

Allegan County Parks Advisory Board



Allegan County Parks, Recreation &
Tourism
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Chairperson: Pam Brown
Vice Chairperson: John Clark III

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING – Minutes

Tuesday, December 7, 2021 @ 8:30am

Zimmerman Room – Human Services Building – 3255 122nd Ave, Allegan MI 49010

Pam Brown
616-490-1627
Allegan

John Clark III
269-274-2736
Allegan

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

Gale Dugan
269-694-5276
Otsego

**Kevin
Formsma**
616-886-7030
Hamilton

Dean Kapenga
616-218-2599
Hamilton

Jackie Metz
269-521-6524
Allegan

**Maryln
Langeance**
269-694-9326
Otsego

CALL TO ORDER: Brown called to order at 8:36am

ROLL CALL:

Present: Brown, DeYoung, Formsma, Kapenga, Langeance, Metz

Absent: Dugan, Clark

Also Present: Brandy Gildea; Heather Bausick, Duane Lemar, Deb Lemar, Dawn VanDyke, Barry VanDyke

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Kapenga, seconded by DeYoung to approve the October 5, 2021 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion made by DeYoung, seconded by Langeance to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried

PARK ADMINISTRATION UPDATES: Gildea went through the written administrative update that she sent out to the parks board.

- Littlejohn fence removed and recycled
- Floors resurfaced and walls painted at Gun Lake, West Side, Dumont, and Littlejohn
- ODC Programs have been planned and scheduled for 2022
- West Side Park –RFP for Beach Access Services has been released and received back
- Park Expenditures are on track
- Park revenue- to date revenue is \$138,060.14 which is an increase of \$26,662.53 from last season
- Capital Improvement projects in progress:
 - Gun Lake Park – watercraft launch replacement to begin May 2022
 - Playground equipment for West Side has been ordered and will be installed spring 2022

REVIEW ITEMS:

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

- Down for the year at Dumont boat Launch, Silver Creek and Ely Equestrian trail fees
- Large increases for the year at Ely and Silver Creek campsites
- Increase in Bysterveld pavilion usage, and season pass sales are up
- Overall, parks budgeted for \$95,910 and expenditures to date are \$90,239.

RECOMMENDATION/ACTION ITEMS:

1. 2022 Parks Advisory Board Meeting

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
February 1	8:30am	Board Conference Room
April 5	8:30am	Board Conference Room
June 7	8:30am	Board Conference Room
August 2	8:30am	All Day Parks Tour
October 4	8:30am	Board Conference Room
December 6	8:30am	Board Conference Room

A motion was made by Langeance, seconded by Metz to accept the schedule presented for the 2022 Parks Advisory Board Meetings. The motion carried.

2. Gun Lake Park Improvements

- Gildea reviewed site plan and noted there have been no changes in plan since last presented
- Gildea showed costs including the breakdown in costs for all parts of the projected project. Brown expressed concerns about price increases and Gildea reassured her that the engineering firm is estimating for inflation or additional costs.
- If approved, Gildea will work with engineering firm to complete the grant. An appointment will be made to meet with the public for input, then application would be submitted 4/1/22. Grand approval wouldn't be awarded until 12/2022 and work would begin spring 2023.

A motion was made by Kapenga and seconded by Formsma to recommend Parks Manager proceed with 2022 MNRTF grant development based on the attached list of improvement items and to authorize up to \$116,100 for local match. Motion carried.

3. 2020-2024 Recreation Plan review – Priority Projects and Operations equipment

- Gildea reviewed the entire Recreation Review process that the Parks Board has completed.
- Gildea presented ideas and recommendations for priority items on the support documentation included in the agenda packet
- Kapenga stated he felt the two most used parks, Ely and Silver Creek, should be a priority and more funding should go to these parks because they are used more. This may include playground equipment and concrete pads.

