

(231) 723-6041

Manistee County

395 Third Street

Fax (231) 398-3526 Manistee, Michigan 49660 planning@manisteecountymi.gov
Planning Department

BIG BEAR SPORTSMAN CLUB 6:00

p.m., Monday 8927 Puustinen Road
June 7, 2021 Kaleva, Michigan

RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The Recreation Commission is operating remotely and electronically by Zoom under PA 254 of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

❖ Call to Order and Roll Call.

❖ Mr. Wayne Beldo, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Recreation Commission Members Present: Erin Secord, Margaret Bauer, Gary Schwaiger, Wayne Beldo, Linda Cudney, Devin Wegner and Robert Schulke

Recreation Commission Members Absent: LaVonne Beebe, Dennis Cohoon, Brian Dunlop, Sharon Goble

Others: Mike Szokola County Planning Director, Mark Coe Benzie/Manistee Snowbirds, Douglas Barry Michigan DNR, Karen Kolk Friends of SMART Trails

❖ Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Batzer noted that the agenda did not contain a Staff Update and Ms. Secord noted that the agenda did not include the Trail Summit. The agenda was amended to include both items.

Ms. Batzer moved, seconded by Ms. Cudney to approve the June 7, 2021 Agenda as amended.

Voting yes: Ms. Cudney, Ms. Secord, Mr. Beldo, Ms. Batzer, Mr. Schulke, Ms. Wegner, Mr. Schwaiger

❖ Approval of the Minutes

Mark Coe had a few amendments to the minutes in regard to his update from the prior meeting which included clarifying that the snowbirds were "in talks" with the White Pines Trail crew and the Betsie Valley Trail group rather than "working with." He also corrected the name of the "Grand Traverse Snowmobile Club."

Ms. Cudney moved, seconded by Mr. Schulke to approve the May 3, 2021 Minutes as amended.

Voting yes: Ms. Cudney, Ms. Secord, Mr. Beldo, Ms. Batzer, Mr. Schulke, Ms. Wegner, Mr. Schwaiger

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❖ Public Comment

- Karen Kolk shared that she would like the commission to consider meeting in person soon with consideration to vaccination status. Mr. Beldo replied that we would discuss this topic in New Business.



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- Doug Barry shared that he has been put on the Management Council for the Betsie and has been attending their meetings. He said there was a Friends of the Betsie meeting the following day and offered to share information between the two committees.

❖ Staff Updates

- Mike Szokola shared an email from Laura Heinbelman. She has been reviewing the Friends of SMART Trails information. There are some changes that need to be made to official documentation such as officers. There also is IRS documentation that needs to be completed. Mike said he will work on this and provide an update at the next meeting.
- Mike Szokola gave an update on staffing and suggested that the Commission and Friends Group focus their efforts on fundraising. That way if the County Board instructs the Planning Department to once again make trails a priority and area of focus, the money raised over the summer could be incorporated into a matching entity to be used for grants. He added that the County is also looking to fill a Grant Writer position.

❖ Old Business

● 501c3 Status for Friends Group

It was decided that the Friends group should schedule a meeting. Mike Szokola volunteered to schedule a meeting for the Friends group. He observed that they may need to appoint officers and recommended that they meet before the next commission meeting. Wayne Beldo recommended Wednesday, June 16. Mike Szokola added he would inquire as to if a meeting room at the Road Commission would be available that evening.

● Trails Summit

Ms. Batzer shared that she thinks it is important we begin planning the Trails Summit and looks to schedule it. It was decided it should be an agenda item at the Friends Meeting.

● New Business

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Mr. Beldo asked if the group would like to begin meeting in person or continue to meet via Zoom. In general members seemed in favor of meeting in person but felt that Zoom should still be an option for those who wish to attend electronically. It was established that the next meeting would take place on July 6 at 6:00pm in the County Commissioner's room.

● Update from Rob Carson

Mike Szokola shared an update from Rob Carson. Rob was able to secure funding for all of the townships and villages. He also was able to get a grant to match those monies to complete the county recreation plan. Ms. Batzer clarified that the grant was awarded to Networks Northwest to be used to

❖ Adjourn

Mr. Schulke moved, seconded by Ms. Wegner to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Voting yes: Ms. Cudney, Ms. Secord, Mr. Beldo, Ms. Bauer, Mr. Schulke, Ms. Wegner, Mr. Schwaiger

The next meeting will be held July 7, 2021 in the County Commissioner's room at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Secord, Recreation Commission Secretary

Date: May 3, 2021