

The regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board was held on Wednesday, August 3, 2011 at 6:17 p.m. in their office located at 13300 Fifteen Mile Road, Marshall, Michigan.

PRESENT: Commissioner Eric Tobin, Chairman
Commissioner Scott Brown, Member
Commissioner Hugh Coward, Member
Commissioner Christopher Vreeland, Member

ABSENT: Commissioner Eric Johnson, Vice Chairman

ALSO PRESENT: Kevin Henning, Managing Director
Mary Jo Crumpton, Board Clerk
General Public

Chairman Tobin called the regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board to order at 6:17 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Coward to approve the July 6, 2011 regular meeting minutes. Voice vote: Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. Crumpton read the communications as follows:

- a) Received the Environmental Services Coordinator's Report

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

RFP for Trailway Design: Mr. Henning noted that the proposals, bid tabulation, and recommendation for design of the Calhoun County Trailway, Phase I, Segment I, was received by the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners at their meeting earlier this evening. Commissioner Vreeland asked when action would be taken on the design bid. Mr. Henning replied it would take place at the next Road Commission meeting on August 17, 2011. Both Commissioner Vreeland and Coward stated that they would be unable to attend that meeting. Commissioner Coward asked if the Friends of the Ott had signed the Trailway Agreement. Mr. Henning responded that we have not yet received a completely signed agreement but he would follow up. Commissioner Tobin asked if the easements had been finalized. Mr. Henning replied that this is still in progress. Commissioner Tobin asked if there were any concerns from the Silver Leaf Renaissance Faire (SLRF). Mr. Henning stated we have had no complaints. He added that we will need to decide what to do about the storm damage in Kimball Pines after the SLRF is over. Commissioner Tobin stated that he would pass on contact information for a forester.

Historic Bridge Park: Mr. Henning reported on correspondence between Mrs. Eichorst and County Corporation Counsel, Richard Lindsay regarding the Parks Rules and "No Swimming" signs. Discussion has taken place with Enbridge, LHB, the County and Parks staff regarding whether or not to post signage at Bridge Park allowing or disallowing swimming. Currently, there the Parks Rules prohibit swimming but there are no signs to this effect. He quoted the Parks Rules that state "No person shall: Swim, bathe, wade or scuba dive in any of the watercourses, lakes, ponds, or sloughs located within or upon Trustee property..."

Commissioner Brown stated that "No Swimming" signs should be posted at the river at Bridge Park and at the entrances of the other parks. Commissioner Vreeland agreed and added that the Parks Rules should be reviewed and posted at all parks. Mr. Henning will have staff review the Parks Rules and bring them before the Board in September. He also informed the Board that the Health Department plans to lift the ban on river activity later in August.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Rob Rumsey, Emmett Township resident informed the Board that he runs the website OttPreserve.com and commented that it is extraordinary how much attention the Ott Preserve has received. He stated that volunteers turned out to open the North Country Trail after the Storm.

COMMISSIONER TIME

Commissioner Brown commented that National Geographic is planning to film the jousting event at the SLRF on Sunday.

Commissioner Tobin commented that he would like to see the \$50,000 received from Enbridge used by the end of the year in our parks. Mr. Henning explained that this was an "inconvenience check" that Enbridge bestowed on the Parks Trustees Board for closing Bridge Park during the oil spill. There are no restrictions on the funds and it was suggested that it be used to install or upgrade signage at the parks. Discussion continued.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board will be held on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. or following the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners meeting.

There being no additional business before the Board, Chairman Tobin adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Submitted by:

Mary Jo Crumpton, Board Clerk

Eric J. Tobin, Chairman