

Allegan County Parks Advisory Board



Allegan County Parks, Recreation &
Tourism
3283 122nd Ave
Allegan, MI 49010
269-686-9088
parks@allegancounty.org
<http://www.allegancounty.org>

Chairperson: Pam Brown
Vice Chairperson: Jaclyn Hulst

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING – MINUTES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 @ 8:30am

County Service Building – Board Conference Room -3283 122nd Ave, Allegan, MI 49010

Pam Brown
616-490-1627
Allegan

John Clark III
269-274-2736
Allegan

**Daniel
Caywood**
616-291-1214
Dorr

**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
South Haven

Jackie Metz
269-521-6524
Allegan

CALL TO ORDER: Brown called to order at 8:40.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Brown, Clark, Caywood, Driscoll, Formsma, Hulst

Absent: Jessup, Deyoung, Metz

Also Present: Dan Wedge (ZOOM); Jesse Lechner

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- **Chairman:** A nomination was made by Driscoll, seconded by Caywood to name Brown as the Chairman of the Parks Advisory Board.

With no further nominations, a motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hulst to elect Brown as the Parks Advisory Board Chairman for 2024. The motion carried.

- **Vice-Chairman:** A nomination was made by Caywood, seconded by Hulst to name Driscoll as the Vice-Chairman of the Parks Advisory Board.

With no further nominations, a motion was made by Brown, seconded by Hulst to elect Driscoll as the Parks Advisory Board Vice-Chairman for 2024. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Formsma, seconded by Driscoll to approve the December 5, 2023 minutes with one change for grammatical error. The motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion made by Clark, seconded by Hulst to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS: None

PARK ADMINISTRATION UPDATES: Wedge went over the administrative updates:

- Parks Ranger Kim Pitch was recognized, nominated and awarded an essential worker through the MI Works Program. Allegan County recognizes her hard work and support for the parks.

REVIEW ITEMS:

1. **Financial Statements** – Brown gave an overview in lieu of Gildea. On track. Revenues for last year are satisfactory.
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RECOMMENDATION/ACTION ITEMS:

1. None
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DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. **2025-2029 Recreation Plan** – [2020-2024 Recreation Plan](#);
 - a. **Survey Results** - Updates and changes are being made using survey feedback and local/community information. Recreation Plan Survey Results Reviewed, 60% completion rate. 269 Surveys, 162 completed, 107 surveys with partial completion. Wedge read through survey question/results and here were some key findings:
 - i. Family/friends (41%) and social media (29%) website (14%) These three categories are identified as the main sources of information gathering.
 - ii. Rangers not on site or no interactions with staff was a repeated observation.
 - iii. The need for manpower and man hours is identified multiple times between questions and board members reconciling information.
 - iv. Campgrounds, Beaches and Equestrian trails appear to have the most use/ visits.
 - v. Parks trails, pathways, accessibility and maintenance are all positives recognized by the park's users.
 - vi. Gravel parking lots was brought up in four separate areas as a need for improvement.
 - vii. Identified that logging discussion needs prioritized.
 - viii. The need to develop a volunteer/friends program is recognized.
 - ix. Camp Host needed at Silver Creek to assist with on-site issues.
 - x. Improvements or Amenities needed/identified mostly at West Side, Ely Lake and Silver Creek.
 - xi. Park Staff introductions to the community should be considered. Park presence is lacking. Ex) Schedule a meet and greet at each park.
 - b. **Review Section: Action Plan – Board reviewed Section 7** - Administrative Assistant to send out an update, and look into reorganizing section. Update to

show what things have been done to display accomplishments. Remove or add to it and adjust categories in table.

Motion made by Formsma to table this discussion to the next meeting, Seconded by Brown. Motion Carried.

- c. **Public Workshop** – Flyer to be created and distributed by Administrative Assistant.

Motion made by Hulst to move forward with public workshop. Motion second by Driscoll. Motion Carried.

NOTICE OF PARK ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

- Vacancy: None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ROUND TABLE:

Clark: Grateful for progress at Littlejohn.

Formsma: Looking forward to updating the rest of the Recreation Plan

Driscoll- Update about Great Lakes Disc and Disc golf Course at Little John, contract changes acceptable for both sides. 5013C Disc Golfers United in Charity. Survey possibly needed.

Brown: None.

Caywood- Has a forester that he has worked with in the past.

Hulst: None

ADJOURNMENT: Next Meeting, April 2, @ 8:30 am in County Service Building – Board Conference Room -3283 122nd Ave, Allegan, MI 49010

A motion was made by Brown, seconded by Driscoll to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 am. The motion carried.