

MANISTEE COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION

Monday, August 1, 2022
6:00 P.M.

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

MINUTES

Members Present: Wayne Beldo, Chair; Margaret Batzer; Erin Secord; Devin Wagner; Robert Schulke; Bryan Dunlop; Linda Cudney; Gary Schwaiger; Eleanor DeYoung

Members Absent:

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

Mr. Beldo called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, roll call was taken.

Approval of the August 1, 2022, Agenda.

There was a motion by Mr. Dunlop, supported by Mr. Schwaiger to approve the August 1, 2022, meeting agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the July 11, Minutes.

There was a motion by Ms. Cudney, supported by Mr. Dunlop, to approve the July 11, 2022, Minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

No public comment

Staff reports: Mr. Szokola stated there was a change to the ARPA funding request which was \$15,000 for funding for Recreation Manager position. The amount is still low as the amount needed is about \$70,000 for a full-time position with benefits. After ARPA funding has been approved/granted, next step is to have coordination through the community foundation or Benzie County to have dual position. The money must be spent by 2026. Try to collaborate with Benzie County, Ms. Batzer stated that there is an option to withdraw the current ARPA fund request and ask again in the second round. Commissioners meeting is August 22nd and the decision to either move with the ARPA request will be decided then.

Mike will reach out to Laura Heintzelman and ask her to attend the upcoming Special Meeting. Ms. Batzer will reach out to the new grant writer.

Smart Trails — Linda Cudney mentioned the Smart Trails Committee has changed their logos and she brought in the new recreation cards. The Marketing committee meeting is working on volunteer shirts. National trails day was a success. There is always a need for volunteers so different people from Friends of Smart Trails have been going to local festivals such as Copemish Days, Onekama Days; Bear Lake Days, Brethren Days, the Rusty Fish 100 and at the County Fair. The EDA Grant is still in process and is waiting for a SHIPP. The Smart Trails website is up and running. There is now a link to the Snowbird website. Ms. Cudney is still waiting for a chance to speak with the new grant writer to find funding options. Next Smart Trails meeting will be Monday August 8, 2022.

Old business: Mr. Beldo stated that there is a serious need for the Recreation Manager position, and it can cover a lot of the committee's needs. The Commissioners need to schedule a study session for strategic planning to find out what the plan is to move forward. Mr. Beldo states we should tell the county that they should remove ourselves from the current ARPA Request, then have study session then meet with Benzie County Recreation.

Mr. Dunlop asked if the money can be used to pay existing employees to do the job. Mr. Szokola stated that is not an option because there is not enough time for current employees.

Ms. Secord states there needs to be work done on presenting what is an immediate reward in hopes to be awarded the funds. Maybe collaborate with the townships and other local entities.

New business: Mr. Dunlop is asking if someone from the City of Manistee is looking to add a bike trail while in the process of the Memorial Drive construction. Ms. Batzer stated plans must start before the construction begins. The City has a complete streets ordinance so they should have a layout of the plan but not sure if that has been done. Mr. Szokola stated the funding is coming from the state and the road had to be fixed because it will become a detour. Mr. Szokola stated that a conversation has to take place with the City of Manistee. Batzer states that we should wait to see what their plan really is for the future.

Mr. Szokola stated that he is attending a meeting for the railroad relocation plan. The study has been completed but financing is still an issue. He will update the committee at the September meeting. Mr. Szokola also stated that there is a new disc golf course at the Armory. It's a great time and the community is trying to get a little bit more recreation options for everyone.

Doug Barry mentioned a pipeline is being installed at the end of Chief Road and is wondering if there can be a trail put on there. Mr. Szokofa will contact DTE to see if there was any way we can use their trail.

A special meeting needs to be schedule for the month of August to discuss APRA fund request. Next meeting will need to be changed to the 13th 6:15 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Secord, Recreation Commission Secretary

Date