



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: June 14, 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; Ricky Jefferson; JoAnn McCollum, Sue Shink, Robert Joerg, Robert Marans and Evan Pratt.

Members Absent: Dan Ezekiel, Secretary and Brenda McKinney,

Staff Present: Coy Vaughn, Director; Meghan Bonfiglio, Deputy Director (attending remotely); Ginny Leikam, Superintendent of Park Planning and Natural Areas; Jason Brooks, Manager of Finance and Administration (attending remotely); Ann Ziolkowski, Communications Manager; Michelle Billard, Corp. Counsel; Michael Auten, Assistant Corp. Counsel; 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 May 10, 2022 regular meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Mr. Joerg and seconded by Ms. Bobrin to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2022, regular meeting. All ayes, the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

Jeff Sweeney, Superior Township resident, addressed the commission with several questions regarding Swift Run Dog park. He mentioned folks are waiting to hear results from the water test. He wondered if the County could spray for ticks and asked when will other side be open? He asked if information could be posted outside of park? He also noted that the cutting of grass seems inconsistent this year.

5. Closed Session to discuss current litigation

Moved by Pratt, seconded by McCollum to move to closed session. Roll Call Vote was taken. The meeting adjourned to closed session at 2:06 PM.

Moved by Pratt, seconded by Shink to reconvene the meeting at 2:17 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Communications, Projects & Activities

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

Commission Shink complimented Ryan Heynard's photo work as one of our photo ambassadors.

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

7. Financial & Recreation Reports – May 2022

A. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks reported on the financials and stated that the total for the claims for the month of May was \$921,740.48. He also provided an update on the Parks fund and NAPP funds.

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

B. Recreation Reports

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

Mr. Marans asked if Diane Carr has seen the numbers and if so, what innovations are being proposed to boost attendance and membership. Mr. Vaughn noted items are included in her workplan and she is meeting with Jason Brooks regularly.

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

8. Old Business

A. NAPP Outreach Opportunities

Ms. Pahl Donaldson provided an overview of outreach discussions from both NATAC and ALPAC. She noted these are consistent with the Commission's scoring and direction. Staff plan to start to send letters out to top priorities this summer and fall.

Commissioner McCollum asked how ALPAC plans to find and outreach to African American Farmers. Staff noted there are several partners that will assist with this outreach included NRCS and Conservation District who provide support to farmers in the County.

B. Other Old Business

None.

9. New Business

A. B2B Wayfinding Contract Award

Mr. Sanderson provided an overview of process for designing wayfinding along the entire B2B for consistency and branding. The Border to Border Trail (B2B Trail) has changed significantly since the last major sign update in 2008. Since then, WCPARC and its partners have redefined the boundaries of the trail and expanded it by nearly 20 miles. Many of the older trail signs across the county are showing their age and are in various states regarding condition and up to date information. None of the signs show the expanded definition of the B2B Trail from Dexter to Chelsea and on to Stockbridge.

Staff and our partners have been working to redevelop and reimagine the county-wide wayfinding system to create something that is branded, uniform, intuitive, and effective. In summary, the wayfinding plan consists of three main elements (see attachment):

1. Primary Orientation Nodes – four to six planned across the county at major trailhead access points. i.e. Robert Tetens Trailhead, Gallup Park, and Depot Town
2. Secondary Orientation Nodes – 15 to 20 planned across the county at key intersections and access locations. i.e. the B2B Trail at the Allen Creek Berm Opening project in Ann Arbor
3. Tertiary Wayfinding Elements – hundreds across the county to provide regular, intuitive, quick references to navigate the trail using a destination-based system, mile markers, confidence markers. Includes a QR code system to reference an on-line map for real time GPS location.

Commissioner Joerg asked how many primary orientation nodes are proposed. Staff responded 3-4 and proposed but only installing 1 right now. Staff and partners are still looking at partners and trail alignment. Commissioner Joerg followed up asking since material costs going up, why not ask now for quote and lock us into pricing. Staff responded that they will review. Commissioner Marans asked about the possibility of digital signs. Staff responded that most places do not have power, so alternative power via solar or extending power to the site would need to be done, which can be cost prohibitive. Mr. Vaughn noted staff have looked at them for other facilities.

Moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Ms. Bobrin to authorize a contract to be executed with Penchura to fabricate and install wayfinding signs for the Border to Border Trail in the amount not to exceed \$316,300 plus a 10% contingency in the amount of \$31,630. All in favor, motion carried.

B. Other New Business

None.

10. Commissioners/Directors Comments

Mr. Vaughn provided an update on the east side recreation center. Partners are still working on location for the recreation center, but were 8-10 sites on list, which have been narrowed down to one site of old Cheney Middle School site which meets many elements of the selection criteria. The site is a 20-acre site and partners are looking at the portion that does not have the school building. The partners are starting discussions with Ypsilanti schools.

Commissioner Joerg asked how long are earmarks valid for the project. Staff noted, we are still trying to figure out. Dingell came to meeting and was part of the discussion. Hoping to still use funds for acquisition and potential demo of building if needed.

Commissioner McCollum noted she walked B2B in Ypsilanti's Hydro Park and it was beautiful.

Commissioner Marans inquired about the Learn to Swim program at Rutherford pool. Mr. Vaughn explained that he has worked with Metroparks to fund learn to swim at Rutherford. HCMA providing funding 100% this year and provide scholarships and equipment. WCPARC will provide funding next year. Details will come back to commission.

Commissioner Scribner recognized Mary Robinson, the seasonal horticulturist for parks and her hard work on the gardens at CFP.

Commissioner Shink informed the Commission she was recently appointed to Tillers International board. Think there is room for connection with WCPARC.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

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