



Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes February 18, 2020

The February 18, 2020 meeting Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. in the Commissioners Room at the Iosco County Building by Chairman Tom Ferguson.

ROLL CALL

Present: Fred Strauer, Bob Moore, Bob Leslie, Gary Blaser, John Moehring, Jim McArdle, Frank Brewer, Jane Hayward and Tom Ferguson

Absent: Sue Flora

Guests: John McBain, Roger Kilbury, Brian Pelton and Ken 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 January 13, 2020 Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission distributed. **Motion Carried**

PUBLIC MATTERS AND CONCERNS

Mr. McBain reported that the Hot Dog Meet and Greet went very well for the AuSable Valley Trail Riders. A large number of snowmobilers turned up at the warming shed to enjoy hot dogs and conversation. He also reported that they hosted a writer and photographer from SnoGoer Magazine on Monday, February 17. The group was organized by the Ogemaw County Snowmobile group. The tour was well received and it is anticipated that we will see some photos and articles about snowmobiling in this part of Michigan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SNOWMOBILE/ORV TRAILS

Mr. Ferguson reported that things were going well in the county on the trails. Grooming has been exceptional and reports coming from riders has been positive. A single complaint received through MISORVA was found to be in another county on Trail #96. Ken Foster reported that they are having issues with the 2015 tractor's transmission and computer reports. Bader Brothers has a technician at the Footesite Barn working on it.

BIKE/HIKING TRAILS

Mr. Ferguson indicated that he would be taking over the lead on the Iosco Exploration Trail grant implementation. He will be working closely with Spicer Group and the Iosco County Road Commission once the spring thaw allows for construction along the trail route. More information will be forthcoming.

PARK DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Strauer introduced Brian Pelton from Print 'n Go in East Tawas. He presented options for signs on the County Parks and Recreation Commission buildings and parks. Mr. Ferguson will forward Mr. Pelton the logo so that he can begin creating layouts for the signs. Draft sign designs will be presented at the next meeting of the County Parks and Recreation Commission.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

LIBERTY ROAD TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Blazer and Mr. Brewer will follow up with Mr. Bolen at the Iosco County Road Commission to determine if the project is something that the Road Commission can do. A cost estimate needs to be submitted so that the project can be awarded and work authorized before the spring thaw.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Footesite storage barn project is on hold and remain that way until Spring.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Rob Eggers from the Spicer Group spoke to the County Parks and Recreation Commissioners via telephone regarding the VanEttan Creek Park and the Handicapped Park in AuSable Township. Mr. Eggers continues to look for options regarding these two parks along with the potential to acquire the adjacent trailer park at VanEttan Creek. A new project was also discussed. The US Gypsum land has become available and is currently on the market for \$2,500,000.00. The discussion regarding the purchase of this parcel centered around the availability of a Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant and how it would bring additional recreation land to the county. Mr. Eggers will do some research and get back to the County Parks and Recreation Commission. Deadline for grant applications in this cycle is April 1 so time is of the essence.

EXPANSION OF IOSCO COUNTY ORV TRAILS

Shane Forshee along with Andrew Kenyon, Molly Pezek and Mike Beck from the US Forest Service met with the County Parks and Recreation Commission Committee on Snowmobiles and ORVs prior to the regular monthly meeting. They indicated that the US Forest Service is close to opening Forest Roads to ORV traffic in the near future. This is good news for those ORV riders on side by side and UHVs. More information will be forthcoming in the next month or two.

NEW BUSINESS

GROOMER WORKSHOP

It was moved and supported to send Gary Blaser, Ken Foster, Joel Foster and Roger Kilbury to the Groomer Workshop in Sault Ste. Marie on March 5-7. The DNR will pay for one board member and one groomer operator to attend the meeting. The County Parks and Recreation Commission will cover the cost of Joel Foster attending. Mr. Kilbury will be going at his own expense.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None at this time.

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, March 16, 2020. The meeting will begin at 3 p.m. at the Commissioners Room in the Iosco County Building.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Tom Ferguson