



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

John A. Scholtz
Director

July 29, 2010

Commission Members

Ted Bosgraaf
President

Bobbi Jones Sabine
Vice President

Philip Kuyers
Secretary

Jim Miedema

Joyce Kortman

Roger E. Jonas

Ray Statema

David Van Ginhoven

David L. Vander Kooi

Paul Geerlings

NOTICE OF MEETING

Dear Commission Member:

The regular meeting of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 4, 2010** at **4:00 p.m.** in **Conference Room E**, (in the lower level) of the Administration Building of the Fillmore Street Complex, 12220 Fillmore, West Olive, MI 49460.

The agenda for the meeting and copies of referenced documents are attached for your review.

Please contact Sherry at the Parks and Recreation Commission Office at 738-4813 if you will be unable to attend.

Sincerely,

John A. Scholtz
Parks and Recreation Director

JAS/sc

Enclosures

Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Agenda

August 4, 2010
Conference Room E
Fillmore Complex
4:00 p.m.

***Mission Statement:** The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission will enhance quality of life for residents and visitors by preserving parks and open spaces and by providing natural resource-based recreation and education opportunities.*

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call: Bosgraaf, President
Sabine, Vice President
Kuyers, Secretary
Geerlings
Kortman
Jonas
Statema
Miedema
Van Ginhoven
Vander Kooi
3. Absences (excused/unexcused)
4. Additions/Deletions to Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes
 - a) Approve the minutes of the Commission's July 7, 2010 regular meeting.
6. Communications
 - a) Receive the July 7, 2010 memorandum from Peter F. Seccia regarding the health of our beach users.
 - b) Receive the July 16, 2010 letter from Donald Komejan, Manager of Holland Charter Township, regarding the naming of the Van Dam property.
 - c) Receive the July 20, 2010 letter from Deborah Apostol of the DNRE regarding a grant inspection at Grand River Park.
 - d) Receive the July 20, 2010 letter from Deborah Apostol of the DNRE regarding a grant inspection at Hager Park
 - e) Review comment cards and emails received since the previous meeting.
7. Public Heard (Public comments limited to 3 minutes)

8. Staff Reports

- a) Director's Report
- b) Coordinator – Parks Manager Report
- c) Interpretive and Information Services Report

9. Committee Reports

- a) Receive the report of the Public Relations meeting of July 15, 2010.
- b) Receive the report of the Planning Committee meeting of July 21, 2010.

10. Old Business

- a) Project Updates (*see Planning and Development Summary Report enclosed*)

11. New Business

12. Public Heard (Public comments limited to 3 minutes)

13. Commissioners Heard

14. Closed Session to discuss property acquisition

15. Upcoming meeting dates:

September 1, 2010 – Regular meeting

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: Conference Room E, Fillmore Complex

16. Adjournment

Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Proposed Minutes

Date: July 7, 2010

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: Fillmore Complex, Conference Room E

Present: Bobbi Jones Sabine, Jim Miedema, Roger Jonas, Ray Statema, David Vander Kooi, Joyce Kortman and Paul Geerlings

Absent: Ted Bosgraaf, Phil Kuyers and David Van Ginhoven

Staff: John Scholtz, Director; Sherry Costello, Administrative Secretary; Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development; and Dave Mazurek, Coordinator of Park Maintenance & Operations

Guests: Skip Nagelvoort, Greg Chandler (Grand Rapids Press), Peter Daining (Holland Sentinel), Nancy Gillette, Daniel Aument, Fred Vaas and Joyce Smith

Subject: Approval of Minutes

PR 10-049 Motion: To approve the minutes of the Commission's June 2, 2010 regular meeting.

Moved by: Geerlings Supported by: Miedema Unanimous

Subject: Waterfowl Hunting at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area

PR 10-050 Motion: To accept the Planning Committee's recommendation to maintain the current policy to not allow waterfowl hunting at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area for two years, at which time the issue could be reconsidered based on the wildlife situation and park user patterns.

Moved by: Sabine Supported by: Miedema

Yeas: Sabine, Miedema, Jonas, Statema, Vander Kooi and Kortman (6)

Nays: Geerlings (1)

Subject: Park 12 Bike Path Repairs

PR 10-051 Motion: To approve Denny's Excavating to complete the bike path repair of the excessive cross-slope at Historic Ottawa Beach at a cost of \$10,188.20.

