



Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve Otsego Lake County Park Irontone Springs Wah Wah Soo Libke Fields Community Center
These are the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission held on January 13th, 2014.

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

In the absence of Secretary Awrey President Baragrey appointed Keri Swantek to take the minutes.

Members Present: Dave Baragrey, Randy Stults, Bonny Miller, Butch Fleming, Doug Johnson, Bill Holewinski, Abe Cruz and Scott Courterier.

Members Absent: Pete Awrey and Tom Johnson

Others Present: Mike Tarbutton, John Burt, Sheila Simpson and Bonnie Campbell representing American Regional Tennis Association, James Flint, Jill Thompson, Jack Thompson, Bea Burgett, Dave Burgett, Abby Hamilton, Eryn Callens, Ron Smith, Paul Sposich, Justin Burchett, Erma Backenstose, Chuck Simpson, Larry Corell, Andy Corell, Stephen Hartz, Bill Michaels, Bruce Brown, Pat Carroll, Kelly Carroll, Ron Kirkpatrick, Linda Kirkpatrick, Regan Quaal, Brandie Meisner, Pam Tolston and Keri Swantek.

Consent Agenda: D. Johnson stated that under the section "Others Present" Tyler Tarbutton, Colton Huff and Janet Flint were not listed as attending the meeting in December, Motion by Stults, second by D. Johnson to approve minutes with corrections. Motion passed on voice consent of members.

Presentation of Courthouse Plaza Project: John Burt gave a presentation on the proposed courthouse plaza project. Chairman Baragrey informed those whose wish to speak to identify themselves, limit the comments to 3 minutes and focus comments or questions only on the courthouse plaza project.

Commission Comments on Courthouse Plaza: Butch Fleming wanted to clarify that the Parks and Recreation board is required to hold a public hearing but that the board would not have any additional involvement in the project. Randy Stults spoke in favor of this project but cautioned about the spending of matching funds for this project. Stults also made it clear that monies from the parks budget would not go towards this project.

Public Hearing to Amend 2012-2016 Otsego County Community Recreation Plan

Public hearing was opened at 6:07pm.

Public comments on Courthouse Plaza:

Amy Corell asked how the plaza would be supervised. John Burt stated that these parks are normally not supervised other than with signage.

Abby Hamilton spoke in favor of the project but asked about adding additional features to the proposed project.

Amy Corell asked if additional green space would be added to accommodate the additions and was concerned if these additions would interfere with existing events such as Alpenfest and the Farmers Market. John Burt stated that the design phase has not been explored yet but that the Alpenfest Committee has been informed of the project and don't feel it will interfere.

Sheila Simpson spoke in favor of the project.

Pam Tolston asked what the projected cost would be. John Burt stated the cost to be \$500,000.00 and they hope to qualify for grants such as the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.



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Ron Kirkpatrick spoke in favor the project.

Ron Smith wanted to make sure that they plaza would not interfere with the Memorial Day ceremony. James Flint stated he was concerned about the amount of money being spent on this project and asked the Parks Board to have Capital Improvement Funds set aside for necessary maintenance of the plaza. John Burt stated that the Parks Board does not have the authority to establish Capital Improvement Funds.

Larry Corell asked who supervises this project. John Burt stated he is in charge of all county buildings and grounds.

Regen Quaal asked for a show of hands of members of the public that were in favor of this plaza.

A straw poll was taken and a majority of people present were in favor of this project.

Public Hearing was closed at 6:35pm.

Motion to amend the Otsego County Community Recreation Plan to include the Courthouse Plaza Project by Stults, second by Fleming. Motion passed by voice consent of members.

Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve: John Burt informed the Board that the Groen Trust Fund Board Members accepted the proposed budget. The Trust Fund Board also approved M. Tarbutton's request that some of his salary comes from the Groen Budget. M. Tarbutton was informed to keep record of the hours he works with the preserve. M. Tarbutton asked the Parks Board about cancelling the alarm system. John Burt stated the Groen Trust Fund Board was not opposed to turning off the alarm system. Motion by Stults to turn off alarm system, second by B. Miller. No other discussion by members. Motion passed by voice consent of members.

