approval of agenda: Approval of revised agenda moved by Vaughan, supported by Peterson, and passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes: Approval of Minutes of April 26, 2018, 3rd Quarter Regular Meeting moved by Vaughan, supported by Eden, and passed unanimously.

Public comments: -- none --

Review of correspondence(s) received, and/or relevant actions by the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners: - none -

Media coverage and other items related to Parks and Recreation:

Tuscola County Advertiser, September 8, 2018, "Cass City Receives Grand from Pinney Foundation, Basketball Courts Renovated" by Alex Szwark.

Tuscola County Advertiser, October 13, 2018, "Splitting Dam Repair Costs Could Give Cass River a Lift" by Tom Gilchrist.

Business carried over from last meeting:

1) It was announced by Chairman McKay that any recommendation by the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission to the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners to request of Michigan Legislature that MCL 45.351 (County and Regional Parks, Act 261 of 1965) be amended by the inclusion of the underlined language shown as follows be held in abeyance pending the seating of the new Tuscola County Board of Commissioners in January 2019, after which time newly elected 84th District State Representative and 31st District State Senator have taken office and become acquainted with the members of the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners:

**COUNTY AND REGIONAL PARKS (EXCERPT)
Act 261 of 1965**

46.351 County parks and recreation commission; creation; membership; terms; vacancy; commission as county agency; rules and regulations; compensation.

Sec. 1. (1) The county board of commissioners of a county, by resolution adopted by a 2/3 vote of all its members, may create a county parks and recreation commission, which shall be under the general control of the board of commissioners.

(2) The county parks and recreation commission shall consist of the following members:

- (a) The chairperson of the county road commission as a non-voting ex-officio member or another road commissioner similarly non-voting designated by the board of county road commissioners.
- (b) The county drain commissioner as a non-voting ex-officio member or an employee of the drain commissioner's office similarly non-voting designated in writing by the drain commissioner.
- (c) One of the following:
 - (i) In a county that elects a county executive under section 9 of 1973 PA 139, MCL 45.559, the county executive or a designee of the county executive as a non-voting ex-officio member.
 - (ii) In a county with a population of 1,000,000 or less, the chairperson of the county planning commission or another member of the county planning commission designated by the county planning commission as a non-voting ex-officio member. In a county that does not have a county planning commission, the chairperson of the regional planning commission shall serve on the county parks and recreation commission as a non-voting ex-officio member if that person is a resident of that county. If the chairperson of the regional planning commission is not a resident of that county, then the board shall, by a 2/3 vote, appoint a member of the regional planning commission who is a resident of that county to serve on the county parks and recreation commission as a non-voting ex-officio member.
- (d) Seven voting members appointed by the county board of commissioners, not less than 1 and not more than 3 of whom shall be members of the board of commissioners.
- (e) For counties with a population greater than 750,000 but less than 1,000,000, the county board of commissioners shall appoint a neighborhood representative. The appointee under this subdivision shall be an officer of the homeowners or property owners association that

represents the largest area geographically that is located totally or partially within 1,000 feet of the property boundary of the most frequently used county park who is willing to serve on the county parks and recreation commission. If a homeowners or property owners association is not located within 1,000 feet of that park or no officer is willing to serve, then the appointee shall be a resident who lives within 1/2 mile of that park and who is willing to serve on the county parks and recreation commission. If no resident lives within 1/2 mile of that park or no resident is willing to serve, then the appointee shall be a resident of the city, village, or township in which that park is located who is willing to serve on the county parks and recreation commission. The first appointment under this subdivision shall be made not more than 60 days from October 17, 2003 or not more than 60 days from the date a county qualifies for an appointment under this subdivision.

(3) Of the members first appointed by the county board of commissioners, 2 shall be appointed for a term ending 1 year from the following January 1, 2 for a term ending 2 years from the following January 1, and 3 for a term ending 3 years from the following January 1. The first member appointed by a qualifying county under subsection (2)(e) shall be appointed for a term ending 2 years from the following January 1. From then on, each appointed member shall be appointed for a term of 3 years and until his or her successor is appointed and qualified. Each term shall expire at noon on January 1. A vacancy shall be filled by the county board of commissioners for the unexpired term.

(4) The county parks and recreation commission is an agency of the county. The county board of commissioners may make rules and regulations with respect to the county parks and recreation commission as the board of commissioners considers advisable. The members of the county parks and recreation commission are not full-time officers. The county board of commissioners shall fix the compensation of the members.

2) Reported by Chairman McKay that on October 17 there was a meeting regarding a northern extension of Southern Links Trailway from Millington to City of Vassar in which observations from “walking the tracks” by Spicer Engineering on July 25 and second walk-through in October 2018 were presented with consensus of proposed route for engineering study being achieved by stakeholders. Further details presented at that meeting included the following:

- a) that there remain some difficulties yet to be ironed out from current northern terminus of Southern Links Trailway through the Village of Millington which includes restrictive right-of-way issues at DTE substation, Millington Schools, and Self-Serve Lumber;
- b) that trail will be constructed within the exiting railroad right-of-way with cross-over’s of railroad tracks at existing Ellis Road and Murphy Lake Road grade crossings;
- c) that a culvert, bridge, or elevated boardwalk will be required just north of Village of Millington over low-lying areas and Millington Creek;
- d) that northern end of trail extension will be at Beech Street in the City of Vassar, whereupon Beech Street will serve as a dual use connection westward between Southern Links Trailway extension to be constructed within the railroad right-of-way to the established City of Vassar Rail Trail which parallels S. Water Street;
- e) that the proposed budget for the project will be approximately \$3,000,000;
- f) that it remains uncertain if a proposed non-motorized bridge over the Cass River, somewhat south of the M-15 (Huron Avenue) highway bridge, will be included as part of the project.

