

MANISTEE COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION

Monday, July 11, 2022
6:00 P.M.

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

MINUTES

Members Present: Margaret Batzer; Erin Secord; Devin Wagner; Robert Schulke; Bryan Dunlop;

Members Absent: Wayne Beldo, Chair; Linda Cudney; Gary Schwaiger; Eleanor DeYoung

Others Present: Kristyn Malkowski, Recording Secretary; Doug Barry, Michigan DNR; Mike Szokola, Manistee County Planning Director

Ms. Batzer called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM, roll call was taken.

Approval of the July 11, 2022, Agenda.

There was a request by Ms. Batzer to amend the July 11, 2022, agenda by adding ARPA Fund Discussion to New Business.

There was a motion by Mr. Dunlop, supported by Ms. Secord, to approve the July 11, 2022, agenda as amended. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the June 6, Minutes.

There was a motion by Mr. Dunlop, supported by Ms. Wegner, to approve the June 6, 2022, Minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

No public comment.

Trail Champions: Mr. Barry informed the board that the trail gates will be installed this Wednesday, July 13, 2022. Crews will gather every Wednesdays until the completion of the gate installations, an estimate of a few weeks.

No Staff Reports. Mr. Szokola asked the board if they had any questions regarding the plan he laid out for the potential routes, grant processes and the roll of the Recreations Commission. There were no questions from the Board.

Mr. Szokola also stated that the county wide grant writer went before the Ways and Means Committee and will now go to the full board for approval. Mr. Szokola stated the board should be aware the grant writer can fill his schedule quickly leaving delays in grant requests.

Mr. Szokola requested that the board modify the ARPA request. Mr. Szokola stated the request should have been for actual staff and not for a feasibility study to find out if staff is needed. The Recreation Plan and bylaws already state that staff is needed. Ms. Batzer feels the request was the only way to begin the process of staff funding and hopes this will move everything forward. Ms. Batzer also feels that the modification should be brought to the administrator which in turn can give notice to the board. The modification should be short and focus on the sustainability of the position that is being funding. Mr. Szokola states that the focus should also cover the sustainability of the grant writer.

Friends of Smart Trails Report: No report

Old Business: Ms. Batzer stated Mr. William Kennis may be the county grant writer. His contract will be put in front of the County board for approval.

New Business: The ARPA fund requests will be brought to the County Board of Commissioners meeting which will be held on July 15, 2022. The members that will be presenting in front of the board will be Ms. Erin Secord, Mr. Wayne Beldo, Mr. Mark Coe, and Ms. Linda Cudney. Economic impact and the fact that the bylaws and recreation plan states staffing is needed, should be some of the key points.

Other Items from Committee Members: Mr. Dunlop believes the board should push the idea of bike trials on the upcoming US-31/Manistee River bridge renovation. Mr. Szokola stated that the discussions will have to be brought to the City of Manistee's Park and Recreation committee. Although the deadline has more than likely passed for this project.

Ms. Batzer adjourned the meeting at 7:12 PM. Next meeting will be held on August 1, 2022, at 6:30 pm, in the County Board of Commissioner's room.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Secord, Recreation Commission Secretary

Date