Moved by: Statema Supported by: Kortman Unanimous

Subject: Go Into Closed Session

PR 10-052 Motion: To go into Closed Session to discuss property matters.
 Moved by: Geerlings Supported by: Vander Kooi
 Yeas: Sabine, Jonas, Statema, Geerlings, Vander Kooi, Kortman, and
 Miedema.
 Nays: None Motion passed 7 to 0.

Subject: To Rise From Closed Session

PR 10-053 Motion: To rise from Closed Session.
 Moved by: Vander Kooi Supported by: Jonas Unanimous

Other Items Discussed:

Vice President Sabine called the meeting to order and asked for any additions/deletions to the agenda. Scholtz indicated that the three month trial period for emailing agendas to Commissioners had expired and it was time for Commissioner review. Sabine added the agenda item to Old Business.

Sabine asked for approval of the minutes of the Commission's June 2, 2010 regular meeting. Commission members approved the minutes by motion.

Commission members received for information the June 16, 2010 letter from Elizabeth Notman opposing waterfowl hunting at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area.

Commission members reviewed comment cards and emails received since the previous meeting. Geerlings noted the number of requests for port-a-jon at the point at Riverside Park. Mazurek reported that the issue is under review. Sabine expressed her concern that a high volume of vandalism would occur due to the remote location on the point.

Sabine asked for Public Comment and there was none.

Sabine called for the Director's Report and Scholtz encouraged Commission members to attend the cemetery dedication being held at Eastmanville Farm on Saturday, July 10th, at 10:00 am. He also reported that after meeting with Bill Van Appledorn and reviewing the history of a portion of the Holland Country Club property, it was determined that the mitigation plan should be revised to protect the historic site. Revisions were made to the mitigation project by the consultant for Request Foods to reflect this change.

Scholtz then reviewed the fish habitat structures request by Timberland Conservation District. He directed Commission members to a diagram in their agenda packets and described the proposed habitat improvement structures and location on the Pigeon River at Hemlock Crossing. Scholtz indicated that the structures would attract spawning fish to the area and would create viewing opportunities from the bridge. Consensus was reached to allow the rock structures to be installed.

Sabine called for the Coordinator – Parks Manager Report. Mazurek reported very high activity on the 4th of July weekend holiday at the Lakeshore parks with no major incidents. He then updated Commission members on the status of the “Adopt a Park” program and distributed an article and packet for review. Jonas asked the status of reservations and Costello reported that 86% of last years total reservations have been secured for the coming year with most “premium” weekend dates already taken. Sabine asked for the status of the navigable water on Crockery Creek. Mazurek reported that he was in the process of identifying area landowners involved and Scholtz was researching any legalities involved with log removal.

Commission members received the Interpretive and Information Services Report. Statema commented that he liked the report and felt it was very valuable. Sabine likes the monthly reporting format.

Commission members received the report from the Planning Committee. Sabine reported that an extensive amount of time was spent reviewing the pros and cons of the proposal to allow waterfowl hunting at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area. Scholtz indicated that the final recommendation from the Planning Committee was to proceed with operations as is and re-evaluate after two years. Sabine felt that the park would receive more exposure in the future with the connection of the regional bike path. Statema felt the letter from Ms. Notman was excellent and some very good points were made. Geerlings felt that allowing hunting activity there would dissolve any problems with any current illegal hunting at the site. He also opined that the number of patrons visiting the site is very low relative to the cost and felt if hunting was managed properly it could work very well. He feared denying this request could have negative consequences for the next millage renewal. Statema stated that the door wouldn’t be closed to the idea of waterfowl hunting at the site. Geerlings asked if monitoring the attendance at the site was possible and Scholtz felt a discussion would be needed regarding ways to track the attendance on an on-going basis. A motion to accept the recommendation of the Planning Committee was passed by majority vote 6 to 1.

Vice President Sabine called for Old Business and TerHaar submitted his report as written. Vander Kooi requested the status of the Holland Harbor Fishing Access Project and TerHaar reported some clearing had been started and other land work is being completed. He noted that the Army Corps of Engineers had not yet issued their permit for the project, but it was a procedural delay and he expected it soon. Sabine expressed her pleasure with the cemetery pictures in the report. She then commended TerHaar for handling so many projects simultaneously.

