

# Alleghan County Parks Advisory Board



Alleghan County Parks, Recreation &  
Tourism  
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**Chairperson: Bruce Brandon**  
**Vice Chairperson: John Clark III**

## **PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING – DRAFT MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 2, 2020 @ 8:30am

Virtual Meeting – Connectivity Instructions **Attached**

**Bruce  
Brandon**  
269-214-8825  
South Haven

**John Clark III**  
269-274-2736  
Alleghan

**Mark  
DeYoung**  
616-318-9612  
Dorr

**Gale Dugan**  
269-694-5276  
Otsego

**Samuel  
Dykstra**  
269-792-2945  
Wayland

**Dean Kapenga**  
616-218-2599  
Hamilton

**Jackie Metz**  
269-521-6524  
Alleghan

**Maryl  
Langeance**  
269-694-9326  
Otsego

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman Brandon at 8:30am

### **ROLL CALL:**

**Members Present:** Bruce Brandon, John Clark III, Mark DeYoung, Gale Dugan, Dean Kapenga, Maryln Langeance, Jackie Metz

**Members Absent:** Samuel Dykstra

**Also Present:** Brandy Gildea, Ronda Foreman

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Dugan, seconded by Kapenga to approve the May 5, 2020 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Yes – Brandon	Absent – Dykstra
Yes – Clark III	Yes – Kapenga
Yes – DeYoung	Yes – Langeance
Yes – Dugan	Yes – Metz

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A motion was made by Kapenga, seconded by Langeance to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

Yes – Brandon	Absent – Dykstra
Yes – Clark III	Yes – Kapenga
Yes – DeYoung	Yes – Langeance
Yes – Dugan	Yes – Metz

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/PARK UPDATES:** Gildea reviewed the park updates that are included in the agenda packet. Due to the Governor's latest order, all county parks and campgrounds will be officially open this upcoming weekend including toilets, overnight camping and pavilions; the only exclusion is the playgrounds are still closed. Seasonal staff are back to work however one of the maintenance workers decided to retire last week so now have one maintenance and one ranger position to fill.

Gun Lake and New Richmond Parks are both flooded; last week a tree came down at New Richmond and Consumers Energy cannot get their equipment in to take care of it. The Gun Lake watercraft entrance gate and boat wash station have both been reassembled and are back up and running. There have been problems with vandalism at Dumont Lake Park with graffiti and dumping picnic tables into the lake; it was suggested to ask the Sheriff's office for surveillance cameras.

At West Side Park, the north staircase is open however the last section at the bottom is not the best; staff will continue to watch and maintain as needed. The pathway to the south that was previously discussed is not safe; there is too big a drop-off to allow users to safely use so will keep it closed at this time. Staff cleared some of the fallen trees along the beach however the big issue is the inability to get equipment down or dispose of the debris; currently there is about 20'-30' of beach.

Gildea reviewed the upcoming special events and park programs that are scheduled. The Benefit Ride at Silver Creek in April was rescheduled to August, and the CMO Ride in May was rescheduled to the end of October; most campsite reservations that had been made were transferred to the new dates with not many deciding to cancel.

Gildea reviewed the status of the current park capital improvement projects. She reported the vents for the vault toilets have been completed and the total cost of the project came in under \$12,000.

The amended by-laws that were approved at the May meeting went to the Board of Commissioners for their approval; they made a few more minor changes to verbiage and approved as amended; Gildea will email to the Parks Advisory Board.

**REVIEW ITEMS:**

1. Financials

a. Financial Statements

Gildea reports the expenditures are on track; with staff starting late it saved on payroll, gasoline and other expenses.

Revenues are substantially lower; Gildea reports we are \$30,000 down from 2019 and estimates \$20,000-\$30,000 has been lost in 2020. Many reservations were either canceled or moved to 2021.

b. Quarterly Revenue Comparison

Gildea stated the quarterly revenue comparison is not ready. Regarding the current status of this year's operating budget, it has not yet been affected however the big hit will depend on the casino revenue allocation in December; they have been closed since March.

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**RECOMMENDATION/ACTION ITEMS:**

1. None

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**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Parks- Marketing Ideas

Discussing marketing ideas for the parks, Gildea stated she can now merge videos so can now make promotional videos to post on Facebook and the websites. DeYoung suggested high school students may be interested in creating videos. Kapenga reports he has been spending time visiting parks in Kent and Kalamazoo Counties and has been impressed by all their amenities; he asked how we can get community involvement to help fund more amenities in Allegan County Parks. The group further discussed improving our social media presence and seeking economical ways to fund future plans including reaching out to entrepreneurs, or approaching high school and college students to come up with some conceptual plans at the parks.

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**NOTICE OF PARK ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

- **Vacancy: term expires 12/22**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**ROUND TABLE:**

**DeYoung** stated there are always cars at Bysterveld Park.

**Clark** continues to walk and clean-up at Littlejohn Lake Park.

**Metz** stated the equestrian trails are great with a lot of riders.

**Langeance** stated due to the election in August, she will be absent for the all-day parks tour.

**Gildea** reports overnight camping and the parks are fully open beginning this weekend.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Kapenga, seconded by Dugan to adjourn the meeting at 9:16am. The motion carried.

Yes – Brandon	Absent – Dykstra
Yes – Clark III	Yes – Kapenga
Yes – DeYoung	Yes – Langeance
Yes – Dugan	Yes – Metz

**Next Meeting –Tuesday, August 4, 2020 @ 8:15 –All Day Parks Tour**