



MANISTEE COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 7, 2022
6:15 P.M.

Manistee County Courthouse & Government Center
Board of Commissioners Meeting Room and via Zoom

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Wayne Beldo, Margaret Batzer; Erin Secord; Linda Cudney; Gary Schwaiger; Robert Schulke

Members Absent: Devin Wegner; Eleanor DeYoung; Bryan Dunlop

Others Present: Mike Szokola, Manistee County Planning Director; Doug Barry, DNR; Sara Herberger, Manistee County Community Foundation; Claire Richards, Friends of Smart Trails; Mark Sohlden, Manistee County Road Commission; Robert Carson, AICP Community Regional Director

Mr. Beldo called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM, roll call was taken.

Approval of the November 7, 2022, meeting agenda. Mr. Schwaiger stated there should be an amendment. The next scheduled meeting date should be December 5, 2022, instead of November 7, 2022.

There was a motion by Mr. Schwaiger supported by Ms. Secord, to approve the amended November 7, 2022, agenda as stated. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the October 4, 2022, meeting minutes. Ms. Cudney stated there should be a correction. Members Absent should state Robert Schulke instead of Richard Schulke.

There was a motion by Ms. Cudney, supported by Ms. Secord, to approve the corrected October 4, 2022, meeting minutes, as stated. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment: All members of the public stood before the commission and introduced themselves. Mr. Sohlden stated there will be discussions at the next Manistee County Road Commission meeting to discuss a member that will be attending future Manistee County

Trail Champions: Doug Barry gave an update on the Spark Grant. Mr. Barry presented the "Application Scoring Criteria" for the Spark Grant and would like the Commission to view the application to ensure all information is obtained. (Appendix A).

Staff Reports: Mr. Szokola spoke with DTE and requested property data that may help determine the possibility of utilizing their natural gas pipelines for trail systems. Collaboration began between the County Planning Department, State of Michigan DNR & DTE in hopes to expand the trail systems for Manistee County.

Friends of Smart Trails Report: Ms. Cudney presented the minutes from the last Friends of Smart Trails Meeting that was held on October 10, 2022. (APPENDIX B). The next meeting agenda has been created for November 14, 2022 (APPENDIX C).

Old Business:

Rail Relocation Update: According to Mr. Szokola the grant application has been submitted. Hopeful communication with CSX coming soon.

Parks & Recreation Manager Grant Update: Mr. Szokola stated there is great collaboration between Manistee County, the Manistee County Community Foundation, and the Manistee County Grant Administrator. Still waiting on the new Minger Grant process which should be coming out in January.

Project Priority List Update:

1. Crushed gravel on trails from Thompsonville then continue South.
2. Signage
3. Trail head development
4. Water point/Parking/Outhouse
5. Improving the Fairground Facilities

Friends of SMARTrails Newsletter Article: The Commission decided to send an update regarding current projects, the Spark Grant and the new gate installation done by the DNR and West Shore Community College. Ms. Batzer stated she would draft the article and send to Ms. Cudney.

New Business:

West Shore Community College students created eight gates that were installed throughout the trail from Chief and Kaleva and they are more than happy to keep the partnership going.

Other Items from Committee Members: There was discussion regarding the ARPA funds check that was presented to Mr. Beldo today. The commission pointed out that according to the Recreation bylaws, the County Treasurer oversees the financing. Mr. Beldo will confirm matters with Ms. Nelson, the County Treasurer and Dr. Batzer will confirm matters with Ms. Sagala, the County Administrator

Ms. Batzer adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM. Next meeting will be changed from Monday December 5, 2022, at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

December 5, 2022, at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Secord, Recreation Commission Secretary

Date