

(231) 723-6041 **Manistee County**  
Fax (231) 398-3526 Manistee, Michigan 49660 [planning@manisteecountymi.gov](mailto:planning@manisteecountymi.gov)  
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395 Third Street

**BIG BEAR SPORTSMAN CLUB**

6:00 p.m., Tuesday 8927 Puustinen Road  
July 6, 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 6:04 p.m.

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

Recreation Commission Members Absent: LaVonne Beebe, Dennis Cohoon

Others: Mike Szokola County Planning Director, Mark Coe Benzie/Manistee Snowbirds,

❖ Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Schulke moved, seconded by Ms. Bater to approve the July 6, 2021 Agenda as presented.

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

❖ Approval of the Minutes

Linda Cudney noted that the last sentence of the paragraph under public comment was incomplete. The final sentence should read "He said there was a Friends of the Betsie meeting the following day and offered to share information behNeen the two committees."

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

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

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- ❖ It was brought to the Recreation Commission's attention that LaVonne Beebe will no longer be able to serve as a commissioner. The opening will be advertised and other commission members were encouraged to recommend potential new members.

- ❖ Public Comment e  
None.

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- ❖ Staff Updates ●  
None.

- ❖ Old Business

- Friends of SMART Trails

The Friends group held a meeting on July 22 and 7:00pm at the Maple Grove Twp Hall. The current Secretary and Chairman shared that they do not believe they are able to fulfill their duties but offered to remain in their respective positions until replacements are found.

The Friends Group discussed start up costs such as a PO Box, operating funds for pamphlets and business cards. They were unsure of where the funds for these items would come from. Laura Heintzelen of the Manistee County Community Foundation will attend their next meeting and help identify opportunities and grants. It was also shared that Rob Carson of Networks Northwest and Jacque Erdman are now part of the friends group.

Mike Szokola commented that the Commission members should avoid attending the Friends of SMART Trails meetings. If too many members were present at a meeting, we could accidentally violate the Open Meetings Act. It was decided that the best way for the Commission to remain informed about the Friends Group's efforts would be for the Friends Group to provide an update/report at each Recreation Commission meeting.

- ❖ New Business

- Grant Discussion

Wayne Beldo opened a conversation regarding grant funding. Mike Szokola informed the Recreation Commission that the County Commission was currently going through the annual budget and was considering adding a grant writing position. Meg Batzer commented that the position had been removed in a recent revision and that the County would be discussing it further at a 10:00am board meeting the following day.

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Linda Cudney made a motion that the Recreation Commission would ask the County Commissioners to add the grant writer position back to the budget stating that this position would be crucial to the mission of the Recreation Commission. Gary Swaiger seconded.

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

Bryan Dunlop asked if the position could be shared with another county. Mike Szokola informed the group of the large interest for this position among various county departments and townships. He added that while the scope of this job has not

Planning Department

been established, a full time position seems appropriate. Meg Batzer added that it seems that the demand for this new position would be very high and it is unlikely the grant writer could be shared with other counties. She highlighted that Manistee County does share other services with surrounding counties, but it would likely not be possible for this one to do so.

- Streets Resolution

Mike Szokola informed the group of the advantage of a complete streets resolution and encouraged all townships to adopt one.

- ❖ Other Business •

None.

- ❖ Adjourn

Mr. Schulke moved, seconded by Ms. Batzer to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

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

The next meeting will be held August 2, 2021 in the County Commissioner's room at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Erin Secord, Recreation Commission Secretary

Date: July 6, 2021