

MANISTEE COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION

December 4, 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; Bob DeYoung; Jeff Lawrence; Tony Lamb - 8

Members Absent: Robert Schulke + 1

Others Present: Devin Wegner, Recreation Commission Member (Via Zoom); Kristyn Malkowski, Recording Secretary; Katie Mehl, Manistee County Zoning Administrator/Planner I; Sarah Herberger, Community Foundation; Sherry Knoper, Benzie/Manistee Dirtbird's; Tim Knoper, President Benzie/Manistee Dirtbird's; Mark Coe, President Benzie/Manistee Snowbirds;

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

Approval of the December 4, 2023, meeting agenda.

There was a motion by Ms. Batzer, supported by Mr. Lawrence to approve the December 4, 2023, meeting agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the November 6, 2023, meeting minutes.

There was a motion by Ms. Cudney supported by Mr. Schwaiger to approve the November 6, 2023, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Recap of the November 21, 2023, meeting – Mr. Beldo went to the meeting and thought that the meeting went very well, but there was not a quorum.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Friends of Smart Trails Report: Ms. Cudney referenced the November 13, 2023, Friends of SMARTrails meeting minutes and the December 11, 2023, meeting agenda (Appendix A).

Old Business: No old business.

New Business:

ARPA Funds

- Discussed the ARPA funds awarded by the County in the amount of \$15,000 and how the Commission would like to allocate these funds to the Recreation Manager position. This discussion was tabled and will be brought back before the Commission after further discussion with the County Controller and Board of Commissioners.

Spring 2024 Trail Projects

- Staff provided an update to the Commission regarding the pending grant application being reviewed by the Manistee County Community Foundation for the Village of Kaleva Bathroom/Trailhead Facility. The grant amount requested is being scaled back due to the quote for the requested grant amount including the cost for construction administration. The timeline for the grant application was also discussed, as the timeline is being modified to allow for the planning and engineering of the trail segments between Thompsonville and Chief to be complete, prior to submitting for a DNR Trust Fund Grant in the Spring of 2025.

Thompsonville to Chief Trail Segment

- Next Steps - The commission would like to follow the direction of crowd sourcing. Expand to different companies, foundations, and any other entities to help get the match dollars.

Other Items:

- The Recreation Commission currently has 1 vacant position and 2 positions that expire on December 31, 2023.
- The Commission agreed that the 2024 Manistee County Recreation Commission meetings will take place on the 1st Monday of every month, at 6:15 PM, except for January and September, which will be the 2nd Tuesday.

Staff Reports:

Dirtbirds – Mr. Knoper didn't have an update but stated they are continuously working on mapping trails.

Snowbirds – Mr. Coe stated that the trails opened on December 1, 2023. The group has been working on trails and waiting for the snow to come.

Mr. Beldo adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM. Next meeting will be on January 9, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Schwaiger, Recreation Commission

Date