



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: November 8, 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 Joerg, JoAnn McCollum, Brenda McKinney, and Evan Pratt

Members Absent: Ricky Jefferson, Robert Marans, and Sue Shink

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); Allison Krueger, Stewardship Manager; Kelsey Dehring, Naturalist; and Kira Macyda, Park Planner (attending remotely).

1. Call to Order

Ms. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 11, 2022 regular meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney and seconded by Ms. McCollum to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022, regular meeting. All ayes, the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

No public comment.

5. Communications, Projects & Activities

Mr. Vaughn reported on the October communications which were included in the packet and provided a presentation summarizing the projects, programs, and events for the month. Ms. Krueger provided an overview of the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) program in partnership with the MDNR that was held this fall at Watkins Lake State Park and Nature Preserve. Ms. Dehring presented a summary of the activities and participant feedback from the second annual Women's Nature Camp held at Independence Lake.

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

6. Financial & Recreation Reports – October 2022

A. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks reported on the financials and stated that the total for the claims for the month of October was \$1,472,395.59, the bulk of which was due to NATAC and ALPAC closings. He also provided an update on the Parks fund and Natural Areas Funds along with the fund balance status for each.

It was moved by Mr. Pratt and seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to approve the claims for the month of October 2022 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

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

B. Recreation Reports

Mr. Brooks presented the Recreation Reports for the month of October 2022. He pointed out that for the rest of the year, revenues are going to be stable for Pierce Lake Golf Course, Rolling Hills and Independence Lake.

He shared that total membership revenue for the Recreation Center is 73% better than at this point in 2021 but still down about a third when compared to 2019. Mr. Brooks also shared that Pierce Lake Golf Course had a record-breaking year and that golf course revenues now exceed where we were when the golf course was just getting off the ground in the late 90's.

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

7. Old Business

A. Connecting Communities Awards

Ms. Macyda presented a list of projects recommended for 2022 Connecting Communities awards.

Mr. Joerg inquired about the match for the Northfield Township and why the award was for both planning and construction. Ms. Macyda responded that Northfield has applied for a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and that there is a developer working with the site design and construction, both of which will serve as a match. Additionally, she stated that the construction was relatively straightforward and could therefore be done within the year.

Mr. Ezekiel asked if the segment along Plymouth Road would be built as a bike lane or pathway. Ms. Macyda responded that it would be a combination of hard surfaces but would be more of a pathway.

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

Moved by Ms. Bobrin, seconded by Mr. Pratt to authorize staff to prepare project agreements to award grants as follows:

Applicant	Request	Scoring Summary	Recommendation	
			Award Planning (P)	Award Construction (C)
City of Dexter	\$75K (C)	387		\$40,000
City of Chelsea*	\$225,000 (C) *Grant request converted to engineering extension of trail, not construction.	231	\$20,000	
Ann Arbor Twp.**	\$50K (P), \$250K (C) **Township will not be ready for construction until 2024.	333	\$40,000	
Northfield Twp.	\$75K (P), \$225K (C)	293	\$25,000	\$200,000
Superior Twp.	\$300,000 (C)	442		\$250,000
York Twp.	\$11,360 (P)	227	\$11,360	
Washtenaw ISD	\$15,000 (P)	254	\$15,000	
Total	\$151,360 (P), \$1,075,000 (C)		\$111,360	\$490,000

(P) Planning; (C) Construction

All ayes, the motion was approved.

B. Other Old Business

None

8. New Business

A. NAPP – Orr Trust Partnership

Ms. Leikam presented on the proposed partnership with Webster Township on the Orr Trust property. The property is 148 acres, but 4 acres that includes an already built area will be excluded. There will be no future land divisions allowed. Both tax parcels, as usual, will have to be sold together, despite not being contiguous. Highlights of this easement property from the scoring are that 100% of the land is prime or important farmland soils and there are soils suitable for septic systems. The Assessment & Prioritization Mapping assessed the land as high-quality agricultural land and prioritized the parcels.

Webster Township applied for and was awarded both an NRCS ACEP-ALE grant and an MDARD Farmland Preservation grant. Webster Township is requesting ALPAC to split the remain remainder purchase price. Webster will be responsible for due diligence and monitoring.

Moved by Mr. Ezekiel, seconded by Ms. McKinney to partner with Webster Township for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Orr Trust property as identified in provided maps and contribute 50% of the remaining purchase price of the conservation easement purchase after grants applied, not to exceed \$76,402, contingent upon attorney review of documents and execution of participation agreement and to contribute \$7,500 to the stewardship special revenue fund to cover potential future costs associated with monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement. Roll call vote, 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 3 absent (Jefferson, Marans and Shink), the motion was approved.

B. Other Old Business

None

9. Commissioners/Directors Comments

Mr. Vaughn provided an update on first phase of Spark Grant application is \$15M and is due in mid-December. He reported that an application would be coming back to the Commission and would likely focus on opening the North Side of Staebler Farm County Park, but other options were being considered.

Ms. McCollum reported that the Road Commission received a letter about Stinchfield Woods. She asked if we could work with U of M to develop an entrance. Mr. Vaughn stated that we have already been working on it. Ms. McCollum asked about recreational opportunities in southeast portion of the County. She reported that the group is attempting to work with the YMCA to bring opportunities to the area and asked that anyone else interested in helping to connect with the YMCA and requesting activities that they would sponsor in the area. Mr. Vaughn reported that he is now a member of the YMCA board and could raise the topic. He offered to set up a meeting with Toni Kayumi, the Director of the YMCA.

Mr. Joerg asked if there is any further development on an eastside recreation center. Mr. Vaughn stated that he would have a more detailed update on the latest developments at the December meeting.

10. Adjournment

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin and seconded by Mr. Joerg to adjourn the meeting. All ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.