



# Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes July 13, 2020

The July 13, 2020 meeting Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. electronically in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 2020-75 (COVID-19) by chairman Tom Ferguson.

## **ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Fred Strauer, Bob Moore

Guests: Rob Eggers - Spicer Group

## **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 June 15, 2020 Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission distributed.

**Motion Carried**

## **PUBLIC MATTERS AND CONCERNS**

None at this time.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **SNOWMOBILE/ORV TRAILS**

Mr. Ferguson reported that due to the Corona Virus pandemic all work on ORV and snowmobile trails has been suspended effective March 31, 2020. With a portion of that order rescinded the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission will be able to make one pass on grading, return to brushing and signing, however, no funds have been release beyond that point. It is anticipated that the DNR will be notifying the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission regarding resumption of full time grooming. There is concern that the trails will need a great deal of work to put them in shape for the snowmobile season as well as maintaining them for the ORV season throughout this summer. Mr. Blaser reported that MISORVA is also looking at trail improvement and spending to expand Michigan's ORV and snowmobile trails.

### **BIKE/HIKING TRAILS**

Mr. Ferguson stated that he has been working with Spicer Group on a change order that will need to be approved soon. The cost of the change order is in the neighborhood of \$35,000.00, however, it will not impact the bottom line of the project. Work has been ongoing with daily reports being received from the Spicer Group offices. Mr. Eggers updated the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission on the progress being made on the Iosco Exploration Trail (IET) from Mill Street to Oscoda High School.

### **PARK DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Handicapped Park at the AuSable River has been closed due to high water. 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.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **LIBERTY ROAD TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

The project is waiting for the DNR to approve the restart of this construction project. More information should be available at the August 17 meeting.

### **BUILDING CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Mr. Ferguson indicated that the building was complete with the exception of the electrical work. The work was held up while waiting for the doors to be installed. Once the building is secured the electrical will be completed. There is a need to do additional electrical work at the Sand Lake Barn and the at the old Footesite Barn. Lighting and power issues required that additional electrical service be provided. The additional cost for this work will be approximately \$13,000.00 which will be completed as part of the new barn construction. It was moved and supported to authorize Mr. Ferguson to work with the building contractor to update and improve the electrical at Sand Lake, and the two Footesite Buildings. Roll Call Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion **CARRIED**

### **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

The Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission will be moving toward application for a Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant along with identifying the cost of operating and maintaining a park of this size. Spicer Group is working on getting numbers pulled together. Rob Eggers from Spicer Group gave the Commission an update on this project. It was moved and supported to retain Spicer Group to assist in the application at a cost of \$6500.00. Roll Call Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion **CARRIED**

### **EXPANSION OF IOSCO COUNTY ORV TRAILS**

Mike Beck from the US Forest Service has not reported back regarding any expansion of the trails since the COVID-19 issue has slowed down the process of getting this project approved.

### **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. Additional expenses should be anticipated regarding the Liberty Road project.

#### **GRANT REQUEST - PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP**

The request from Plainfield Township for a matching grant for the Iron Belle Trail portion in the township was not approved. Prior to passing the parks millage it was stated that funds from the millage would not be used for matching grants for the IET. The millage proposal did indicate that millage funds would be used for operation and maintenance going forward.

#### **U.S. Gypsum Property Grant - Rob Eggers**

Rob Eggers from Spicer Group explained the grant process for this tract of land. The 4200' of lake frontage makes this a very desirable project for the NRTF and others. He is also working on a cost estimate for operating and maintaining this park should the grant be approved. More information will be forthcoming over the next couple of months

#### **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 7 Nays: 0 **Motion CARRIED**

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission will take place on Monday, June 15, 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 3:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Tom Ferguson