3) Chairman McKay reported that Bridgeport Township has the permit in hand to remove log jam in Cass River, so further communication with Michigan DEQ by the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission to the matter is unnecessary.

4) Commissioner Vaughan reported that there were no new developments related to the Caro dam issue other than it appeared an engineering study could be contracted for \$3,700 instead of the \$11,000 previously assumed.

5) Chairman McKay reported that he had sent a letter to Tuscola County Board of Commissioner Chairman Bardwell requesting that the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners maintain funding for phragmites control in and adjacent to Vanderbilt County Park and Campground. Commissioner Vaughan added further information regarding SIGMA money available for Saginaw, Bay, and Tuscola County phragmites control which requires a local match for further spot treatment.

6) Chairman McKay reported that he had sent a letter requesting property transfer from State of Michigan to Tuscola County for recreational land acquisition by Tuscola County for use inclusive of a canoe – kayak launch has been sent to Chairman Bardwell of the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners.

New Business

1) Matters presented to Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission by East Michigan Council of Governments regarding updating of MDOT Bay Region Nonmotorized Plan with one of the goals of the plan being to obtain current data on existing and proposed nonmotorized facilities within each of the 15 counties within the Bay region, inclusive of Tuscola County.

a) See letter from Bill Arnat of East Michigan Council of Governments which includes chart of both miles of existing facilities as well as miles of proposed facilities;

b) See Nonmotorized Transportation Map of Tuscola County prepared by East Michigan Council of Governments July 23, 2018, to identify any errors or omissions.

Chairman McKay reported that he had sent a letter in response to the communication described above in which Chairman McKay pointed out the absence of a bicycle route segment existing the length of Saginaw Road between the Village of Mayville and the City of Vassar.

2) For informational purposes: history of terms in effect, and expiration dates thereof, for those currently seated on Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission:

Appointments to Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission by Tuscola County Board of Commissioners currently in effect as of October 25, 2018

From 10/27/2016 meeting minutes of the Board of Commissioners:

16-M-186 motion by Kirkpatrick, seconded by Young that the following actions be taken with respect to appointments to Parks and Recreation Commission and clarify previous appointment actions:

- * Jerry Peterson be reappointed for a three year term expiring December 31, 2019.
- * Kim Vaughn be reappointed for a three year term expiring December 31, 2019.
- * Robert McKay be reappointed for a two year term expiring December 31, 2018.
- * Advertise to fill the open seat formerly held by Mary Stec – the term of the person appointed to this position will expire on December 31, 2018.

From 3/16/2017 meeting minutes of the Board of Commissioners:

Consent Agenda Resolution - 17-M-044

Motion by Bierlein, seconded by Kirkpatrick that the following Consent Agenda Resolution from the March 13, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 3/13/17

Description of Matter: Move that Terri Eden be appointed to the County Parks and Recreation Commission for a term that expires December 31, 2018.

From 11/20/2017 meeting minutes of the Board of Commissioners:

17-M-206 motion by Bierlein, seconded by Young that the following appointments be made to the corresponding Tuscola County Boards and Commissions beginning January 1, 2018:

Stephen Erickson: Parks & Recreation Commission 3-year term.

Seat formerly held by David Barrios which will expire at the end of 2020 remains unfilled at the present time.

- 3) Adoption of Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission 2019 meeting schedule moved by Erickson, supported by Vaughan, and passed unanimously:

**2019 MEETING SCHEDULE
OF THE
TUSCOLA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION**

Thursday, January 24, 3:00 pm: 1st Quarter Regular Meeting to be held in the Commissioners' Board Room of the H.H. Purdy Building, 124 W. Lincoln, Caro MI

Thursday, April 25, 3:00 pm: 2nd Quarter Regular Meeting to be held in the Commissioners' Board Room of the H.H. Purdy Building, 124 W. Lincoln, Caro MI

Thursday, July 25, 3:00 pm: 3rd Quarter Regular Meeting to be held at picnic pavilion of Vanderbilt County Park and Campground, 4446 Bath Road, Fairgrove MI

Thursday, October 24, 3:00 pm: 4th Quarter Regular Meeting to be held in the Commissioners' Board Room of the H.H. Purdy Building, 124 W. Lincoln, Caro MI

Business to be carried over to next meeting: --

- 1) Developments pertaining to Caro dam repair;
- 2) Matters pertaining to nonmotorized transportation and extension of Southern Links Trailway northward from the Village of Millington to the City of Vassar should they develop;
- 3) Reporting of any letters sent pursuant to motions passed at this meeting should there be any.

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

Public comments: -- none --

Adjournment: Moved by Peterson, supported by Vaughan, and voted unanimously to adjourn at 4:03 pm.

Next scheduled meeting: The next scheduled meeting of the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission is the 1st Quarter Regular Meeting to take place on Thursday, January 24, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room of the H.H. Purdy Building located at 125 W. Lincoln Street in Caro, Michigan.

Mention: Though not mandated by the laws of the State of Michigan, policy of the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners, or by-laws of the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission, past practice has been that the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission takes place annually at the 3rd Quarterly Regular Meeting of the commission, typically held at Vanderbilt County Park and Campground. The terms of office for both Chairman and Vice Chairman shall begin with the 4th Quarter Regular Meeting, at which time the following calendar year's Regular Meeting Schedule is to be established by the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Commission Mission Statement

The mission of the Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Commission is to advise the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners on matters of policy and practice pertaining to the encouragement, establishment, and provision of recreational opportunities for residents of, and visitors to, Tuscola County.