



Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes August 17, 2020

The August 17, 2020 meeting Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. at the Footesite Barn by chairman Tom Ferguson.

ROLL CALL

Present: John Moehring, Fred Strauer, Sue Flora, Jim McArdle, Frank Brewer, Bob Leslie, Gary Blaser and Tom Ferguson

Absent: None

Guests: John McBain, AuSable Valley Trail Riders, Mike Beck, USFS, Molly Pozek, USFS, Ken Foster and Joel Foster.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved and supported to accept the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved and supported to accept the minutes of July 13, 2020 Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission distributed. **Motion Carried**

PUBLIC MATTERS AND CONCERNS

Mr. McBain noted that 12 members of his club will be headed to Escanaba for a four day trail ride. He also noted that the AuSable Trail Riders have lost their primary funding source with the closure of the card rooms under the governor's executive order.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SNOWMOBILE/ORV TRAILS

Mr. Ferguson reported that the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission has been given the green light to begin grading and brushing the ORV trails. The USFS was thanked for the work they did in clearing trees from the trails following a strong wind storm that dropped a significant number of trees across the forest. The Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission also discussed the various areas that will be worked on over the coming months in preparation for the winter trail riding season. It is also important that the ORV trails also get graded as well. The USFS is also working on signing along the ORV trails.

BIKE/HIKING TRAILS

Mr. Ferguson stated that he continues to work with Spicer Group on the Iosco Exploration Trail. Several members of the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission commented on how nice the new trail looks.

PARK DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Handicapped Park at the AuSable River will be closed due to high water for the rest of the year, unless the water levels drop significantly. A grant is being sought to improve the location. Parking will be a critical issue in getting funding for the ADA handicapped accessible site. This will include the addition of a seawall to keep the river off the deck material. The VanEttan Creek Dam Park will see a grant application for improvements to the river bank and access to the river. Additional parking and improved park amenities are also being discussed. Additional park land and the development of the seawall and boating access site was also discussed. Additional input will be gathered with the appointment of a Park Grant/Development Committee that will work with the Spicer Group, DNR and others to expand the opportunities for recreation in all of Iosco County. Picnic tables and barbecue grills will be sought for the Van Ettan Creek Dam, however, no additional work will be done on this park until the US Air Force completes their work on the contamination at the former air force base and the drainage that moves through the park property.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

LIBERTY ROAD TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The project has been given the green light. Mr. Blaser will work with Mr. Bain and the Iosco County Road Commission to get this project completed. Stakes may need to be reset. Mr. Foster will help by re-staking where necessary. Roger MacNeil has indicated that he would like to see this work completed ASAP.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission toured the newly completed building at Footesite. There are still a few items that need to be completed, but for all intents and purposes the building is completed. It was moved and support to approve payment of \$39,904.00 for change orders and electrical improvements to the Sand Lake and the two Footesite barns. Roll Call Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays with 1 abstention (Mr. Strauer). Motion **CARRIED**

GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Iosco County Parks and Recreation will receive an update at the September 14 meeting. Mr. Eggers will have information relating to the various grant applications including the US. Gypsum property, AuSable River Handicapped Park and the Van Ettan Creek Dam Park.

EXPANSION OF IOSCO COUNTY ORV TRAILS

Mike Beck from the US Forest Service reported at the present time there has not been new information regarding any expansion of the trails since the COVID-19 issue has slowed down the process of getting this project approved.

U.S. Gypsum Property Grant - Rob Eggers

More information will be forthcoming over the next couple of months

NEW BUSINESS

REOPENING ORV TRAILS/MAINTENANCE

The Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission has received permission to resume grooming, signing and brushing. This should return everything to normal.

TAWAS CITY PARKLAND - 13 ACRES

Mr. Ferguson presented the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission with an opportunity to develop a new park in Tawas City behind and adjacent to Dean Arbour Ford in Tawas City. Following discussion it was determined that the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission would need additional information before moving forward with a new park in this area. The item will be discussed at the next meeting - September 14.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. McBain was thanked for assisting with the meeting and for cooking the hot dogs. His help is very much appreciated.

Any Other Matters

PAYMENT OF BILLS AND PER DIEMS

It was moved and supported to approve the Bills as presented. Roll Call: Ayes 9 Nays: 0 **Motion CARRIED**

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission will take place on Monday, September 14, 2020. The meeting will begin at 3 p.m. at the Footesite Barn unless the social distancing rules keeps the county building closed. If that is the case the meeting will again be held via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Tom Ferguson