

Allegan County Parks Advisory Board



Allegan County Parks, Recreation &
Tourism
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Chairperson: Pam Brown
Vice Chairperson: Jaclyn Hulst

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING – Minutes

Tuesday, June 6, 2023 @ 8:30am

County Services Building – Board Room – 3283 122nd Ave, Allegan MI 49010

Pam Brown
616-490-1627
Allegan

Daniel Caywood
616-291-1214
Dorr

John Clark III
269-274-2736
Allegan

Mark DeYoung
616-318-9612
Dorr

Joshua Driscoll
616-218-5797
Hamilton

Kevin Formsma
616-886-7030
Hamilton

Jaclyn Hulst
616-834-2436
Zeeland

Tom Jessup
269-637-3374
Zeeland

Jackie Metz
269-521-6524
Allegan

CALL TO ORDER: Hulst called to order at 8:32am

ROLL CALL:

Present: Caywood, Clark, Driscoll, Formsma, Hulst, Jessup, Metz

Absent: Brown, DeYoung

Also Present: Brandy Gildea; Heather Bausick

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Formsma, seconded by Driscoll to approve the April 4, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Discuss combined Tourist Council and Parks meeting

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion made by Formsma, seconded by Metz to approve the agenda including additional agenda items. The motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS: None – Shane Kellum scheduled for today’s meeting but was absent.

PARK ADMINISTRATION UPDATES: Gildea went over the administrative updates:

- Parks have already been busy this early in the season.
- Seasonal staff has started since the last meeting, busy with cleanup

REVIEW ITEMS:

1. **Financial Statements** – Gildea went over the expenditure and revenue statements located in the agenda packet. Gildea then went over the quarterly revenues comparisons

- Quarter 1 is the busiest first quarter parks has ever had due to people planning ahead with camping
- Reservations have been made early in the season for both camping and pavilion reservations
- Gildea presented park usage’s to the board

RECOMMENDATION/ACTION ITEMS:

1. West Side Access/Gate request
 - Mobile home park next door at their expense would like to put in a gate and walkway to West Side park. This gate would only be for pedestrians and would have a chain latch on the gate. We will ask the park to put up a sign as a reminder that park is only open dawn to dusk.
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DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. ORV Crossing at New Richmond Bridge
 - Gildea reached out to MMRA insurance company and they have concerns with width of bridge. Bridge is only 11 feet wide which is not enough space for two way traffic with a safe buffer.
 - Gildea states the bridge would also need a structure study done by an engineering firm to determine if bridge would have weight restrictions
 - Board members expressed concerns that there would be no safety measures for pedestrian to exit the bridge if an ORV lost control
 - Gildea looked into the historic side of the bridge and there is no restrictions on usage

A motion was made by Driscoll and seconded by Clark to table the ORV crossing discussion until a financial plan is in place to proceed with requirements of MMRMA study. The motion carried. Yes – 7, No – 0, Absent - 2

2. 2025-2029 Recreation Plan
 - Gildea would like the Board to begin reviewing Goals and Objectives(section 6)
 - Formsma would like to reduce the amount of goals from eight to three and label them as:
 - 1) Education and Use – combine current #6 and #7 into this goal
 - 2) Recreation and Preservation – combine current #2, #3, #4, and #5 into this goal
 - 3) Operational Excellence – combine current #1 and #8 into this goal
 - Formsma wants the objectives to support what we are trying to accomplish but not box us in.
 - Hulst likes the idea of consolidating to pinpoint goals
 - Clark would like plowing to stay in the plan
3. Tourist Council and Parks Combined Meeting

- Gildea states there used to be a joint meeting but too many BOC members on the boards would have made it a BOC meeting. Now that there are fewer commissioners, would like to restart this combined meeting
- Gildea is considering a February meeting as a special meeting and suggesting an evening meeting beginning in February or March 2024

NOTICE OF PARK ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

- Vacancy: none

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Move ORV presentation by Shane Kellum to a future meeting
2. Formal presentation at October meeting for disc golf

ROUND TABLE:

Clark: Thanks to Hulst with inviting people to last meeting. He has met with both of them since then. Would like board to think about successful implementation of disc golf like Ottawa and Ingham County. ****Would like a basketball net installed at Littlejohn Park ****

Formsma: Looking forward to discussing rec plan.

Hulst: Asked about water quality testing at parks wells to which Gildea stated it is tested by Facilities quarterly. Asked if there is any air quality monitoring to which Gildea stated there is none at the parks. Asked if we do bug control to which Gildea stated we do not spray for bugs.

Bausick: None

Gildea: Last few weekends have had special events at Silver Creek. Dumont is still down a bit, but Gun Lake is very busy. Applied for three spark grants, the final round is only for very low-income counties. Round 2 applications are due 6/26 and will be submitted for Gun Lake, Silver Creek, and West Side Park.

Metz: None

Jessup: Would like a count of park usage like DOT uses to count cars.

Caywood- None

Driscoll- He has a meeting scheduled to be involved in non-profit for disc golf. Overall, excellence of course will be great but need county resources as well including mowing and maintenance.

ADJOURNMENT: Next Meeting –Tuesday, August 1, 2023 @ 8:30 am for an All-Day Park’s Tour

A motion was made by Driscoll, seconded by Formsma to adjourn the meeting at 10:43am. The motion carried.