



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: October 11, 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, WCPARC Treasurer; Robert Marans, Ricky Jefferson, Sue Shink, Evan Pratt, and Brenda McKinney

Members Absent: Robert Joerg, and JoAnn McCollum

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); Kira Macyda, Park Planner; Peter Sanderson, Project Manager (attending remotely); and Jason Gold, Michigan Folk School.

1. Call to Order

Ms. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:08p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 13, 2022 regular meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. Bobrin to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2022, regular meeting. All ayes, the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

No public comment.

5. Communications, Projects & Activities

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

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

6. Financial & Recreation Reports – September 2022

A. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks reported on the financials and stated that the total for the claims for the month of September was \$548,050.06. There were no closings or substantial expenditures within the Natural Areas funds in September. He also provided an update on the Parks fund

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

B. Recreation Reports

Mr. Brooks presented the Recreation Reports for the month of September 2022 for all park facilities. He pointed out that after a busy summer season Rolling Hills, Independence Lake and Pierce Lake Golf Course are all ahead of projected revenue numbers for the year.

He shared that total revenue for Rolling Hills is now over \$2 million to date and ended the season up 19% over 2019 participation numbers. Mr. Brooks shared that the Recreation Center membership revenue has increased 72% over 2021 but is still down about 33% compared to 2019. At the golf course, revenue is up 39% compared to the last timeframe in September 2019. Lastly, he shared that the total revenue at Independence Lake is up 16% year over year.

It was moved by Ms. Shink and seconded by Mr. Jefferson to receive and file the Recreation Reports for the month of September 2022 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

7. Old Business

A. Folk School Acquisition

Ms. Bonfiglio provided a presentation of the proposed acquisition of the Michigan Folk School (MFS). The presentation included details regarding the park master plan, current MFS classes, financial projections, cost/benefit analysis, administrative structure, liabilities, and tangible and intangible property to be acquired by WCPARC. The presentation highlighted the proposed organizational charts for incorporating the MFS. Ms. Bonfiglio shared that a draft logo which would incorporate the existing MFS and WCPARC. Jason Gold, Director of MFS, provided additional information about upcoming 2023 classes and more detail into the 2022 revenue.

Commissioners asked how the transfer of monetary assets would take place at the time of acquisition. Staff clarified that the purchase of the MFS will not cost County Parks funds. MFS plans to release registration for some 2023 classes on November 1, 2022. The funds received for 2023 registrations will be transferred from MFS to Washtenaw County Parks at the time of acquisition.

Moved by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Ms. Shink to acquire the Michigan Folk School and authorize preparation of a purchase/donation agreement, contingent upon legal review and approval of final documents, and recommend a process to establish an advisory committee for the Michigan Folk School. Roll call vote, all ayes with 2 absent (McCollum & Joerg), the motion was approved.

B. Other Old Business

None

8. New Business

A. Connecting Communities Overview

Ms. Macyda presented the applications that were received for the 2022 round of Connecting Communities funding. She added that there is typically \$600,000 allocated to the program each year; \$100,000 for planning and engineering and \$500,000 for construction. She explained that applications were received from seven submittals, from 6 communities and the Washtenaw Intermediate School District, with a total ask of \$151,360 for planning and engineering and \$1,223,000 for construction projects. The applications will be placed on the November Commission agenda for final action and allocation of the funds.

Commissioners asked staff to look into how to publicize the trail accomplishments through the Connecting Communities program.

B. Border to Border Trail Updates

Mr. Sanderson provided updates on recent Border to Border Trail projects. He shared details around an upcoming construction request for proposal for the North Territorial to Boyce Rd segment in Lyndon Township. Construction is planned for 2023. He also shared updates on the Dexter connection segment between Miller-Smith Preserve and Mill Creek Park which includes a planned re-use of the Bell Road Bridge. Mr. Sanderson shared next steps and that he anticipates construction in 2024.

Ms. Bonfiglio provided an update on the Title IX Plaza situated adjacent to the Border-to-Border Trail in Dexter-Huron Metropark. She shared a schematic design of the plaza which is designed to inspire and educate visitors about the impacts of Title IX on women in sports through the storytelling of local women. These stories showcase how these women have helped break down barriers for women's participation in sports, igniting a much broader social movement for gender equity. Construction of the plaza is anticipated to begin in Spring 2023.

Commissioner Shink asked about how to have elements in the interpretation for the visually impaired. Commissioner Marans recommended to reach out to the UM School of Art of input on design.

C. NAPP – Round 22 NATAC & ALPAC Prioritization

Ms. Leikam presented the round 22 prioritization for the Natural Area Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC) and Agricultural Lands Preservation Advisory Committee (ALPAC). She explained that at their September meeting, both advisory committees evaluated all property nominations received in 2022 to determine which properties are the “highest priority” to protect. This evaluation includes site visits to each of the properties and completion of the field review worksheets. A few projects were highlighted in the presentation.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney and seconded by Ms. Shink to adopt the 2022 NATAC prioritization and the 2022 ALPAC prioritization. All ayes, the motion was approved.

D. Other Old Business

None.

9. Commissioners/Directors Comments

Mr. Vaughn provided an update on the free learn to swim program partnership with Huron Clinton Metroparks and the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. He shared a summary of the 2022 season efforts in Washtenaw County with the Rutherford Pool swim program which expanded lesson capacity from 300 youth to 450 youth, including 51 adults. The program is part of a six-year commitment. Mr. Vaughn explained that we were planning to implement a similar free swim program at Meri Lou Murray Rec Center. He added that Diane Carr would be prepared to report on the details at the December Meeting.

Ms. Shink shared that she has reviewed a study from Iceland regarding teen alcoholism and free recreational lessons. When recreational lessons were offered and utilized there was a reduction of 40-50% in alcoholism. She offered to share the article with the commission.

Mr. Ezekiel thanked staff for a very inspirational meeting. He shared his personal experience with Title IX as an educator around the empowerment of women in sports and participation in school.

10. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. McKinney to adjourn the meeting. All ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.