

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
1st FLOOR CONFERNECE ROOM/ACROSS FROM PARKS OFFICE
120 N. BROADWAY ST.
CASSOPOLIS, MI 49031**

August 14, 2025

4:00 P.M.- CALL MEETING TO ORDER - President Parrish

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Commissioner Stewart

ROLL CALL – Secretary Dohm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

PUBLIC COMMENT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DIRECTOR’S REPORT - Director Wyman

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Dark Sky Update
- Russ Forest Update
- LWCF Update
- MEANDRS 4-H Day @ Dodd

NEW BUSINESS

- Patty’s Update
- 25’-26’ Budget

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Next regular meeting September 11, 2025. Please call 445-4456 if you cannot attend.

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Cass County Services Building
120 N. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031
1st Floor Conference Room
Minutes - July 10, 2025 Meeting**

4:00 p.m. – CALL MEETING TO ORDER –Vice President VanBelle

INVOCATION – Commissioner Barrera

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Bailey

ROLL CALL –

Director Wyman – P	Sam Barrera – P	Annie File –A	Lyndon Parrish -P
Jamie Stafne –P	Jayne Bailey – P	Fritz Kucklick - P	
Joyce Sheteron-Locke - P	Robert Parrish –A	Tami Stewart - P	Jeff VanBelle – P

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to accept: Commissioner L. Parrish

Second: Commissioner Locke

Approved

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept: Commissioner L. Parrish

Second: Commissioner Barrera

Approved

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS – Ambrosia Neldon, Bob Groszek, Lisa Groszek, Lois Groszek, Ray Geik

PUBLIC COMMENT – Group requesting permit to put a pier on Birch Lake at Lake Park

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Director Wyman

1. Was Presented

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dark Sky

- a. The portable concrete pads that were donated barely fit the camera tripod of Commissioner Parrish.
- b. Perseids meteor shower that will peak August 12th may be very hard to see.
- c. Nice shout out from WGRD of Grand Rapids about our dark sky park.
- d. Still working toward an astronomy club, basically to allow the park to be open more nights.
- e. The weather has not been our friend on nights scheduled for dark sky viewing.

2. Russ Forest Update

- a. Jay has been working many hours cleaning up the downed tree remnants. If anyone needs wood, contact the director.
- b. The west side should be able to be open soon.

3. LWCF

- a. One contractor showed up for the pre-bid meeting at Lawless.
- b. Information was sent out for the bidding process. Bids for the asphalt paving portion of the grant will be opened July 22nd in the parks office at 11:00 a.m.

4. MEANDRS Bridge Signage

- a. Michigan industries are making the signs to be placed on the bridges over the Dowagiac River to let people know where they are when floating the river.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Patty’s Updates

- a. Updated park passes sold yearly from 2014 to current, an increase of 2694.12%

2. MEANDRS 4-H DAY

- a. August 10th – Linda Preston’s 4-H Club, M-40 Hustlers will be at Dodd Park for various activities including a demonstration on fly fishing.
3. **NIMBA Bike Race**
 - a. July 19th
 - b. NIMBA volunteers have put in lots of work on the course
 - c. Working on some changes in the course
4. **Flowers Early Learning Campus**
 - a. Director Wyman toured their facilities.
 - b. One of the agencies that we partner with.
5. **Board Members Comments/Announcements**
 - a. The well at Lawless will not suffice for the new splash pad and will be included in the bid package.
 - b. Director Wyman worked with a lady from California that is having a bench made as a memorial to her mother. It will be placed at Shavehead Lake where she was a long-time resident.

Motion to adjourn: Commissioner L. Parrish

Second: Commissioner Stafne

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Dohm
Recording Secretary

Next regular meeting August 14. Please call 269-445-4456 if you cannot attend.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
August 14, 2025

Dr. Lawless:

- Held two bid openings for Dr. Lawless grant project.
- Hosted Boy Scout Troop.
- Hosted three (3) Dark Sky nights.
- Hosted Ron Gunn's Hiking Group during Perseid Meteor Shower.
- Hosted NIMBA bike race.
- Hosted four (4) shelter reservations.
- Attended Zoom meeting with OCBA leadership and low bidder for LWCF project.
- Hosted Great Start Collaborative story trail.

Dodd:

- Hosted nine (9) shelter reservations.
- Hosted three (3) cabin rental nights.
- Attended 4-H river study with members of Illinois Trouts Unlimited.

Russ Forest:

- Hosted (5) shelter reservations.
- Removed downed trees to open west side of Russ.
- Hosted Great Start Collaborative story walk.

Stevens Memorial Park:

- Mowed
- Tilled beach

Sears Park:

- Continue to encourage fisherman to purchase an annual park pass.
- Mowed

Harmon Park East / West:

- Continue to encourage fisherman to purchase an annual park pass.
- Mowed
- Removed tree(s)
- Cleaned ditch

Jay and Jodi spent a great deal of time cleaning up Russ Forest West. Due to their efforts, we were able to open that side of the park for day use. There is still clean-up to be done but it is a great deal better than it was. In addition, they did a great job preparing the Lawless biking trails for the race, which was a complete success with no one being injured. Aerial spraying for the invasive Phragmites at Lawless Park will begin the week of August 11 by a contractor hired by SWxSW CISMA. Jay had trim some branches within the marsh so the drone could fly safely.

Since Patty has completed the monumental task of organizing motions from 14 years of park and recreation commission meetings. She will be doing the same thing with all our minutes from prior to when the parks and recreation commission was created. Annual park sales have slowed down to just a few as you can imagine but shelter and cabin rentals continue to come in. The fall newsletter is all but complete and she has also begun to review all the information that we hand out to cabin and shelter renters to see if we need to add, subtract or shorten any information presented.