

The regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 6:05 p.m. in their office located at 13300 Fifteen Mile Road, Marshall, Michigan.

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Eric Tobin, Chairman  
Commissioner Hugh Coward, Member  
Commissioner Eric Johnson, Vice Chairman – via telephone  
Commissioner Christopher Vreeland, Member

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Scott Brown, Member - excused

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kevin Henning, Managing Director  
Angela Kline, Engineer  
Jill Forshey, Finance Clerk  
General Public

Chairman Tobin called the regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Motion made by Commissioner Vreeland and supported by Commissioner Coward to approve the August 3, 2011 regular meeting minutes. Voice vote: Motion carried.**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Chairman Tobin read the communications as follows:

- a) Received the Environmental Services Coordinator's Report

#### **MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

***Enbridge Improvements:*** Mr. Henning noted that we continue to work with Enbridge on the improvements to the parks. Currently, Enbridge is negotiating with the County on the endowment funds for the parks. They have installed slate steps at Bridge Park and Mr. Henning commented that they look really nice. He added that Bridge Park will be quite a "sight to see" when Enbridge completes all the improvements.

A forester is assessing Kimball Pines Park and his report will be provided to the Board in a few weeks. We received an application from SLRF for a Special Use Permit to have a haunted forest at Kimball Pines. Mr. Henning noted that we forwarded the application to the County and they have responded favorably.

Commissioner Coward asked the status of reopening the Kalamazoo River. Mr. Henning replied that the date has been pushed back a few times and the river is still closed. Enbridge did not meet the EPA deadline for contamination removal and are again working at the site of the spill at Tallmadge Creek. This has delayed paving the top course on some of the roads that Enbridge is mitigating. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Vreeland asked if Silver Leaf has reconciled their books from their faire this year. Mr. Henning replied that they are in the process of doing this at this time. Discussion continued. Commissioner Vreeland also asked if there has been discussion with County Administrator Scott regarding restructuring the Parks Trustees Board. Mr. Henning responded that he has met with Kelli Scott and Corporation Counsel Richard Lindsay and they have discussed the Parks Trustees Board/Parks Department, the Public Works Board/Department and the Solid Waste Management Fund. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Tobin asked if Enbridge had made contact with Greg Potter, Trout Unlimited, and Vern Mesler regarding the improvements to Bridge Park. Mrs. Kline replied that they had and Mr. Mesler has met with them.

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

A Calhoun County resident commented on the damage being done by quads in the Ott Preserve.

**COMMISSIONER TIME**

Commissioner Vreeland commented that he has continued to push the County Board to form a Parks Commission to address issues with the parks and lack of a management plan for our parks.

Commissioner Coward added that he has continued to push the County Board as well, to establish a Parks Commission to manage the parks system.

Commissioner Tobin echoed Commissioners Vreeland and Coward with regards to the establishment of a Parks Commission for park management. He also reminded the Board that Enbridge gave \$50,000 to the Parks and he believes it should be used.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board will be held on Wednesday, October 3, 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 6:27 p.m.

Submitted by:

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Mary Jo Crumpton, Board Clerk

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Eric J. Tobin, Chairman