

6:00 p.m., Tuesday
September 7, 2021

MANISTEE BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S
415 Third St.
Manistee, Michigan

RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The Recreation Commission is operating remotely and electronically by Zoom under PA 254 of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

❖ Call to Order and Roll Call.

❖ Mr. Wayne Beldo, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Recreation Commission Members Present: Erin Secord, Margaret Batzer, Wayne Beldo, Devin Wegner, Bryan Dunlop, and Robert Schulke

Recreation Commission Members Absent: Gary Schwaiger, Dennis Cohoon, Linda Cudney, Sharon Goble

Others: None.

❖ Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Dunlop moved, seconded by Ms. Batzer to approve the September 7, 2021 Agenda as presented.

Voting yes: Ms. Secord, Mr. Beldo, Ms. Batzer, Mr. Schulke, Ms. Wegner, Mr. Dunlop

❖ Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Dunlop moved, seconded by Ms. Batzer to approve the August 2, 2021 Minutes as presented.

Voting yes: Ms. Secord, Mr. Beldo, Ms. Batzer, Mr. Schulke, Ms. Wegner, Mr. Dunlop

❖ Public Comment

- None. Mr. Beldo recommended that the Recreation Commission promote efforts on the county website to engage public comment. Ms. Batzer agreed and added that a newspaper article would be a good idea.

❖ Staff Updates

- None.

❖ Old Business

- Friends of SMART Trails

Mr. Beldo reported that the friends of the SMART Trails made the goal of developing a strategic plan and solicited a bid from Tamara Budzwinka. The proposal she offered



was \$1,500 and involved a 6-month period to work with the group to develop the plan. The Friends of SMART Trails found this to be a reasonable price and process.

The Friends of SMART Trails also reported they plan to seek a grant from AARPA funds to complete Phase I of the trails in the Copemish area. This grant specifically is looking for areas considered to be "lower income." Mr. Beldo added that Rob Carson feels that there is a good chance that we could received this grant based on the criteria.

The Friends of SMART Trails group established a debit card/account through the community foundation to pay bills, etc. The group also established a post office box.

The Friends of SMART Trails also established the goal of doing outreach and identifying individuals who may be interested in their cause and willing to volunteer at future events. The group would also like to hold an event similar to the trails summit (which was cancelled in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic). Friends of SMART Trails have reached out to Iron Fish Distillery to be the benefitting nonprofit of their annual Derby fundraising event in the Spring. The group was supposed to volunteer at the 2020 event and receive proceeds, but it was cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Batzer had a few questions in regard to the Friends of SMART Trails group; she asked if the Friends group would be establishing a membership donation. Mr. Beldo replied that he believed this would be put in place through the strategic plan. Ms. Batzer also wanted to confirm that the strategic plan would align with the county wide recreation plan and existing trails plan.

Mr. Dunlop asked what the dollar amount for the grant the Friend group is seeking through AARPA. Mr. Beldo replied that he was not certain but believed it to be \$1,500,000 with a match of more than \$80,000, or 20%. Ms. Batzer clarified that it is a portion of a pot of money available. Mr. Dunlop also inquired as to who would administer the grant if received. Mr. Beldo replied that the Executive Board of the Friends group would handle this and Ms. Batzer added that the current Chairman, Rob Carson is qualified to do so. Ms. Batzer also added that the Manistee County Commission currently has \$50,000 in the budget for a grant administrator. This is not approved, nor is someone hired at this point, but this position could potentially assist.

Ms. Batzer asked about establishing regular communication from the Friends group to the Recreation Commission. Mr. Beldo replied that he would look for a way to establish this. He mentioned sharing meeting minutes as an option.

- ❖ New Business
 - None.



❖ Other Business

- Ms. Batzer gave an update regarding the direction of the Planning Department for the foreseeable future. The Planning department has been directed to focus on zoning and does not have the capacity to provide staff support to the Recreation Commission. She encouraged members to contact their County Commissioner and express the need for this commission to have staff support. She added that it will be difficult for the Recreation Commission to reach its full potential without staff support.

Mr. Beldo stated that he would contact the Road Commission and identify who the member was/invite his to the next meeting.

❖ Adjourn

Mr. Beldo moved, seconded by Ms. Batzer to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Voting yes: Ms. Secord, Mr. Beldo, Ms. Batzer, Mr. Schulke, Ms. Wegner, Mr. Dunlop

The next meeting will be held October 4, 2021 in the County Commissioner's room at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin Secord". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Erin Secord, Recreation Commission Secretary

Date: September 7, 2021