



MANISTEE COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION

Monday, May 1, 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; Devin Wegner; Eleanor DeYoung; Robert Schulke; Bob DeYoung

Members Absent: Jeff Lawrence; Bryan Dunlop;

Others Present: Kristyn Malkowski, Recording Secretary; Katie Mehl, Manistee County Zoning Administrator/Planner I; Mike Szokola, Manistee County Planning Director; Doug Barry, DNR

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

Scheduling conflicts are causing multiple absences of members at the Recreation Commission meetings. The commission is aware each member is trying their best to ensure all duties of the Recreation Commission are fulfilled.

Approval of the May 1, 2023, meeting agenda.

There was a motion by Mr. Schwaiger, supported by Ms. Batzer, to amend the May 1, 2023, agenda by removing the following items from "Old Business"; Bylaws – Creation of Annual Report discussion and the Vacant Recreation Commission Seat.
All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the March 6, 2023, meeting minutes.

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

Public Comment: No public present.

Trail Champions: Mr. Barry informed the commission that this summer, the DNR staff will be constructing a trail head at the intersection of the Kaleva and Chief trail. More information to come soon.

Staff Reports: Mr. Szokola had nothing new to update besides the items under "Old Business".

Friends of Smart Trails Report: The March 13, 2023, Friends of SMARTrails meeting minutes were presented, along with the April 10, 2023, meeting agenda (Appendix A). Ms. Cudney also presented the April 10, 2023, Friends of SMARTrails meeting minutes were presented, along with the May 8, 2023, meeting agenda (Appendix B).

Old Business:

Spark Grant Update: Mr. Szokola would like to highlight that this grant is highly competitive this time around and a letter of support is still needed. There was suggestion to remove the spark grant from the agenda, until further notice. The commission agreed.

Minger Grant Update: Mr. Szokola updated the commission on the upcoming renewal of the contract between the Manistee County Planning Department and the City of Manistee. If the contract is renewed, the Minger Grant application process will move forward. If the contract is not renewed, the Minger Grant is no longer needed due to an increase in staff time within the Planning department. Discussions regarding this matter will be brought up at the May 3, 2023, City Council meeting.

Railroad Relocation Update: Mr. Szokola is anticipating data to come through regarding grant information for the planning project.

Parks & Recreation Manager Update: Update dependent on the outcome of the City of Manistee council meeting on May 3, 2023.

County ORV Map: Mr. Szokola requested assistance on reaching out to the following townships/villages, to receive data that will help with the creation of an updated County ORV map. Arcadia; Village of Bear Lake; Village of Copemish; Onekama; Stronach. Ms. Cudney will bring awareness to the SMARTrails and other groups in hopes to form communication.

Dam Update: Mr. Beldo is to attend a meeting that is taking place on May 26, 2023, between 2:30-3:30 PM at the Maple Grove Township Hall, located at 920 Kauko St, Kaleva. Mr. Beldo intends to bring the opposition of the removal of the dams to the attention of Senator Hoytenga.

New Business: No new business.

Other Items from Committee Members: Mr. Schwaiger made the commission aware that he will not be able to attend the July Recreation Commission meeting. Ms. Cudney made the commission aware of the revised schedule for the Michigan Township Association meetings. Along with the Manistee County Chapter Annual Dinner meeting which will be held on May 24, 2023, at the Norman Township Hall (Appendix C).

Mr. Beldo adjourned the meeting at 6:47 PM. Next meeting will be on June 5, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Schwaiger, Recreation Commission

Date