



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 Monday March 14th 2016.

Meeting was called to order at 5:58pm.

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

Members Absent: Abe Cruz, and Tom Johnson

Others Present: John Burt, Kyle Ryan, Keri Swantek and Marilyn Record.

Approval of Previous Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the February 8th 2016 meeting was made by Doug Johnson and seconded by Butch Fleming. Motion carried.

Request from the Health Department: Kyle Ryan reported that the Northwest Michigan Health Department requested a donation of 25 season passes for low income families. The members discussed the legality of donations. Randy Stults asked Kyle Ryan to get more information from the health department regarding the criteria the health department uses to distribute the passes to the families. Action was postponed until the next meeting.

Public Comment: None

Bills: A list of the bills were presented to the members. A motion to approve the bills was made by Bonny Miller and seconded by Bill Holewinski. Motion carried. The bills were approved to go to finance for payment.

Administrator's Update: Kyle Ryan updated the board on his first month and his efforts to secure grants for the County property which includes the Dog Park.

Old Business:

- A. Millage Options:** Kyle Ryan discussed options for the upcoming millage. Kyle Ryan recommended returning to the original millage amount of .250 mills which in the first year would be an increase of \$71,065.00 in tax revenue. Randy Stults asked if some projections could be created as to what these additional monies would be used for. John Burt suggested keeping the millage as a 5 year plan as in the past. A motion was made by Bonny Miller and seconded by Butch Fleming to recommend to the Otsego County Board of Commissioners the recommendation from Kyle Ryan for the millage at the August election. Randy Stults was opposed to this motion. Motion carried.
- B. Community Center Light Bids:** Kyle Ryan presented a bid from Chuck's Electric for \$8,000.00 to fix the broken and unsafe lights. The second bid from Larry's Electric was \$8,250.00. Kyle reported that the original bid from Chuck's Electric to replace all 15 lights over the gym floor as well as some other lights in the building was \$16,455.00. Kyle Ryan and Dave Baragrey both recommended getting all the lights replaced for a long term cost savings in electric cost and replacing the light not replaced at this time. A



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motion was made by Butch Fleming and seconded by Scott Courterier to allocate up to \$16,500.00 from the fund balance to have the lights replaced subject to receiving a second bid. Motion carried.

New Business:

A. MRPA/MDHHS Grant Opportunity: Kyle Ryan discussed a conference he attended with M Parks. The grant would provide \$10,000.00 for staffing and \$24,000.00 for park improvements. Kyle Ryan reported that each individual invoices for grant reimbursement could not exceed \$5,000.00. Kyle Ryan recommended improving the County property which includes the Dog Park with these grant monies. Randy Stults asked if the property would have to become an official type of park. John Burt stated the long terms plans to have this property placed under the parks commission jurisdiction. Kyle Ryan reported that the initial costs of staffing and park improvements would be paid from parks and recreation and the grant money would be sent from MRPA/MDHHS within 4 weeks of payment being made. John Burt recommended taking the \$24,000.00 from County's capital projects general fund and the \$10,000.00 for staffing expenses from the parks and recreation's budget. A motion was made by Bonny Miller and seconded by Bill Holewinski to recommend to the finance committee to move forward with the MDHHS grant opportunity. Motion carried.

B. New Hours and the Groen Nature Preserve: John Burt discussed the new hours at the preserve that are in effect in the spring and summer during Daylight Saving Time. The new hours and Monday thru Friday 2:00pm-8:00pm, Saturday 10:00am-8:00pm and Sunday ~~19:00am—6:00pm~~ [10:00am-6:00pm]

Recreation Plan Proposal: Kyle Ryan reported a proposal to update the Community Recreation Plan was received from the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) not to exceed \$6,400.00. A motion was made by Doug Johnson and seconded by Butch Fleming to recommend to the finance committee accepting the proposal from NEMCOG. Motion carried. It was noted the Plan does need to be completed by the end of 2016.

C. Other Business not on the Agenda: Marilyn Record, presented requests from Otsego Memorial Hospital Cares Team for ACS Relay for Life for a Zumba – a –thon to be held at the Community Center on May 14th 2016. A second request was presented to hold an event at the Groen Nature Preserve as part of the Otsego County 4H Spring Break Extravaganza.

Commissioner Comments: Butch Fleming commented on how the meetings were different but was happy with the additional information being presented.

Doug Johnson thanked Kyle Ryan for his efforts in looking for grants.

Scott Courterier offered gratitude to Kyle for his work as director.

Randy Stults welcomed Kyle Ryan and stated the board was open to new ideas.

Dave Baragrey asked about the location of the security cameras outside the Community Center. Butch Fleming suggested posting a sign stating that the property was under surveillance.



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A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bonny Miller and seconded by Butch Fleming. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Attachments made as a part of these minutes:

1. NEMCOG Recreation Plan Proposal
2. MRPA/MDHHS Grant Opportunity
3. Millage Recommendation

Keri Swantek

Recording Secretary