Minutes of a Scheduled meeting of the Allegan County
Parks and Recreation Commission

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Allegan County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Transportation Director Dan Wedge at 8:34am on Tuesday, February 04, 2014 in the Zimmerman Room on the main level of the Human Services Building, 3255 122nd Avenue, Allegan, Michigan.

Roll Call showed the following members:

PRESENT:      Bruce Culver  Maryln Langeance  
               Larry Rasmussen  Robert Kaarlie  
               Bruce Brandon  Lenore Sartini  
               Denise Medemar  Dean Kapenga  

ABSENT:       Mark DeYoung  
               Chuck Pullen  

Also Present: Dan Wedge, Transportation Director  
               Ashley Thomson, Transportation Administrative Assistant  
               Jeanne Van Zoeren, Friends of the Blue Star Trail Representative  
               David Dobreff, Friends of the Blue Star Trail Representative  
               Kris Allred, Hamilton Resident  

ELECTION OF 2014 OFFICERS

CHAIRPERSON
Bruce Culver nominated Bob Kaarlie as the 2014 Allegan County Parks Commission Chairperson. With no further nominations a motion was made by Bruce Culver, seconded by Lenore Sartini to unanimously vote for Bob Kaarlie as the 2014 Allegan County Parks Commission Chairperson. The motion carried by everyone present.

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Larry Rasmussen nominated Bruce Culver as the 2014 Allegan County Parks Commission Vice Chairperson. With no further nominations a motion was made by Larry Rasmussen, seconded by Dean Kapenga to unanimously vote for Bruce Culver as the 2014 Allegan County Parks Commission Vice Chairperson. The motion carried by everyone present.
SECRETARY
Maryln Langeance nominated Denise Medemar as the 2014 Allegan County Parks Commission Secretary. With no further nominations a motion was made by Maryln Langeance, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to unanimously vote for Denise Medemar as the 2014 Allegan County Parks Commission Secretary. The motion carried by everyone present.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA
None.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES
A motion was made by Bruce Brandon, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to approve the Parks Commission December 3, 2013 meeting minutes as mailed and presented. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
A motion was made by Lenore Sartini, seconded by Dean Kapenga to approve the Parks Commission 2013 year-end and 2014 January financial reports as presented. The motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Dean Kapenga attended a Manlius Township meeting and the East Saugatuck Park was discussed. This park is roughly 3 acres, has ball diamond, parking lot, shelter with picnic tables, swings, playground equipment, basketball court and a bathroom. The neighborhood association that this park is in was paying the dues to keep this park a nonprofit park. The nonprofit status went back to the township and is no longer part of the neighborhood association. The Manlius township doesn’t have the funds to maintain the park would like to the county Parks Commission to consider ownership. Bob Kaarlie shared that there are other townships that have their own parks and if we take over this one then the other townships will want us to take over their parks as well. Currently there is no extra money to cover the ongoing maintenance of this park.

A motion was made by Larry Rasmussen, seconded by Bruce Brandon for Manlius Township retain ownership of East Saugatuck Park and not to have the County take ownership. The motion carried.

Jeanne Van Zoeren, president of the Friends of the Blue Star Trail and David Dobreff, board member of the Friends of the Blue Star Trail, is present to update the Parks Commission on the 20 mile non-motorized pedestrian/bicycle pathway connecting South Haven and Saugatuck along Michigan’s west coast. Jeanne shared phase one is scheduled for completion in fall 2014. Village of Douglas has committed general revenue funds to pay for this section in its entirety for phase one. Phase two construction is scheduled to begin fall 2014 and be completed spring 2015. An already approved CMAQ grant, combined with private matching funds will pay for this section of the trail for phase two. Phase three and four construction has not been scheduled yet. Funding for Phase three and four is expected from a combination of federal and state dollars with private matching funds. FOTBST will be asking Saugatuck, Casco and Ganges Townships to assume ownership for a section of the trail. Jeanne shared augmentations to the Allegan County Parks long range plan. Bob Kaarlie asked about trail maintenance and Jeanne stated the county will not have to maintenance or repair with County funds because they have an endowment fund to cover that. FOTBST would like to be part of the Parks Master Plan as one of the goals proposed as Collaborate with local governments, the County Board of Commissioners, and the Friends of the Blue Star Trail to develop an off road recreational pathway along the lakeshore in Allegan County. Bob Kaarlie would like them to present to the Board of Commissioners but does not think it needs to added as a goal in the Parks Master Plan. Bob Kaarlie suggested writing a letter of support. It was discussed to change the wording of the goal to read Collaborate with local governments, the County Board of Commissioners, and the Friends of the Blue Star Trail to develop a recreational non-motorized trail along the lakeshore in Allegan County with outside funding not to include park funds.

After more discussion a motion was made by Bruce Brandon, seconded by Larry Rasmussen to revise the goal to read “Collaborate with local governments, the County Board of Commissioners, and the Friends of the
Blue Star Trail to develop a non-motorized recreational pathway along the lakeshore in Allegan County with multiple funding source, but that do not include County funds. (Parks or Road Commission)" The motion carried with a five to two count to approve the motion as follows:

- Absent – Mark DeYoung
- Yes – Maryln Langeance
- No – Bob Kaarlie
- No – Bruce Culver
- Absent – Chuck Pullen
- Yes – Larry Rasmussen
- Yes – Bruce Brandon
- Yes – Lenore Sartini
- Absent – Dean Kapenga
- Yes – Denise Medemar

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PARKS COORDINATOR POSITION – UPDATE
Dan reports the second round of interviews have been completed. They have selected a candidate and they hope to introduce the person at the next meeting. Background checks are currently being done.

CELL TOWER AT LITTLEJOHN LAKE PARK – UPDATE
Dan reported that the people that investigate the towers for Verizon have been to the site. He shared that it’s in the final stage of analysis. The options are it would cost about $200,000 to build a tower or someone else could build a tower and then lease it to us. Another firm has to come to the site and check for potential contamination. Littlejohn is the ideal location for the tower. It would be a stand-alone tower behind the service barn. Bruce Culver asked if parks would get any of the lease money since it is on parks property. Dan shared that it was county land and would go in to the county general fund, but from there it could be allocated to parks.

WEST SIDE PARK GRANT – UPDATE
Dan reported that MC Smith sent out 2 schedules to start construction. Since we already have and continue to get reservations for the pavilion we are going with the later schedule. So construction should start fall of 2014 and be completed about spring 2015. Dan shared that since MC Smith has done the master plan, budget and application process they automatically assume they are going to be the architect. The County policy may require the project to go out to bid. This is undetermined at this time.

NEW BUSINESS
NONE

NEXT MEETING – MARCH 4, 2014 @ 8:30AM IN THE ZIMMERMAN ROOM

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Bruce Brandon reports that he attended the Michigan Recreation Parks Association conference on behalf of Casco Township. They have classes and training. He shared that park managers and board members attended this conference. He wondered if anyone here was a member of it and thought it would be a good idea if someone attended like the new Parks Coordinator.

Denise Medemar asked if we would need to get a special use permit for the cell tower at Littlejohn? Dan believes this project would require one, but the applicant would have to apply for this from the township.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss a motion was made by Larry Rasmussen, seconded by Marilyn Langeance to adjourn the meeting at 10:20am. The motion carried.
By: _________________________________________
Ashley Thomson, Transportation Administrative Assistant