



OFFICE OF CONTROLLER/  
ADMINISTRATOR

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## MANISTEE COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 4, 2022  
6:15 P.M.

Manistee County Courthouse & Government Center  
Board of Commissioners Meeting Room and via Zoom

### MINUTES

Members Present: Margaret Batzer; Erin Secord; Linda Cudney; Eleanor DeYoung; Devin Wagner; Gary Schwaiger; Bryan Dunlop

Members Absent: Chair Wayne Beldo, <sup>Robert</sup> Richard Schulke

Others Present: Kristyn Malkowski, Recording Secretary; Mike Szokola, Manistee County Planning Director; Bill Kennis, Grant Administrator; Jacque Erdman, Friends of Smart Trails Treasurer (Via Zoom)

Ms. Batzer called the meeting to order at 6:18 PM, roll call was taken.

Approval of the October 4, 2022, meeting agenda.

There was a motion by Mr. Dunlop, supported by Ms. Secord, to approve the October 4, 2022, agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the September 13, 2022, meeting agenda.

There was a motion by Ms. Cudney, supported by Mr. Dunlop, to approve the September 13, 2022, agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

No public comment.

Trail Champions: Nothing reported

Staff Reports. Mr. Szokola brought to the board the Trail Status Update and Construction goals Map that was previously created by Rob Carson. The map shows the trail connection between Orchard Beach State Park and Interlochen State Park. Mr. Szokola brought attention to the Commission that there should be a Road Commission member that is supposed to sit on the Recreation Commission. The Recreation Commission and Mr. Szokola will look further into this matter. Mr. Szokola and City Manager Bill Gambill discussed the Complete Streets Resolution. The City acknowledged that they do have the Complete Streets Resolution in place and will begin to enforce.

Friends of Smart Trails Report: Next meeting will be on October 10, 6:00 PM at the Maple Grove Community Center. Marketing committee met, all the hats and shirts have been received. The group is working on presentations for community awareness and working on a newsletter that will go out in November. Ms. Cudney requested a presentation/letter from the Planning Commission, the deadline is October 31, 2022. Last month, Smart Trails and the Planning Commission wrote recommendation letters to the Village of Kaleva regarding the gate installation (Attached). The group and the Recreation Commission wanted to reiterate the partnership between the Smart Trails Group and the Recreation Commission. Smart Trails has certain grant opportunities, and the Commission has certain grants opportunities which is why they must work together. The Commission makes the plans and puts them in motion, along with applying for grants. Friends group would be the boots on the ground, works with the community and maintains the work that has been completed.

**Old Business:**

**EDA Grant Update:** EDA Grant has been received. Ms. Cudney stated the Smart Trails Group will begin presenting the grant information to the public.

**Rail Relocation Update:** The planning grant was due today, but a week's extension was given nationwide, which brings the deadline to October 11, 2022. Mr. Kennis stated that Mr. Dontz and other leaders took the Rail Association President, along with other members for a tour to get an understanding of what the envision is for the railroad relocation project. Letters of support has been coming in, hoping to see letters from CSX and the Marquette Railway soon.

**Parks & Recreation Manager Grant Update:** Mr. Szokola gave an update on the Recreation Manager position. There are two (2) sources of funding they are looking into: the Minger fund grant for recreation and a limitless fund grant for everything else. Hoping to see funding sometime in June and hoping to hire for the Recreation Manager position sometime in July 2023.

**New Business:** Mr. Kennis stated that there is another grant opportunity called the Sparks Grant coming soon. He suggested that the Recreation Commission get together by mid December 2022, to prioritize the projects that are laid out in the Recreation Plan. This will help collaborate a plan between the Grant Administrator, Mr. Kennis; the existing plans and future goals of the Friends of Smart Group and the Recreation Commission, to find possible funding. Ms. Batzer would like to use the November Recreation Meeting to prioritize these projects. Ms. Erdman strongly suggests that the Recreation Commission attend the Friends Group meeting to understand the projects that are already in place, or what they are currently working on.

**Other Items from Committee Members:** Ms. Batzer wanted to make the Commission aware that Consumers Energy is having a series of meetings this week about the possibility of dam removal for Tippy or Hodenpyle Dams. She suggested that if any member can attend, they should do so. Mr. Schwaiger had questions regarding E-Bikes. He suggested that Class 1 E-Bikes should be allowed on completed, hard surface trails and roads, not on dirt trails (Material Attached). TART is setting a good example and the Commission should look to follow. The County Board of Commissioners approved the ARPA request change from funding the feasibility study, to funding the Recreation Manager position. A signature has been requested on the Project Support Grant Agreement form. With Mr. Beldo being absent, a motion is needed to have another member sign in his place. The Commission requested that Ms. Batzer sign the Project Support Grant Agreement form.

**There was a motion by Ms. Secord and supported by Mr. Schwaiger, to allow Ms. Batzer to sign the Project Support Grant Agreement form, in place of Mr. Beldo.**

**All in favor**

**Motion Carries**

Ms. Batzer adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM. Next meeting will be changed from Monday November 7, 2022, at 6:00 PM, to 6:15 PM, Ms. Batzer requested that all meetings change to 6:15 for the remaining of 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

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Erin Secord, Recreation Commission Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date