



Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Commission

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Nancy Barrios, Chairman
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APPROVED MINUTES – October 6, 2020

Roll call: Nancy Barrios (Chairperson), Terri Eden, Julie Matuszak (Designated Road Commissioner), Robert McKay, Kim Vaughan, (Tuscola County Board of Commissioners) Steve Erickson (3:45 pm),

Excused: Cynthia Kappa (Planning Commission), Jerry Peterson (Vice Chairman), Bob Mantey (Drain Commissioner)

Call to order: With quorum present called to order by **Chairperson Barrios** at: **2:34 pm**.

Others present: Mike Miller, Director of Building and Grounds, Pam Schook, Vanderbilt Park Host, and Megan Bartolus

Motion by: **Terri Eden** Supported by: **Commissioner Kim Vaughn** to Approve Agenda (Amended to add EGLE Grant announcement – applications due Dec. 18).

Roll Call: Terri Eden – yes; Bob McKay – pass; Commissioner Kim Vaughn – yes; Nancy Barrios – yes; Julie Matuszak – yes

Motion **Passed**

Motion by: **Julie Matuszak** Supported by: **Commissioner Kim Vaughn** to approval Minutes of September 1, 2020 as presented.

Roll Call: Terri Eden – yes; Julie Matuszak – yes; Bob McKay – (called twice) no response; Kim Vaughn – yes; Nancy Barrios – yes;

Motion **Passed.**

Public Comment: **None**

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

BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

ADOPTION OF 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE:

Discussed Bi-Laws requiring Quarterly meeting, need to meet monthly and whether 1st Tuesday at 2:30 pm. still worked with everyone's schedule.

Motion by **Commissioner Kim Vaughn**, Support by **Julie Matuszak** to adopt 2021 Meeting Schedule of meeting every other month on 1st Tuesday of the month at 2:30 p.m.:

January 5, 2021 2:30 pm
March 2, 2021 2:30 pm
May 4, 2021 2:30 pm
July 6, 2021 2:30 pm
September 7, 2021 2:30 pm
November 2, 2021 2:30 pm

Roll Call: Nancy Barrios – yes; Terry Eden – yes; Julie Matuszak – yes; Commissioner Kim Vaughn – yes; Robert McKay – no response.

Motion **Passed.**

VANDERBILT PARK:

1. **DUMP STATION:** Discussed fee for Non-Campers ranging from \$5 to \$20.

Bob McKay spoke up indicated he was not allowed input on the meeting schedule because of technical problems. He indicated a need to keep meetings on a monthly schedule and cancel if necessary. Because voting on the item had already concluded, I inquired if there was interest in amending the motion to accommodate Mr. McKay's request. There was none.

Motion by **Julie Matuszak**; Support by **Commissioner Kim Vaughn**. to recommend to Tuscola County Commissioners that we adopt a \$10 Non-Camper - Dump Fee.

Roll Call: Barrios – yes; Terry Eden – yes; Julie Matuszak – yes; Bob McKay – (called twice) no response; Commissioner Kim Vaughn – yes.

Motion **Passed.**

2. **OFF-SEASON CAMPER STORAGE AND USE:**

Motion by: **Commissioner Kim Vaughn** and Supported by **Julie Matuszak** to recommend to Tuscola County Commissioners that we adopt an Off-Season Camper Storage fee of \$360 for the entire off-season **OR** \$2.00/day, **PLUS** \$20 per day Electric Fee for each day units are occupied for Ice fishing or hunting.

Roll Call: Barrios – yes; Terri Eden – yes; Julie Matuszak – yes; Bob McKay – (called twice) no response; Commissioner Kim Vaughn – yes.

Motion **Passed.**

3. **SMOKING:** Point clarified by email from former Chairman, Bob McKay indicating that smoking was permitted at Vanderbilt Park site per Ordinance language.

4. **DEAD TREE REMOVAL AND BRANCH TRIMMING:** Mike Miller is working on dead tree removal and branch trimming.

5. **PARK SIGNAGE:** Mike Miller has located a supplier for “children playing” signs and will look into posts and signage for “Park Patrons Use Only – No Through Traffic” signs. Julie Matuszak suggested that Parks and Recreation Committee make a recommendation to County Commissioners to adopt an ordinance that limits use of Park drives to Vanderbilt Park Campers and not for Commercial trucks or Farm Equipment use.

