

2.5.25 RECREATION COMMISSION NOTES-No Feb. Meeting

Meeting Adjustments

- **Election of Officers** – This will now take place at our March meeting.

Updates

- **Friends of SMARTrails** – Minutes from Linda are attached.
- **Benzie/Manistee Snowbirds** – A memo from Mark is attached.

Planning Department Staff Update

Lifejacket Grant

- In January, I attended Manistee Township and Arcadia Township board meetings to present the grant opportunity and its potential impact. So far, we have received letters of support from Manistee Township, Arcadia Township, Bear Lake Village, and Filer Township.
- I plan to attend the City of Manistee and Village of Onekama meetings in February to do the same. Feedback has been very positive.
- The grant inquiry form has been submitted, and I will begin the formal grant application soon.

Kaleva Trailhead Facility

- A new cost estimate confirms that the project will exceed \$1 million.
- Due to this, we will not pursue the DNR Trust Fund Grant for Spring 2025, as there would still be a funding gap of approximately \$500,000.
- The Village of Kaleva will reassess the project and work with Fleis & VandenBrink to develop a more cost-effective plan.

Possible ORV Ordinance

- Our office was contacted by Tim Knoper of the Dirtbirds regarding a possible countywide ORV ordinance.
- Katie and I are conducting initial research.

Old Business

- **Economic Development Documents** – Please bring any suggested edits to our March meeting. I have received input from Sara.

New Business

- **Future Work Session Brainstorming**
 - Consider these two questions for our March meeting:
 1. Should we diversify and take on smaller recreation-related projects across the county? What smaller projects could benefit the community (e.g., Lifejacket Stations)?
 2. Regarding trail development, what are our short-term (1-3 years) and long-term (5-10 years) goals?

Additional Information: US-31 Rebuilding

- MDOT plans to rebuild a stretch of US-31 in 2027, aiming to enhance safety and pedestrian facilities, including crosswalk improvements.
- For the portion running through the City of Manistee, there may be an opportunity to implement a Complete Street approach.
- Attached are the City's Complete Street Ordinance and an example of a Complete Street.