

Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Friday May 19, 2026, 8:00 AM

Tuscola County Purdy Building Conference Room

125 West Lincoln Street, Caro, MI 48723

Call to Order:

At 8:02 A.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; & Joseph Ewald.

Appointed Members Absent: Isabella Hill, Excused.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Stephenie Dusute, Drain Commissioner & Jane Rymarczyk, Planning Commissioner.

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

Public Present: None.

Ex-officio Member Elevated to Voting Status:

Stephenie Dusute, Drain Commissioner; & Jane Rymarczyk, Planning Commissioner.

A quorum was present with seven voting members.

Approval of Agenda:

- Action: Joseph Ewald, seconded by Nancy Barrios, motioned to approve the agenda as presented.
- Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Historic Kiosk Grant — America250MI. Mark Putnam reported that he has submitted the final reimbursement request in the amount of \$490.00, along with the Final Report, to America250MI, the grant source for the Historic Kiosk at Vanderbilt County Park and Campground. The Commission's contact, Sheri, responded that everything appeared to be in order and that the submission would be forwarded for payment. Sheri further said that she considered the project — including the Commission's submission, reporting, and completion under budget — to be amazing.

Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance—Nancy Barrios reported that she will be filing her report with the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance.

Approval of Minutes:

Corrections to Previous Minutes—Drain Commissioner Stephenie Dusute reported that three corrections are required regarding the names and titles of individuals referenced in both the April 21, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes and the May 8, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes. The secretary shall make the necessary corrections prior to the final submission of those minutes.

- Action: Joseph Edwald, seconded by Nancy Barrios, motioned to approve and the minutes as amended.
- Result: The motion passed unanimously.

Spicer Presentation--Update:

The Parcels Property — Tonya Moore, the Commission's contact with Spicer, presented and reviewed Spicer's proposed plan to construct a boat launch at The Parcels Property on Washburn Road near Chambers Road. Discussion followed regarding the type of dock or launch that Moore and Spicer recommended, as well as associated maintenance costs.

It was noted that the DNR typically funds large-scale projects such as the Spicer Plan, and that smaller grants could potentially be used as matching funds. The proposed launch was described as similar to the universally accessible facility installed at Evergreen Park in Sanilac County, Michigan. It was noted that to qualify for a DNR Grant, the project would almost certainly be required to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA.

The estimated cost of the full Spicer Plan is approximately \$572,000, which would include a ten-vehicle parking lot just off Washburn Road, interpretive signage, a picnic table, grill, trash receptacle, a portable floating dock, and landscaping.

A phased or step approach to the project was discussed, whereby development would proceed in stages. The first phase would likely consist of obtaining a topographical map and completing design work along with EAGLE permitting.

Discussion then turned toward the possibility of beginning with a more rustic site, given the potential difficulty of undertaking a project of this scale at the outset. It was suggested that the

Spicer Plan could serve as a foundation from which a rustic picnic area could be developed first, with a path descending the riverbank — as recommended by Spicer — leading to a natural observation and fishing spot along the river.

The matter of restroom facilities was raised, as a bathroom was not included in the Spicer Plan. It was noted that a portable toilet would cost approximately \$200.00 per month, or \$1,200.00 per season.

The Commission discussed the possibility of progressing from a rustic site toward a more modernistic development over time, with multiple funding sources identified as a likely approach.

Nancy Barrios provided an update on the Indianfields Township Park and their ongoing efforts to acquire the former Caro Center property located between their current park and Chambers Road.

Six Members Present—9:07 A.M.

Attendance—Six members, from seven to start the meeting, were now present at the meeting. Jane Rymarczyk, Planning Commissioner, departed at 9:07 A.M. to attend another appointment.

Review of Financial Report/Budget Adjustments

Chairperson Michael Clinesmith presented and discussed the Financial Report. Mark Putnam noted that certain budget adjustments could result in the Commission coming in nearly \$10,000 under the current year's budget and indicated that the budget provides the Commission with considerable flexibility going forward.

- Action: Mark Putnam, seconded by Nancy Barrios, motioned to receive and file the financial report.
- Result: The motion passed unanimously.

Renaming of The Parcels Property

The Commission discussed the renaming of the property currently known as The Parcels, located just west on Washburn Road at the turn of Chambers Road in Indianfields Township. Two names were proposed by Commission members. Nancy Barrios suggested the name Indian Dave Memorial Park, honoring the well-known Native American who was the last person to live the traditional ways of the Chippewa in Michigan's Upper Thumb. Mark Putnam suggested Heartt's Mill Park, honoring William Heartt's historic mill, which stood across the Cass River from The Parcels and was the first mill built in Indianfields Township, constructed around 1854.

It was decided that Mark Putnam will post notices on Facebook informing the public of the renaming effort and inviting community input and suggestions. Mark Putnam will prepare the notice and share it with the Executive Committee for review prior to posting. This matter will be discussed further at the August Regular Meeting.

Vanderbilt Park:

Historical Kiosk & Corn-hole Game — Nancy Barrios and Mark Putnam will visit Vanderbilt County Park to review the cement pad installation, meet with Park Host Charles Militello, and visit his store.

Trail Marker Tree — Interpretive Signage—Nancy Barrios will obtain pricing from Pannier for a single panel interpretive sign for the Trail Marker Tree.

TCP&RC Master Plan—2023-2027

DNR Portal Access—Chairperson Michael Clinesmith reported that he attempted to contact the Michigan DNR to update the password required to access and update the Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Commission Master Plan 2023–2027 but has not received a response. Michael Clinesmith will follow up with Mike Miller for assistance in resolving the matter.

- Action: Joe Ewald, seconded by Nancy Barrios, motioned to approved Michael Cinesmith and the current county controller, to have access to the password with the Michigan DNR Department.
- Result: The motion passed unanimously.

Friends of Tuscola County Parks & Recreation - Facebook Page—Mark Putnam will highlight other municipal parks on the Friends of Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Facebook page. Mark Putnam will also investigate potential grant funding opportunities on behalf of the Commission.

Additional Items

Biking and Walking Rail Trail — Eastward of Caro—Nancy Barrios inquired as to whether this trail is still currently owned by International Transmission. The Commission will investigate the matter. It was noted that the county's agreement with International Transmission is revocable.

Adjournment

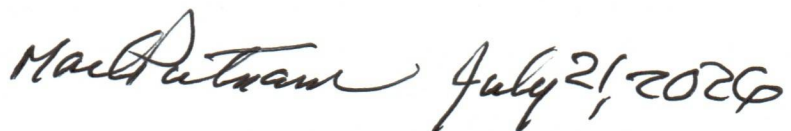
- Action: Nancy Barrios, seconded by Joseph Ewald, motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- Result: The motion passed unanimously.

This Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting concluded at 9:43 A.M.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday July 21, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Putnam" followed by the date "July 21, 2026". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.