

Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting Minutes

Friday May 8, 2026, 12:30 AM

Tuscola County Purdy Building Conference Room

125 West Lincoln Street, Caro, MI 48723

Call to Order:

At 12:30 P.M., Michael Clinesmith, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Michael Clinesmith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Mark Putnam, Secretary, called the Roll.

Appointed Members Present: Michael Clinesmith, Chairperson; Nancy Barrios, Vice-chairperson & Tuscola County Board of Commissioners Member; Mark Putnam, Secretary; William Thomas; & Isabella Hill.

Appointed Members Absent: Joseph Ewald, Excused.

Ex-Officio Present: Dara Hood, Drain Commissioner; & Jane Rymarczyk, Planning Commissioner.

Ex-Officio Absent: Julie Matuszak, Road Commissioner, Excused.

Public Present: None.

Ex-officio Member Elevated to Voting Status:

Jane Rymarczyk, ~~Drain~~ Planning Commissioner.

A quorum was present with seven voting members.

Approval of Agenda:

- Action: Dara Hood, seconded by Jane Rymarczyk, motioned to approve the agenda as presented.
- Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

- There was no approval of the April 21, 2026, Minutes because this was a Special Meeting.

Vanderbilt County Park & Campground Host Position:

Tuscola County Acting Administrator Mike Miller advertised the Campground Host independent contractor position, receiving two applications. A Park Host Interview Committee — comprising Michael Clinesmith, Mark Putnam, and Joe Ewald — was convened and scheduled to meet with candidates on Tuesday May 5, 2026.

Following due diligence, Miller was unable to reach the first candidate despite repeated attempts by phone, and that application was not pursued further.

The second candidate, Charles "Chuckie" Militello, Jr., submitted a resume and references and was scheduled for a formal interview before the Committee, which would forward a recommendation to the Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Commission.

Mr. Militello's resume highlights include ownership and operation of multiple profitable businesses in the Quanicassee area, with extensive knowledge of local government business practices. He currently operates Chuckie's Bait & Tackle and previously operated Chuckie's Bay County Flea Market.

Commission Discussion:

Mr. Militello appeared before the full Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Commission at 10:30 A.M. Tuesday May 5, 2026, and answered all prepared questions that the Committee had approved in advance for the interview.

The Park Host Committee offered its wholehearted recommendation of Mr. Militello to the full Commission. Committee members noted that he would be available and ready to assume the position by the Memorial Day holiday — a critical timeline for the park season.

The Committee stated that Mr. Militello was likely the best qualified candidate in Tuscola County for the role. He demonstrated strong problem-solving ability and ease with people, and his deep familiarity with the local community was considered a great asset. Members agreed that his presence at Vanderbilt County Park would complement existing operations and meaningfully increase the park's experience and revenue.

Park Host Motion:

- Action: Nancy Barrios, seconded by Dara Hood, motioned to approve and recommend to the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners Mr. Charles Militello, Jr., as the new Park Host for the Vanderbilt County Park & Campground at Quanicassee.

- Result: The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

- Action: Nancy Barrios, seconded by Dara Hood, motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- Result: The motion passed unanimously.

This Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Commission Special Meeting concluded at 12:43 P.M.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 19, 2026, at 8:00 A.M. at the Tuscola County Purdy Building Conference Room, located at 125 West Lincoln Street, Caro, MI 48723.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Putnam, Secretary