

CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**Arthur Dodd County Park
61437 Creek Rd.,
Niles, MI 49120**

October 12, 2023

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

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Commissioner Laylin

ROLL CALL – Secretary Dohm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

PUBLIC COMMENT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DIRECTOR’S REPORT - Director Wyman

BUDGET REPORT - Director Wyman

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Dark Sky**
- **Special Events**
- **Grants update**

NEW BUSINESS

- **AmeriCorps**
- **Dodd Park Tour**

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Next regular meeting November 9, 2023. Please call 445-4456 if you cannot attend.

CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
2nd Floor Conference Room
County Services Building
Cassopolis, MI 49031
September 14, 2023

4:00 p.m. – CALL MEETING TO ORDER –Recording Secretary Dohm

INVOCATION – Commissioner Campbell

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Stafne

ROLL CALL –

Director Wyman –	P Annie File –P	Ryan Laylin – P	Lyndon Parrish -A
Jamie Stafne - P	Bruce Campbell –P	Jayne Bailey – P	Fritz Kucklick - A
Joyce Sheteron-Locke - P	Robert Parrish – A	Jeff VanBelle – P	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Commissioner Laylin

Second: Commissioner Sheteron-Locke

Approved

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER’S MINUTES

Motion to accept: Laylin

Second: Commissioner Stafne

Approved

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS –

None

PUBLIC COMMENT –

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

None

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.
 1. Will be involved with the Historical Society’s Harvest Fest.
 2. Sandhill Crane ½ Marathon already has 100+ runners signed up.
 3. Thanks was given to Cass County Road Commission for filling potholes.
 4. Director Wyman met with people from the Health Department and Mosier Well Drilling regarding the water hand pumps. Seasonal wells an option?
 5. Helped with the HHW – lots of tires.
 6. Celtic group in August was a success. The Friends of the Parks sold concessions. Need to expand music program and expand/enhance the visitor experience.

BUDGET – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.
 1. In the last few weeks of fiscal year, trying to be very responsible with finances. Repairs line item appears in good shape.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dark Sky
 1. Report was presented by Director Wyman in Commissioner R. Parrish’s absence.

2. Commissioner R. Parrish travels extensively for Dark Sky and is at Beaver Island at the time of this meeting helping with their bid for dark sky status.
 3. We had over 450 cars for the Perseid Meteor Showers.
 4. Predicts that the total eclipse of the sun will not affect SW Michigan.
2. LWCF Grant – Director Wyman met with the BOC, resolution passed, Administrator Newton signed it, DNR will sign it. We have until 2026 to complete it.
3. Sparks Grant
 1. Marcie has not not anything regarding our Sparks Grant application nor the one for the Heritage Trail.
4. AmeriCore Workers
 1. Seven individuals should be starting Monday doing odd jobs at Lawless. They will be staying at Camp Tannadoona and drive to Lawless each day.
5. Arts-in-the-Parks
 1. Went well. We provided the overview and transportation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Friends/Harvest Festival
 1. Committed to purchase 10 barrel cars for our own train. Should be here for Harvest Festival.
2. Dodd Park Overview/Future
 1. Postponed to October meeting. Meeting to be held at Dodd Park.

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Laylin

Second: Commissioner Stafne

Meeting Adjourned

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Respectfully submitted,
Patty Dohm
Recording Secretary

Next regular meeting October 12 at Arthur Dodd Memorial Park

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
October 12, 2023

Dr. Lawless:

- Hosted one scouting troop.
- Hosted AmeriCorps Maple Team for three weeks.
- Hosted one night of star gazing.
- Hosted two shelter reservations.

Dodd:

- Hosted five shelter reservations.

Russ Forest:

- Hosted Harvest Festival event sponsored by Historical Commission
- Hosted two shelter reservations.
- Trimmed trails for Harvest Festival event.

Stevens Memorial Park:

- Mowed

Sears Park:

- Mowed
- CCRC is committed to fixing road washout issues.

Harmon Park East / West:

- Mowed.

General:

- Mosier Well Drilling flushed Russ well and our last sample was negative for coliform bacteria.
- Working with Ron Gunn to prepare for Sandhill Crane event at Dr. Lawless Park.
- Jay, Jody, and I have spent most of the last three weeks working with AmeriCorps Team Maple.
- Long time parks supporter and environmental advocate Barb Cook passed away recently. Our hearts go out to her friends and family.

Jay and Jodi have been mostly busy working with the AmeriCorps Team Maple cutting back trails, painting, fixing boardwalks, sealing wood surfaces, and preparing for special events. Conservative estimates are the Maple Team has provided the County of Cass more than \$25,000 worth of volunteer help in the last three weeks.

Patty has been working on the new Fall newsletter. All indications are that it will be one of her best. Of course, planning for the Harvest Festival will take most of her time in the next two weeks. Response so far is encouraging, and we hope to add more and more activities as the days go by. A special thank you to The Friends of the Cass County Parks for their purchase of ten (10) barrel wagons to be filled by youngsters wanting to be pulled by the gator. I can see us using them for parades as well. Patty is working on a design to decorate the barrels. The Friends have also committed to purchasing a mascot outfit for use within the parks.