

MANISTEE COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION

May 6, 2024
6:15 P.M.

Manistee County Planning Department Conference Room
and via Zoom

MINUTES

Member Present: Wayne Beldo, Chair; Margaret Batzer, Vice Chair; Gary Schwaiger, Secretary; Linda Cudney; Eleanor DeYoung; Bob DeYoung; Devin Wegner; Jeff Lawrence; Robert Schulke

Members Absent: Tom Williams

Others Present: Katie Mehl, Manistee County Planning Director and Recoding Secretary; David Jarvi, Manistee County Planner; Sarah Herberger, Community Foundation; Ric Alameddine, M-22 Walkway Project; Sally Trisch, Dickson Township.

Mr. Beldo called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM, roll call was taken.

Approval of the May 6, 2024, meeting agenda.

There was a motion by Mr. Lawrence, supported by Ms. Batzer, to approve the May 6, 2024, meeting agenda. All in Favor, motion carried.

Approval of the April 1, 2024, meeting minutes.

There was a motion by Ms. Cudney, supported by Ms. DeYoung to approve the April 1, 2024, meeting minutes as amended. All In Favor, motion Carried.

Public Comment: No public comment

Ms. Wegner enters at 6:18

Benzie/Manistee County Snowbirds Update: Mr. Coe was not present to give update. The board was directed to reach out to Mr. Coe if they had any questions.

Friends of SMARTrails Update: Ms. Cudney referenced the Friends of SMARTrails April 8, 2024, meeting agenda. Ms. Cudney referred to the \$1,400 that was sent to the Planning Department to print park to park maps. Ms. Cudney also referenced that Rob is still waiting for the Michigan Attorney Generals signature. Kurt Vanderwall was additionally contacted to see if he could follow up on the issue. Mr. Lawrence inquired if Friends of SMARTrails could also contact John Bumstead, John Roth, and Michelle Hoitenga to see if they could help get the signature through. Ms. Cudney also stated that Clara had researched some non-profit programs to help promote SMARTrails.

Benzie/Manistee County Dirt Birds Update: Mr. Knoper gave an update on behalf of the Dirt Birds. Mr. Knoper stated that the Dirt Birds had just celebrated their one-year anniversary, which was celebrated by crossing the high bridge, as they had a one-day pass from Dickson Township. Mr. Knoper commented that the Dirt Birds main concentration currently is meeting with nearby townships and villages, to get their support for the new route. Mr. Knoper hopes to meet with all the townships and villages by July.

Planning Department staff Update: Ms. Mehl provided an update on the RFP release, explaining that the DNR did not want the RFP released until an MOU was in place. Ms. Mehl said she will try to get in contact with Dan Holtz, to get on to the next Village of Kaleva meeting, to approve the MOU. Ms. Mehl hopes that this will make the DNR comfortable, that even though the requirements are not completed, they are coming in the future. Ms. Cudney wondered who the MOU would be between, Ms. Mehl clarified that it would be between the DNR and Manistee County.

Mr. Schulke enters at 6:23

Old Business: No Old Business

New Business:

Ric Alameddine – M-22 Walkway Project: Mr. Alameddine gave some background information about the M-22 Walkway Project, including location and route of the trail, current objectives, and community organizations and departments who have given letters of support. Mr. Alameddine also gave background about his conversations with MDOT, and what progress and challenges he has had in obtaining grants and a grant writer. Mr. Alameddine also stated that he is looking for additional letters of support.

There was a motion by Mr. Beldo, Supported by Mr. Lawrence to write a letter of support the M-22 Walkway Project. All In Favor, motion Carried.

Sally Trish – Dickson Township: Ms. Trish informed the commission about the progress of Dickson Townships Master Plan, which is almost completed. Ms. Trish also talked about the improvements and efforts made to Dickson township's two parks, which was aided by a grant written by the Township itself. Ms. Trish wanted to make sure she was going about the updates the right way and wanted to make sure they were within scope of the Recreation Commissions goals.

Other Items: Ms. Herberger from the Community foundation spoke for a minute, detailing how excited she was with all the different communities interacting and engaging with the Recreation Commission. Ms. Batzer expressed a desire in the future to get regular updates from local park and recreation commissions of different municipalities.

Mr. Beldo requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM.

There was a motion by Mr. Schulke, Supported by Mr. Wegner, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Next Meeting will be on June 3, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Schwaiger, Recreation Commission

Date