

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Arthur Dodd Memorial Park
61437 Creek Rd.
Niles, MI 49120
September 11, 2025**

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

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Kucklick

ROLL CALL – Secretary Dohm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

PUBLIC COMMENT

PRESENTATION – MR. GROSZEK / BIRCH LAKE RESIDENT / LAKE PARK

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DIRECTOR’S REPORT - Director Wyman

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Dark Sky Update
- LWCF Grant Update
- CISMA

NEW BUSINESS

- Harvest Festival / Trunk n Treat
- Historical Society Harvest Festival
- Neighbors to the West
- Dodd Park Overview/Future

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENTS
ADJOURNMENT**

Next regular meeting October 9, 2025 @ Lawless Park. 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 – August 14, 2025 Meeting**

4:00 p.m. – CALL MEETING TO ORDER –President R Parrish

INVOCATION – Commissioner R. Parrish

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Bailey

ROLL CALL –

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to accept: Commissioner Kucklick

Second: Commissioner L. Parrish

Approved

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept: Commissioner VanBelle

Second: Commissioner File

Approved

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS – Administrator Jordan

PUBLIC COMMENT –

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

1. Five-Year Plan Committee – Marcy will give a quote after she looks at the county's Master Plan.
2. February 1 deadline

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director Wyman

1. Was Presented
2. Hosted a river study at Dodd Park with Chicago Trouts Unlimited for the M-40 Hustlers 4-H Club.
3. Great Start Collaborative
4. Night hike at last night's dark sky night
5. The clutch went out on the mower, being repaired
6. Drone spraying of the phragmites started today. Have found that the phragmites are interspersed with wild rice and the Pokagon Band are going to harvest in certain areas.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dark Sky

- a. Erick Shuur has notified Commissioner R. Parrish that he will be bequeathing all his equipment to Lawless Park with includes an observatory.
- b. Has several presentations scheduled.
- c. August 22nd will be the music presentation at Lawless.

2. Russ Forest Update

- a. The west side is now open, the outer circle still needs work. We are taking reservations.
- b. The electric pole is being replaced by Bender Electric.

3. LWCF

- a. The asphalt bid came back lower than estimated at \$72,700 but the larger project bid came back at \$988,680. Some \$300,000 over-estimates.
- b. The grant can be pushed back under certain conditions.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Patty's Updates

- a. Updated on general workings in the office.

2. '25-'26 Budget

- a. Department heads were asked to tighten their requests, which Director Wyman has.

3. Board Members Comments/Announcements

North Peninsula Drive permit has been awarded.

Motion to adjourn: Commissioner File

Second: Commissioner Barerra

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dohm

Recording Secretary

Next regular meeting September 11. Please call 269-445-4456 if you cannot attend.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

September 11, 2025

Dr. Lawless:

- Hosted 200 Cassopolis Middle School students.
- Hosted three Dark Sky evening viewings.
- Hosted one reservation.
- Hosted 70 hikers from Ron Gunn's hiking group.
- CISMA SWxSW sprayed invasive Phragmites.
- Began receiving applications for hunting at Dr. Lawless Park.
- Hosted musical act prior to Dark Sky event.

Dodd:

- Hosted eight reservations.
- Hosted four camping outings.
- Hosted training for Heritage Southwest leadership.

Russ Forest:

- Hosted one reservation.

Stevens Memorial Park:

- cleaned the beach.
- Mowed and cleaned up debris.
- Hosted Lake Association Picnic.
- Removed dead cherry tree.
- Added woodchips to play area.

Sears Park:

- Empty trash barrel.
- Mowed.
- Enforced parking policy.

Harmon Park East / West:

- Enforced parking policy.
- Emptied trash barrel.
- Mowed
- Placed memorial bench.

The dynamic duo of Jay and Jodi really did a nice job getting the parks ready prior to 200 middle school students coming out to Lawless. As well as making sure 18 miles of hiking trails were clear for Ron Gunn's hiking group to train on. They also did a nice job getting all the parks ready for the long holiday weekend. Also, Jay took some well-deserved time off, so Jodi and I had the parks all to ourselves during the long weekend. Jodi spent most of her time at Dodd Park attending the fee booth and I prepped and cleaned up the reservations at Russ and Dodd. Typically, after Labor Day we close the beaches which includes pulling the buoys and removing the porta-johns. We assisted CISMA as they sprayed one of the three areas of phragmites. They will resume their spraying program next year if funds are allowed.

Patty has been working hard on the fall newsletter, and it should be ready for distribution soon. She is already working with Cass County 4-H on this year's Harvest Festival. All indications are this is going to be another big event (800-1200 people typically) if the weather cooperates of course. Hunting applications are starting to come in as well.