



MANISTEE COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION

October 2, 2023
6:15 P.M.

Manistee County Board of Commissioner's Room
and via Zoom

MINUTES

Members Present: Wayne Beldo, Chair; Margaret Batzer, Vice Chair; Gary Schwaiger, Secretary; Linda Cudney; Eleanor DeYoung; Jeff Lawrence; Tony Lamb

Members Absent: Robert Schulke; Bob DeYoung;

Others Present: Devin Wegner (Attending via Zoom arrived at 6:30 PM); Kristyn Malkowski, Recording Secretary; Katie Mehl, Manistee County Zoning Administrator/Planner I; Mark Coe, President Benzie/Manistee Snowbirds

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

Approval of the October 2, 2023, meeting agenda.

There was a motion by Ms. Batzer, supported by Mr. Schwaiger to approve the October 2, 2023, meeting agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the September 5, 2023, meeting minutes. Ms. Batzer stated it should show who created the motion and support for the DNR to use \$5,000 of DNR funding for the creation of a gravel parking lot on DNR owned property adjacent to Chief Rd.

There was a motion by Ms. Cudney supported by Ms. Batzer to approve the September 5, 2023, meeting minutes, as amended. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the September 14, 2023, meeting minutes.

There was a motion by Mr. Schwaiger supported by Ms. Cudney to approve the September 14, 2023, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment: Mr. Coe made the commission aware of the Benzie/Manistee Snowbirds' next regular scheduled meeting, which is Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 7:00 PM in Kaleva. The following dates should also be known:

- Oct. 21, 2023 - Trail Clean Up
- Oct 28, 2023 – Landowner Appreciation Dinner
- Nov 11, 2023 - Trail Clean Up
- The Snowbirds meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7pm at our clubhouse in Kaleva, 14121 Industrial Drive. These meetings are open to the public.
- Snowmobile trails in Michigan open December 1st and close March 31st snow permitting.

For more information, check out their Facebook page or go to

<https://benziemanisteesnowbirds.com/trail-conditions/>.

Staff Reports: Ms. Mehl presented the following updates/statements.

- Planning Department Update – Director, Mike Szokola resigned as of Sept. 28, 2023. The county has posted the position and the staff is working together and are prepared to manage the vacancy until further notice.
- City of Manistee Contract – The contract was not renewed, and the City has since hired staffing. This will save the County Planning Department staff time, leaving time for the Recreation Manager position for the Manistee County Recreation Commission.

Friends of Smart Trails Report: Ms. Cudney referenced the September 14, 2023, Friends of SMARTrails meeting minutes and the October 9, 2023, meeting agenda (Appendix A).

Old Business: Minger Grant Update – Ms. Mehl stated the Minger grant application was successfully submitted this afternoon. Waiting to hear back from the Community Foundation. If awarded, the funds will be issued in December 2023.

New Business: The commission discussed the different trail projects that should be considered for grant opportunities in the spring of 2024.

Other Items: ORV Map Update – Last minute corrections were needed before the document can be finalized and distributed. Ms. Mehl will update the commission throughout this process.

Mr. Beldo adjourned the meeting at 6:41 PM. Next meeting will be on ~~October 2, 2023~~.

Nov. 6, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Schwaiger, Recreation Commission

Date