



# Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes March 19, 2018

The March 19, 2018 meeting Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission chairman Tom Ferguson called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room at the Iosco County Building.

## **ROLL CALL**

Present: Tom Ferguson, Jane Hayward, Sue Flora, John Moehring, Gary Blaser, Bob Moore, Rick Hammel, Ben Brewer, Robert Leslie and Fred Strauer.

Absent: None

Guests: John McBain and Roger Killbury.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved and supported to accept the agenda as mailed. **Motion CARRIED**

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

It was moved and supported to accept the minutes of the February 20, 2018 Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission as distributed. **Motion CARRIED.**

## **PUBLIC MATTERS AND CONCERNS**

John McBain announced that the first meeting of the AuSable Trail Riders would be on May 17 at the Footesite Dam Barn. He also indicated that on April 28 the club will participate in their annual spring trail cleanup. May 19 has been set for the youth ORV certification classes to be held at the Footesite Barn.

Roger Killbury indicated that the SAW group was told that the Emily Myers had resigned and has left the DNR. He also reported on a number of other topics that were discussed at the meeting that was held over the weekend.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **SNOWMOBILE/ORV TRAILS**

Mr. Ferguson indicated that the 2017-18 snowmobile season is all but over. The groomers were able to get in a final pass following a recent snow storm, but for the most part the trails are all dirt or snirt. There was discussion about possibly seeking new equipment for the ORV trails (the narrow 50" trails are creating a problem for maintenance). The Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission will ask for new equipment on the 2018 forms to the DNR.

### **BIKE/HIKING TRAIL**

Mr. Ferguson indicated that the work on the Bike Trail is continuing and there should be some activity taking place as soon as weather permits in the spring. The steering committee has been meeting on a regular basis with the Road Commission, MDOT and Spicer Engineering to coordinate all work being undertaken. The Iosco County Road Commission has signed the agreement for the FLAP grant which was required to meet state and federal regulations.

### **PARK DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

There was discussion concerning two large drain pipes that cross the park property and empty into the VanEttan Creek. The runoff from these pipes has the smell of kerosene or jet fuel. Fred Strauer indicated that he would investigate the source of the drainage and report back to the commission. A check of the deed shows no easement or right-of-way for any drains from the old Wurtsmith AFB or the current Oscoda/Wurtsmith Airport Authority. There has been a great deal of discussion in the Oscoda area through the NOW group which has been meeting with the DEQ and the U.S. government to determine what can be done about ground water contaminants in the area. The concern for the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission is that some of the water flow from the airport

is causing contaminants to enter the river through the drains on the county's property.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **MSA GROOMER WORKSHOP**

Gary Blaser reported on his attendance at the annual MSA Groomer Workshop on behalf of the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission. Some new equipment was displayed for those in attendance to test drive. The DNR made several presentations regarding funding, filling out paperwork and reports relating to both the snowmobile and ORV trails and maintenance. Gary will reach out to Ken Foster to bring him up to speed on the various new requirements that were introduced at the workshop.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **PARKS MILLAGE REQUEST**

Mr. Ferguson provided a draft of a millage request for .15 mills that would fund the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission for four years. The request would be placed on the November general election for voter approval. The request would generate approximately \$165,000 annually. A portion of the millage would be made available to local communities in the form of park improvement grants. All county municipalities would be able to make a request for funding to paint buildings at parks, improved baseball/softball diamonds, purchase picnic tables, etc. Each year a certain amount of money would be set aside for this purpose. The remainder of the fund would be used for the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission for matching grants, maintenance of the VanEttan Creek Park, expanding recreation activities and assisting with the operation and maintenance of the Iosco Exploration Trail. More discussion will take place before asking the Iosco County Board of Commissioners to approve the placement of the millage request on the November ballot.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

None

## **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

### **PAYMENT OF BILLS AND PER DIEMS**

It was moved and supported to approve the bills as submitted. Roll Call: Ayes: 9, Nays: None, Abstentions: 1. Motion **CARRIED**.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission will take place at 4 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2018 at the Commissioners Room at the Iosco County Building.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Tom Ferguson