Motion by: **Commissioner Kim Vaughn**. Support by **Terri Eden**. to have Chairperson Barrios draft a letter to County Commissioners recommending adoption of an ordinance to limit Vanderbilt Park drives for use by Park Patrons Only and prohibit use by Commercial Trucks and Farm equipment, to ensure the safety of Park guests and limit undue wear and tear on Park drives.

Roll Call: Barrios – yes; Eden – yes; Matuszak – yes; McKay – (called twice) no response; Vaughn – yes.

Motion **Passed.**

6. **SURVEY MARKINGS/ROAD:** – This issue has been discussed by Commissioners previously, but no action taken. Commissioner Vaughn will bring this up again at the next County Commissioner’s Meeting.
7. **VOLLEYBALL AND LOW GROUND AREAS:** Volleyball, Basketball, Horse Shoe Pit area and low ground areas holding water (willow tree) were discussed. High water is an ongoing problem that impacts most of the Public use areas of the Park (Volleyball, Basketball and Horse shoe pit areas as well as roads and grassy areas). High water tables have further eroded these park areas and until a resolution is reached, its difficult to try to make meaningful improvements to playground equipment and public play areas. Mike Miller indicated that ditch cleaning may help, but the problem will ultimately require an engineering study and extensive amounts of fill dirt being hauled in.
8. **REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF ROTTED PERIMETER POSTS:** Discussed the need to remove rotting perimeter posts infested by bees and possibly replace with a Split rail fence. We were advised by Mike Miller that cost of a split rail fence around perimeter of Vanderbilt Park was cost prohibitive. There is no current budget to accommodate that replacement. Budget funding for Next Year would probably be limited to Park Operational Expenses due to the extensive overrun costs associated with the Dump Station installation. Any projects or Grants would require Commissioner’s approval and outside Grant funding sources.
9. **EGLE – GRANT (Due December 18th)** Discussed the previous expired DEQ Permit. Mike Miller will see if he can locate it for reference. Motion by **Terri Eden** to pursue completion of EGLE Grant application with understanding that it requires County Commissioner approval and commitment by them for (50%) Match funds – can be “In Kind” donation or combination of funds and “In-Kind” work. Supported by: **Julie Matuszak**.

Roll call: Barrios – yes; Eden – yes; Matuszak – yes; McKay (twice) no response; Vaughn -yes

Motion **Passed.**

10. FEASIBILITY OF ADDING RESTROOMS/SHOWER AREA (Noted in our Master Plan):
City sewer is not currently available in the area of Vanderbilt Park. Commissioner Vaughn indicated that the Dump station was sized up to accommodate on site needs related to upgrading a Restroom and Shower Building. This project should remain as a priority....

REPORTS OF OUTSIDE MEETINGS AND/OR OTHER OFFICIAL ACTIVITY: Steve Erickson indicated that he's working on the updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan and hopefully will have updates at our November 3rd. Meeting. He indicated he's been very busy with Covid 19 Grant distributions.

Discussion about the large downed tree across the access site to the water. Pam indicated that the tree fell couple of years ago and DNR left it there. If we get permission to remove it, we need to put up a barrier that will allow only small vehicles such as snowmobiles, quads, kayaks etc. through. Otherwise trucks will drive in and cause all sorts of problems.

MEDIA COVERAGE & OTHER ITEMS RELATED TO PARKS AND RECREATION: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: It's hoped that our November 3rd meeting will be held in person at the Purdy Building. Steve Erickson indicated that we could also use the EDC large meeting/conference room which would accommodate social distancing needs.

SUBJECTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1) Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Master Plan - capital improvements.
- 2) Layout, design, plan and costs for canoe-kayak launch site along Cass River adjacent to Chambers Rd..
- 3) Pursue grant opportunities consistent with, interests, goals, and objectives of the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission
- 4) Bicycle route expansion: (Designating W. Saginaw Road between City of Vassar and Village of Mayville as "Trans-Tuscola Bike Route" as well as other portions of roadway such as M-15 westerly from City of Vassar to Tuscola – Saginaw county line to be similarly designated)
- 5) Investigate Feasibility of a County-wide Park Brochure

The next scheduled meeting of the Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission is **November 3, 2020** at **2:30 pm.**

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn made by **Commissioner Kim Vaughn**, Support by: **Steve Erickson**.

Roll Call: Barrios – yes; Eden – yes; Matuszak – yes; Vaughn – yes; McKay (called twice) No response; Erickson – yes.

Motion **Passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

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.