Sabine then called for the Commission’s opinion on the last three months of agenda packets that had been distributed via email. Jonas expressed his satisfaction with the new process. Statema would like to have a hard copy ahead of time and felt it was too costly to print large reports from his home printer. Geerlings suggested only printing the pages you would like to have for reference and Kortman felt the process worked well. Consensus was reached to continue with the same format but Commissioners who would like a printed copy mailed in advance should email Costello.

Sabine moved to New Business and reminded Commission members that there was a motion left on the table from the last regular meeting. Scholtz reviewed a motion that was approved at the last meeting to fund 2/3 of the architectural study for the pump house

with 1/3 of the cost to be paid by the Historic Ottawa Beach Society (HOBS). Sabine suggested waiting for the architectural study to be completed before any decisions on funding the pumphouse are made. Kortman expressed her interest in seeing some form of commitment to the pumphouse and did not want a lack of commitment now to be perceived as a lack of interest in the project. Statema noted that going ahead with the cost of the architectural study did indeed show a commitment and interest in the pumphouse. Sabine felt that having the information from the study would allow the Commission to make a more responsible decision on the pumphouse. There was no motion to call the tabled motion to authorize \$100,000 to be allocated to the Park 12 pumphouse building improvement project from the table. The tabled motion is no longer valid.

Commission members received for information the report from the attendees of the Special Parks District Forum hosted by Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission. Discussion occurred on various topics related to the Forum.

Commission members received the bids for the Park 12 bike path repair. TerHaar recommended the low bidder, Denny's Excavating, to complete the work. Commission members approved the bid by motion at a cost of \$10,188.20.

Sabine asked for Public Comment. Ms. Smith complimented Andrew Colyer, Parks Stewardship Crew Supervisor, on the presentation he gave to the West Michigan Parks Association on invasive species. She then inquired about the legal obligation to the pumphouse that Commission Kuyers requested at the last meeting. Scholtz reported that legal counsel determined that there was no legal obligation to commit funds to the pumphouse.

Mr. Skip Nagelvoort expressed his support for the pumphouse museum. He then cited a phrase from the stipulation agreement approved through the Court quoting "Ottawa County shall restore and maintain the Pumphouse." Mr. Nagelvoort requested an honest conversation as to the County's commitment to the pumphouse and desired that conversation start in a positive setting. Scholtz then clarified that the stipulation agreement does not mandate a monetary commitment and also has language that calls for the County to give notice if it is determined that the pumphouse should be demolished.

Sabine thanked Mr. Nagelvoort and asked for Commissioner comments. Having none, the Parks Commission went into Closed Session to discuss property issues.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

RECEIVED

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Peter F. Secchia

SIBSCO, LLC

220 Lyon Street, NW, Suite 510

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone: 616-235-0010; Fax: 616-235-0014

JUL 17 2010

OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS
AND RECREATION COMMISSION

TO: Al Vanderberg – Administrators Office – County of Ottawa

COPY: Mayor Roger Bergman – City of Grand Haven
Philip D. Kuyers - Chairman of the Ottawa County Commission
~~Mark A. Oppenhuizen~~, President – Parks & Recreation
John Schultz – Ottawa County Parks Manager
Mayor Jeffrey Stille – City of Ferrysburg

DATE: Wednesday, July 7, 2010

SUBJECT: Miscellaneous

I have enclosed a copy of my package mailed to the “Clean Beaches Council” of July 2006.

After four years, I thought it was time to simplify the question and remind someone the health of our beach users is threatened.

1. If we close down our Ottawa County Beaches because there are “three parts per billion for a cubic centimeter of water” . . . WHY DO WE ACCEPT SAND THAT HAS PROVEN TO HAVE 5,000 TIMES THAT NUMBER?
2. If this strain of e-coli is most dangerous to babies and pregnant women . . . where is the County Department of Health on this issue?
3. Al, I know this adds to a workload on a tight budget . . . but it is an issue that needs to be addressed. There are several options.
 - A. License the beach owners to trap the seagulls?
 - B. Authorize “Open Season” for 12-gauge shotguns each spring?
 - C. Trap them and move them to Wayne County?

There just seems to be something wrong with the “logic” that is used in the current legislation that “closes” the beaches because of the water without paying any attention to the sand.

