



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: February 14, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center, 4135 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor MI 48108

Members Present: Patricia Scribner, WCPARC President; Dan Ezekiel, WCPARC Treasurer; Robert Joerg, Robert Marans, JoAnn McCollum, Brenda McKinney, Yousef Rabhi, and Katie Scott

Members Absent: Janis Bobrin and Evan Pratt

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; and Ann Ziolkowski, Communications Manager; and Karen Harris, Management Analyst II (attending remotely)

1. Call to Order

Ms. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Minutes

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

It was moved by Mr. Joerg and seconded by Ms. McCollum to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022, regular meeting as presented. All ayes, the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Resolution of Appreciation of Service for Stephen Soloczuk

Ms. Trocchio provided background on Stephen Soloczuk's decades of service with Washtenaw County. She reported that he has been actively involved with preservation since the program got off the ground. During his service more than 5,100 acres of agricultural land has been preserved.

It as moved by Marans and seconded by Rabhi to approve the resolution recognizing Stephen Soloczuk for over 20 years of volunteer service to NATAC. All ayes. Motion carried.

6. Communications, Projects & Activities

Mr. Vaughn reported on the communications, projects and activities for the months of December 2022 and January 2023. Ms. Bonfiglio provided background on the Title IX Plaza which was recently approved as a project by the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) and added that the Huron Waterloos Pathways Initiative and the family of Karen McKeachie, including Lou Kidder will be assisting with the funding. Ms. Ziolkowski provided a report on WCPARC 50th anniversary events currently scheduled to take place at several facilities.

Mr. Marans asked if there could be some mutually beneficial activities with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy as they are celebrating their 20-year anniversary this year.

Mr. Vaughn provided copies of the 2022 Annual Report.

Mr. Joerg asked about the status of the first round of the SPARK grants. Mr. Vaughn reported that we did not receive an award in the first round.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney and seconded by Mr. Marans to accept and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the months December 2022 and January 2023, as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

7. Financial & Recreation Reports – December 2022 and January 2023

A. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks reported on the financials and stated that the total for the claims for the month of November was \$2,066,925.94. 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. Joerg and seconded by Mr. McCollum to approve the claims for the month of December 2022 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

It was moved by Mr. McKinney and seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to approve the claims for the month of January 2023 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Mr. McCollum to receive and file the financial reports for December 2022 and January 2023 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

B. Recreation Reports

Mr. Brooks presented the Recreation Reports for the months December 2022 and January 2023.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. McCollum to receive and file the Recreation Reports for the month of December 2022 and January 2023. All ayes, the motion was approved.

8. Old Business

A. Concentrate Media Annual Update

Paul Schutt provided examples of articles that have been written and produced recently by Concentrate Media. He reported that many stories are shared over the air by WEMU due to an existing partnership.

B. Other Old Business

None

9. New Business

A. Election of Officers

Moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Ms. McKinney moved to nominate Patricia Scribner as WCPARC President, Daniel Ezekiel as WCPARC Treasurer/Secretary. All ayes, the motion was approved.

B. WCPARC Eastern County Summer Day Camps Commitment (2023-25)

Ms. Harris provided an update on the status of the Eastern County Summer Camps and provided information on the 2023-25 request. She reported that the camps have been occurring since 2008 and anticipated offering the program to 40 campers per site for a total of up to 120 participants in 2023. Due to attendance problems that come with free registration, staff requested the addition of a \$25/week fee with the opportunity for scholarships for participant families expressing the need.

Commissioner McCollum reported that she would like to establish a table with Ozone to assist with registration. She added that it might be a positive to stress that there is not a deadline.

It was moved by Mr. Joerg, seconded by Ms. McKinney to authorize an amount of up to \$240,000 for three years (\$80,000 per year) for the WCPARC Eastern County Summer Day Camps program for 2023-25 with the option to roll funds forward to the subsequent year if other partners or grant opportunities become available. All ayes, motion carried.

C. NAPP – DeVine Conservation Easement Greenbelt Partnership

Ms. Leikam provided information on the proposed DeVine Conservation Easement Partnership with the Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program. The Ann Arbor Greenbelt Authority had an appraisal conducted in November 2022, which valued the 20-acre easement at \$300,000. The City of Ann Arbor is requesting a 50-50 split with NAPP.

It was moved by Marans, and seconded by Rabhi to partner with the City of Ann Arbor's Greenbelt Program for the purchase of a conservation easement on the DeVine property in Scio Township, and to contribute 50% of the purchase price of the of the conservation easement purchase, not to exceed \$151,000, 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 taken, 8 ayes, 2 absent, motion carried.

D. Other Old Business

None

10. Commissioners/Directors Comments

Mr. Vaughn provided an update presentation on the Eastern County Recreation Center project for the Commission. He reported that the next step was to work with consultants to provide a community survey which will feed into the schematic design.

Mr. Ezekiel stated that farmers thought that their only way to monetize farms was to sell to a developer but that the DeVine preserve showed them an alternative in the last 20 years. He also complemented staff member Gerald at the Recreation Center who is always happy to help during pickleball.

Ms. McCollum asked how the Commission would get on the three committees being discussed for the ERC development. Mr. Vaughn reported that he would follow up via email.

Ms. Scribner thanked staff for their participation in the meeting.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Joerg and seconded by Mr. Rabhi to adjourn the meeting. All ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.