Public Comments: Bonnie Campbell and Sheila Simpson from the Alpine Regional Tennis Association (ARTA) asked about painting the lines on the tennis courts, having the gates replaced and holding a youth tennis event at the Community Center. Sheila Simpson presented the board members written request of the youth tennis event and an information flyer. Shelia Simpson stated that the USTA Facility Assistance grant provides 50% of the needed funds. Cost of program is \$45.00 per student and is open to children ages 10 and under. Motion to approve ARTA request to paint lines on courts and to hold the event at the Community Center by D. Johnson, second by Fleming. Vice-chairman Courterier asked if the court surface is adequate for this event. Shelia Simpson said it was. Commissioner Stults stated that until the lease is in place and the board has control of the property surrounding the Community Center that the board should not authorize use of the tennis courts. D. Johnson and Fleming both amended their ~~previous~~ motion [to not authorize use of the tennis courts until the lease is in place]. No further discussion by board. Motion passed by voice consent of members to not authorize use of the tennis courts until the lease is in place.

Stults asked to have the lease on the agenda for the February meeting and copies included in the commission packets. M. Tarbutton will put this item on the agenda and provide copies for the board members.

Bills: Approved to go to Finance for payment.

Budget: a drawing of the cabins at the county park was presented to the board. The drawing needs to include a light with the ceiling fan on the inside. M. Tarbutton asked the members to take the drawings and review them and discuss again at the February meeting.

M. Tarbutton informed members that the end of year fund balance is \$110,000.00. The insurance line item was budget at \$12,000.00. Insurance came to \$7,388.00. The remaining \$4,736.00 was transferred



Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve Otsego Lake County Park Irontone Springs Wah Wah Soo Libke Fields Community Center to repair/maintenance to pay for the viewing wall. M. Tarbutton informed members that monies will need to be transferred to balance the budget. Motion by Stults to transfer [in the Parks & Recreation budget] \$5,370.42 from Part-Time/Temporary to Overtime, \$682.80 to retirement and \$1,292.25 to ~~Workman's Comp~~ [Workers Compensation] to balance the Parks budget, second by Fleming. Motion passed with voice consent of members.

Motion by Stults to transfer [in the Groen Nature Preserve budget] \$900.00 from Overtime and \$36.08 from Part-Time/Temporary to unemployment in the amount of \$312.00 and \$623.08 to ~~Workman's Comp~~ [Workers Compensation], second by D. Johnson. Motion passed by voice consent of members. M. Tarbutton stated that a line item has been added for cabin rentals and the new budget reports will show program revenue vs. expenses.

Old Business: The Viewing Wall has been installed for handicap access to watch the gym floor. M. Tarbutton informed members that the light located over the exit door on Third Street will be relocated over the handicap access door on the east side of the building and that the parking lot near the garage will need to be improved in the Spring. Stults asked M. Tarbutton to send Thank You letters to the necessary individuals that contributed to the viewing wall when the grant money is received.

Irontone Springs: M. Tarbutton stated the tree project could not be completed in the Fall due to weather and will be completed in the Spring.

Wah Wah Soo: B.Holewinski stated that the Road Commission will look at the tree near the guard rail in the Spring.

County Park: Reservations have been steady.

Libke Fields: B. Miller informed members that Bruce Brown has offered to hold another fundraiser at the Alpine Chocolat Haus which will benefit the fields. M. Tarbutton stated that some sections of the fence still need to have the corrugated fence covering installed.

Community Center: M. Tarbutton gave the members that attendance for programs at the Community Center and attendance at the other parks.

Playgroup – 100 Boyne Area Gymnastics – 110 Volleyball – 80
Bear Basketball – 200 players and 400 spectators Flag Football – 300
Indoor Tennis – 10 6th Grade Students – 150 After School – 75
February rentals – 7 parties. Approximately 200 people.

County Park

Sea-Plane Fly-in 1,000

Clean-up Weekend – 750

Fireworks – 3,500

Halloween Weekends – 2,000

The County Park has 35,000 visitors each summer.

Wah Wah Soo – 10,000 visitors

Irontone Springs – 2,550

Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve – 1500

It is estimated that 55,000 – 60,000 people visit Otsego County Parks & Recreation facilities each year.



Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve Otsego Lake County Park Irontone Springs Wah Wah Soo Libke Fields Community Center Stults asked to have this report displayed on the website and also presented to the Board of Commissioners.

New Business: Election of Officers for 2014. Motion by D. Johnson that the officers appointed for 2013 also be appointed in 2014. Dave Baragrey President, Scott Courterier Vice-President, Pete Awrey Secretary, second by Holewinski. Motion passed by voice consent of members
Community Center Rental Policy: Stults indicated some corrections had to be made. Corrections will be made and policy will be discussed again at the February meeting.

Next Meeting: Monday February 10, 2014 at the Gaylord Regional Airport at 6:00pm.

Commissioner Comments: None

Motion to adjourn passed on voice consent of members. Meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Keri Swantek
Acting Secretary