PFS:mpt

Enclosures



HOLLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP

353 North 120th Avenue • Holland, MI 49424 • P.O. Box 8127 • Holland, MI 49422

Phone: 616.396.2345 • Fax: 616.396.2537

July 16, 2010

RECEIVED

JUL 19 2010

OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS
AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Mr. John Scholtz, Director
Ottawa County Parks
and Recreation Commission
12220 Fillmore Street
West Olive, MI 49460

RE: Van Dam Property (Adams and I-196, Holland Township)

Dear John,

As previously discussed, the Township desires to establish a permanent name for the Van Dam property jointly owned by Holland Township and the Ottawa County Parks Commission. This property is located near Adams Street and I-196 in the Holland Township. Travis Williams and some of his staff members at the Outdoor Discovery Center inspected the property and proposed a variety of good suggestions for preliminary consideration.

Following review and consideration of possible names, our Board of Trustees respectfully suggests that the Van Dam property be named *Hawthorne Pond Natural Area* and requests approval of that name by the Ottawa County Parks Commission. As an alternative option, our Board members have indicated their second preference for the property name is *Willow Pond Natural Area*.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Donald Komejan

Donald Komejan, Manager
Holland Charter Township

cc: Travis Williams, Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT
LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

July 20, 2010

Mr. John A. Scholtz
Director
Ottawa County
12220 Fillmore Street
West Olive, MI 49460

RECEIVED

JUL 23 2010

OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS
AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Scholtz:

SUBJECT: TF 87-229, Grand River Park
TF 710, Grand River Park

The completed Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) project referenced above was recently inspected by staff of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE), Grants Management. The DNRE is required to conduct routine periodic inspections of grant-assisted sites. The project site was found to be maintained, operated, available to the public, and properly signed including a MNRTF plaque in compliance with the program requirements. The inspection reports have been retained in the project files located in Grants Management.

Thank you for supporting the MNRTF program by providing a very real testimony to its impact in Michigan's local park and recreation facilities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me either by phone or at the following address: **Grants Management, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, P.O. Box 30425, Lansing, MI 48909-7925.**

Sincerely,

Deborah Apostol, Unit Manager
Recreation Grants
Grants Management
517-335-3046
apostold@michigan.gov

DA:lh



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT
LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

July 20, 2010

Mr. John A. Scholtz
Director
Ottawa County
12220 Fillmore Street
West Olive, MI 49460

Dear Mr. Scholtz:

SUBJECT: 26-00089, Hager Hardwood

In order to be eligible to participate in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program, states are required to conduct post-completion inspections of each completed project at least once every five years. This requirement is spelled out in Section 675.9.5 of the LWCF manual. These inspections can be conducted either on-site or by self-certification.

The completed LWCF project referenced above was recently inspected by staff. **The project site was found to be maintained, operated, available to the public and properly signed (including LWCF plaque) in compliance with LWCF requirements.** The inspection report has been retained in the project files located in Grants Management.

Thank you for supporting the LWCF program by providing tangible evidence of its impact on Michigan's local park and recreation facilities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the telephone number or email address below. Our address is: **GRANTS MANAGEMENT, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT, PO BOX 30425, LANSING, MI 48909-7925.**

Sincerely,

Deborah Apostol, Unit Manager
Recreation Grants
Grants Management
517-335-3046
apostold@michigan.gov

DA:lh

VISITOR COMMENTS

The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission values your opinion. Please make comments or suggestions regarding your park visit/experience below.

PARK NAME Kirk Park

Write a comment/suggestion or e-mail us: parks&rec@co.ottawa.mi.us

Rename camp - Kirk Park -
R L Shotts Park
After baptist minister
from Quincy St.

Are you an Ottawa County Resident?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to receive the Ottawa County Parks Newsletter?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Optional Information

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Thank you for your comments! Please mail this self-addressed card (or return to Parks staff).

Rename camp - Kirk Park - R L Shotts Park after baptist minister from Quincy Street.

VISITOR COMMENTS

The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission values your opinion. Please make comments or suggestions regarding your park visit/experience below.

Park Name Riverside Park

Write your comment/suggestion below or email us: parks&rec@micottawa.org

I would like to bring my grandchildren to this
park. I think it would be nice if there was
a play area for the little ones. Swings - Slides
and other playground ~~id~~ stuff. Very clean
and beautiful Park - Love the trails

Are you an Ottawa County Resident? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Would you like to receive the Ottawa County Parks Newsletter? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Optional Information

Name Les Slack Phone # 616 401 9837

Street Address 3356 Byron Center Av. SW #208

City Wyoming State Mi. ZIP 49519

Email Address _____

Thank you for your comments!

