

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Dr. Lawless Park
October 14, 2021**

9:00 a.m. – CALL MEETING TO ORDER –President Kucklick

INVOCATION – Commissioner R.. Parrish

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner File

ROLL CALL – Recording Secretary Dohm

Director Wyman – P

Thomas Atkinson – p

Annie File - P

Bruce Campbell - P

Hailey Harman - A

David Kring – P

Fritz Kucklick – P

Lyndon Parrish - A

Robert Parrish - P

Jamie Stafne - P

Jeff VanBelle - A

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Commissioner Stafne

Second: Commissioner Atkinson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion: Commissioner Stafne

Second: Commissioner Atkinson

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS –

Blair Garzo, Birch Lake Home Owners Association

Josh Long, Grotto Network/Notre Dame

Matt Newton, Deputy County Administrator

PUBLIC COMMENT –

1. Josh Long introduced himself, but was unable to show his mini-documentary of Dr. Lawless International Dark Sky Park that he has been working on. He did state that we would be able to use this in our advertising of the park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.
 - a. Birch Lake Boat Launch – Mr. Fallon met Director Wyman at Birch Lake and physically showed him where the table-sized hump from prop wash was located. Director Wyman reported that the contractor will have to rent a long-reach excavator to take care of the problem. Director Wyman apologized for the inconvenience to boat owners at Birch Lake, and he is hoping to get the DNR to agree to partner with this project to get a permanent solution and improvement to the boat launch.

BUDGET – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.
 - a. Into the new fiscal year, and realizing the high fuel cost and high construction cost will have an impact on the new year projects.
 - b. The question was asked if the county had reimbursed the \$6500 for the survey that was done. The answer was “no”.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dark Sky Report by Commissioner Parrish
 - a. Told how well-received the Southern Straight Singers were.
 - b. SQM meter readings are maintaining at 3/100ths above what we were last year.
 - c. Has ordered a small computer to aid with showing images that he is looking at with his telescope to the public.

- d. Has talked with Dr. Dave Seaman regarding the Notre Dame connection for possible assistance with an observatory.
2. Russ lease
 - a. Director Wyman stated that he has the 5-year lease for Russ Forest Park, and asked Deputy Director Newton who it needs to go to for review.
3. Lawless Master Plan
 - a. Really well done
 - b. Director Wyman has a meeting with SW Michigan Planning Commission plus the DNR regarding the funding cycle and the Covid recovery money.
 - c. Director Wyman has the numbers for renovating the Schug.
4. M-60/M-40 Signage
 - a. With the upsize in the sign design that we liked better, the price to remove the old sign and post, fabricate and install the new signs, the cost will be \$7,025.00
5. Special Events
 - a. Harvest Fest/Trunk or Treat – October 16
 - b. Sandhill Crane – October 24

NEW BUSINESS

1. Park Data
 - a. Recording Secretary Dohm gave an overview of park comparison numbers to previous years.
2. November meeting date.
 - a. Changed to November 10 because of the November 11 Veteran's Day observance.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Stafne questioned Deputy Administrator Newton about the county's website.
- It was noted that Mike Lowe had an engagement in our area, and is willing to come do a presentation at Lawless next spring.

Adjournment:

Motion: Commissioner R. Parrish

Second: Commissioner File

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Respectfully submitted,
Patty Dohm
Recording Secretary

Next regular meeting November 10, 2021