



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: May 10, 2022

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center, 4135 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, MI

Members Present: Patricia Scribner, WCPARC President, Janis Bobrin, WCPARC Vice President; Dan Ezekiel, Secretary; Ricky Jefferson; JoAnn McCollum, Sue Shink, Brenda McKinney, and Evan Pratt.

Members Absent: Robert Joerg, Robert Marans

Staff Present: Coy Vaughn, Director; Meghan Bonfiglio, Deputy Director; Ginny Leikam, Superintendent of Park Planning and Natural Areas; Jason Brooks, Manager of Finance and Administration (attending remotely); Hannah Cooley, Management Analyst; Rosie Pahl Donaldson, Park Planner (attending remotely); Peter Sanderson, Project Manager.

1. Call to Order

Ms. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 12, 2022 regular meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Mr. Bobrin and seconded by Ms. McKinney to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2022, regular meeting. All ayes, the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

Faye Stoner, Webster Township, requested that WCPARC always deeply consider the natural features that will be impacted. She came away from educational sessions knowing that she wanted to do more with the land and resources under the management of WCPARC. Ms. Stoner requested that nature be allowed to run these spaces.

Rita Clinthorne, Scio Township Parks Advisory Board, requested that WCPARC really pay attention to the future of natural areas and parks properties, including setting precedent that can be used by advisory boards around the County. She specifically noted that erosion around bike paths is often missed when decisions are being made. She also thanked the WCPARC members for their service.

Jeff Sweeney, Superior Township resident, mentioned a spot at Swift Run Dog Park where antifreeze may have been present and asked which party would be responsible for that issue. He also wondered if there is a pesticide that can be used to alleviate the tick season. Mr. Sweeney requested a dog park for Superior Township and specifically referenced the neighborhood at the southwest corner of Prospect and Geddes.

5. Communications, Projects & Activities

Mr. Vaughn reported on the April communications which were included in the packet and provided a presentation summarizing the projects, programs, and events for the month.

Ms. Krueger included an update to address concerns raised regarding grassland birds at Staebler Farm County Park and other parks and preserves.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel and seconded by Ms. McKinney to accept and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the month of April 2022, as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

6. Financial & Recreation Reports – April 2022

A. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks reported on the financials and stated that the total for the claims for the month of April was \$1,026,794.17. He also provided an update on the Parks fund and NAPP funds.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney and seconded by Ms. McCollum to accept and file the Financial Reports for the month of April 2022 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

B. Recreation Reports

Mr. Brooks presented the Recreation Reports for the month of April 2022 for all park facilities.

Mr. Ezekiel requested that 2019 be added to reports in the future to provide context as revenues recover from the pandemic.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin and seconded by Mr. Pratt to accept and file the Recreation Reports for the month of April 2022 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

7. Old Business

A. Zeeb to Delhi B2B Updates

Mr. Sanderson provided an update on Zeeb to Delhi B2B segment of the Border-to-Border Trail. He reported that the low bid on this project came back about 15% higher than engineers estimated which is not outside of the norm in this market. Mr. Sanderson also provided Construction Engineering costs totaling \$710,063 and when added to the construction expenses, puts a total cost of \$2.44M on the WCPARC portion of the project. The total project cost for this segment of trail is \$5.44M and the remaining funding was provided through TAP grants (\$2M) and HWPI (\$1M).

B. Other Old Business

None.

8. New Business

A. NAPP – Naming Lost Wagon Lake Preserve

Ms. Krueger provided background on the naming inspiration for land recently acquired by WCPARC which included a story about a wagon lost in the marshy land of the new preserve.

Moved by Ms. McKinney, seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to name the project *Lost Wagon Lake Preserve*. All ayes, the motion was approved.

B. Ducks Unlimited & USFWS Restoration

Ms. Krueger provided background on restoration needs for the newly named Lost Wagon Lake Preserve and reported that a phased approach would be used for stewardship. Ms. Krueger provided a detailed plan for restoration of the preserve which includes approximately 30 acres of grassland.

Moved by Mr. Ezekiel, seconded by Ms. McCollum to continue the partnership to restore grasslands and wetlands at Lost Wagon Lake Preserve as presented and authorize approval of the Landowner Agreement when prepared. All ayes, the motion was approved.

C. NAPP - Phinney Sales Contract

Ms. Pahl Donaldson provided an overview of the purchase of the Phinney property which is located near Cavanaugh Lake County Park. She also reported that there is support from Sharon Township for protection of this property. Ms. Bonfiglio added that there is an adjacent parking lot at Cavanaugh Lake County Park which negates the need to develop a new parking lot.

Moved by Ms. McCollum, seconded by Ms. McKinney to authorize preparation of a sales contract in the amount of \$258,000, to be adjusted on a per-acre basis by the surveyed acreage, for the fee simple purchase of the Phinney property in Sylvan Township as described, contingent upon completion of all necessary due diligence investigation and final approval by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. All ayes, the motion was approved.

D. Other New Business

None.

9. Commissioners/Directors Comments

Mr. Vaughn provided an update on the puddles mentioned earlier at Swift Run Dog Park which are now being tested by the City of Ann Arbor due to the land being located on a prior landfill.

At Park Lyndon passthrough for mountain bikes, there is opposing feedback from neighbors that continues to be received. He reported that he would follow up with the Commission with an update on how a Lyndon Township community meeting goes.

Mr. Vaughn provided an update on the Miller-Smith B2B project and confirmed that an alternate route is currently being investigated.

Ms. McCollum thanked the public for their comments on the need for vetting environmental concerns for any project done by WCPARC and also the comments made about Swift Run Dog Park.

10. Adjournment

It was moved by Ms. McCollum and seconded by Mr. Jefferson to adjourn the meeting. All ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.