- Formsma stated he would like to see more pedestrian walking trails at Ely and Silver Creek. Especially around the lake at Ely.
- Deyoung stated restoring the ADA access at West Side is important because it was part of a grant originally and maintaining a previous grant project is important to secure future grants.
 - a Gildea discussed the ADA access at West Side Park and which option would be the best fit to restore access and be structurally sound. These included a concrete path, a tunnel, a wood/metal ramp, and preserving the bluff. Gildea indicated that a concrete path could be constructed along the drainage area and have concrete or metal piling to hold back sides of the path. This concrete path would end at the bottom of the bluff and then a 30ft transition area could be placed (i.e. mats) that could be removed in the winter.
 - b Kapenga noted the original wood structure ramp cost around \$240,000 and once eroded, had to be removed completely. He stated protection of the bluff from erosion must be addressed before putting another structure in.
 - c DeYoung suggested Parks should work with Army Corp of Engineers to discuss our options when working with erosion of bluffs on the lake. DeYoung also noted that the South stairs need replacing and shouldn't go straight down and viewing areas should be incorporated.
 - d Formsma indicated he would like the bluff kept as natural as possible and not to be too invasive for the sake of ADA access. Brown and Langeance agreed.

A motion was made by Kapenga, seconded by Metz to recommend the BOC support of prioritization of projects as recommended by the Parks Advisory Board to include #4 – Silver Creek camp improvements to include updated camping, bathrooms, and non-equestrian walking trails. The rest of the numbered items on the list would shift down 1 number. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Silver Creek Campground

- Duane and Deb Lemar 2255 104th Ave Zeeland, MI spoke in regards to issues they have dealt with over this past summer. They have had several encounters with non-equestrian campers, especially concerned with the homeless campers staying in the park. They are concerned with liability issues they may face or the county may face from inexperienced public in dealing with horses. Duane believes many campers and riders are not paying and would like to see a full time staff member at the campground to collect money and monitor campers.

- Dawn and Barry VanDyke spoke in regards to remote control cars and motorized vehicles bothering/spooking the horses
- Brown would like to see equestrian and non-equestrian sites and to keep these campers separate
- Gildea stated that Silver Creek is a public campground and cannot discriminate on types of campers nor can campers be asked if they are homeless. Any changes to fees or sites would be up to the BOC. As long as campers are keeping sites maintained and aren't a nuisance, they cannot be kicked out or denied stay until they reach the max stay of 15 days.
- Kapenga suggested a Campground Host for each Ely and Silver Creek to monitor campers, report issues, and collect fees if needed. Gildea stated a job application would need to be developed for this position and applications could be requested and reviewed.
- Gildea stated that pay for rangers would be increasing next year and that may recruit more applicants. Also, the suggestion of camp hosts at Ely and Silver Creek will be explored.
- Brown will put all her info together she has collected from riders and present to Gildea as some possible solutions to this issue

NOTICE OF PARK ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

- **Vacancy: term expires 12/22**
- **Vacancy: term expires 12/24**

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Sign Inventory/Possible Upgrades
2. Army Corp of Engineer Speaker to address West Side Erosion
3. Donors

ROUND TABLE:

Gildea: Thanked Marlyn for her service. Presented snapshot of new county website and new tourist and heritage trail page. Merry Christmas to everyone.

DeYoung: Dorr Twp rec/business association had a Christmas tree lighting and hundreds showed up. Great turnout.

Kapenga: New county website that is very user friendly.

Metz: FACETS has volunteered 1,204 hours in 2021 on the equestrian trails.

Langeance: Merry Christmas

Brown: Thanked the board for listening to public concerns. Read an email from John Clark III regarding disc golf course and mapping.

Formsmma: Thanked Marlyn. Enjoyed seeing the year end park numbers.

Bausick: Merry Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT: Next Meeting –Tuesday, February 1, 2022 @ 8:30 am in Board Conference Room – 3283 122nd Ave Allegan, MI 49010

A motion was made by Kapenga, seconded by Brown to adjourn the meeting at 11:14am. The motion carried.