

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Russ Forest
September 8, 2022**

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

INVOCATION – Director Wyman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Parrish

ROLL CALL –

Director Wyman – P	Annie File – A	Lyndon Parrish - P	Jaimie Stafne - P
Bruce Campbell –P	David Kring – A	Robert Parrish – P	Jeff VanBelle - P
Skip Dyes –A	Fritz Kucklick – P	Ryan Laylin - A	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Commissioner R. Parrish
Second: Commissioner L. Parrish

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion: Commissioner L. Parrish
Second: Commissioner R. Parrish

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS –

1. Charlie Fish
2. Fritz Deyer

PUBLIC COMMENT –

1. Charlie Fish presented the board with a letter indicating the issues he has with Harmon Park in its neglected state and would like to see it improved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

1. None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.
 - a. Lawless 50 was very successful, and over 20 rigs stayed overnight.
 - b. Read the thank you note from NIMBA.
 - c. Night hike with Ron Gunn was successful, look for more of those.
 - d. There was an emergency well repair at Lawless that cost \$4200.
 - e. The bear has moved on.

BUDGET – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dark Sky
 - a. Great turn out for Perseids.
 - i. There was overnight parking for this, was very positive and will do more for special events.
 - b. Northern Lights expectation – park was open, but not visible.
 - c. Have 4200+ followers on Facebook.
 - d. Has done 2 presentations.
 - e. A slightly damaged exceptional cooler was donated to the park by the hardware store in Granger.
 - f. Dom, a professor at Notre Dame and frequent visitor to Dark Skies will possibly be able to help out at Dark Skies in order to have more open nights
 - i. Dom will be hosting Dark Skies September 23 & 24 in Robert's absence.

- g. IDA is proposing changes (including their name).
- h. Attendees are asking for internet access at Lawless. It would also help with being able to show what the telescope is seeing to the audience.
- i. Haven't heard from Notre Dame regarding the observatory.
- j. The night the trio sang, there were 250-300 in attendance. Very well received.

Motion: Commissioner R. Parrish: When the park opens for special events (Perseids, Norther Lights, etc.) charge a flat fee of \$5 per vehicle entrance fee instead of the normal \$2 & \$3.

Second: Commissioner Van Belle

- 2. Thomas Rea Property
 - a. County Director Newton met with Dr. Rea.
 - b. Director Wyman recommends the county not take over the property, and suggests a land conservancy would be a better option for it.
- 3. Rail Trail Update
 - a. There will be a meeting later this month.
 - b. One of the bigger problems facing them is the challenge of getting the trail from the railroad crossing (near McDonalds) to the Midwest Energy area.
- 4. Campground Area at Lawless
 - a. Been rather dropped. Need to have a consultant regarding it, as there are many challenges to be considered.
- 5. Grant Notifications
 - a. Director Wyman indicated that he has met with them, and is expecting to hear any time now regarding whether or not we have received a grant.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Dodd Park
 - a. Renter moved out of the 35-year-old mobile home, for which he paid \$300/month rent. In turn, the renter did keep an eye out on the park.
 - b. Next month's meeting will be at Dodd Park to review the facility and make recommendations.
 - c. The space has real value, whether to fix the trailer, remove it and place a different one there, or possible shower facility for cabins since there is already water there.
- 2. Special Events
 - a. October 15 – Sandhill Crane
 - b. October 22 – Harvest Fest/Trunk or Treat

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sears boat launch seems to be holding up.

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner L. Parrish

Second: Commissioner Campbell

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
 Patty Dohm
 Recording Secretary

Next regular meeting October 13, 2022 at Dodd Park.