Please mail this self-addressed card or return to Parks staff.

I would like to bring my grand children to this park. I think it would be nice if there was a play area for the little ones. Swings - Slides and other playground stuff. Very clean and beautiful park - Love the trails.

VISITOR COMMENTS

RM

The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission values your opinion. Please make comments or suggestions regarding your park visit/experience below.

PARK NAME Rosy Mound Natural Area

Write a comment/suggestion or e-mail us: parks&rec@co.ottawa.mi.us

We would like the option to purchase an annual pass instead of just a daily pass. Thank you.

Lic Plate #8CJV39

Are you an Ottawa County Resident?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to receive the Ottawa County Parks Newsletter?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Name Kim Rice Optional Information

Street 15329 Vintage Ave

City Grand Haven State MI Zip 49417

Phone # 616-842-2314

Thank you for your comments! Please mail this self-addressed card (or return to Parks staff).

We would like the option to purchase annual pass instead of just a daily pass. Thank you.

Follow up - Annual pass was purchased through Parks office.

VISITOR COMMENTS

RM

The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission values your opinion. Please make comments or suggestions regarding your park visit/experience below.

PARK NAME ROSY MOUND NATURAL AREA

Write a comment/suggestion or e-mail us: parks&rec@co.ottawa.mi.us

Beautiful explanations/restorations/maps, etc!!!
Wish I could buy postcards & mail its beauty all over the country. PLEASE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS FOR PERMITS. I'll return.

Are you an Ottawa County Resident?

☐ Yes ☒ No CHICAGO, IL

Would you like to receive the Ottawa County Parks Newsletter?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Name Nancy Optional Information

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # 708 275 3361

Thank you for your comments! Please mail this self-addressed card (or return to Parks staff).

Beautiful explanations/restorations/maps, etc!!!

Wish I could buy postcards and mail its beauty all over the country.

PLEASE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS FOR PERMITS. I'll return.

Follow up - Called Nancy and left message regarding the purchase of an annual permit via credit card over the phone.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 4, 2010

- **Grand River Expedition 2010 Update:** Hopefully you have seen coverage of the Expedition in local newspapers and know that it was a big success. The Grand Rapids Press, in particular, did an outstanding job in covering the event and drawing attention to the Grand River as an outstanding natural and cultural resource. Ottawa County Parks assisted the Expedition by helping to organize the overnight stop at Boynton's Landing. We helped to arrange for an evening on the Grand Lady through Bill Boynton which was the highlight of the trip for most of the participants. GVSU did a wonderful job of feeding the group at Boynton's Landing. After lunch at Deer Creek Park, Riverside Park was the next overnight stop and Ottawa County Park staff did a great job in hosting the group. They camped at the west end of the park near recent improvements. Kristen Hintz provided an evening program on owls and Dave Mazurek briefed the group on the Grand River Heritage Water Trail. Dinner and breakfast were provided by Friends of Ottawa County Parks and they did an outstanding job. It was such a huge help to have the Friends handle all of the food planning, preparation and serving. Their food was outstanding and very much appreciated by the participants. We are extremely fortunate to have a supportive group to step in and assist us in this way. The event culminated in Grand Haven on Monday, July 26 and Dave Mazurek and I manned an Ottawa County Parks exhibit featuring the water trail and Grand River related projects.



- **Park 12 Encroachment Appeal:** At one point I relayed to you Doug VanEssen's celebratory comments on our success with the Court of Appeals with the thought that we were finally finished with the Park 12 legal battles. We then learned that Fred Vaas alone continued the appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court. I am attaching the very brief order from the Michigan Supreme Court denying the appeal by Mr. Vaas. It would appear that we now really are finished with Park 12 litigation – at least for now.

- **Mission Statement:** We need to decide whether we are happy with our current mission statement or want to tweak it as has been proposed, or change it in other ways. See both the current and proposed versions below. Let's try to make a decision at this meeting.

***Current Mission:** The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission will enhance quality of life for residents and visitors by preserving parks and open spaces and by providing natural resource-based recreation and education opportunities.*

***Proposed Mission:** The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission enhances quality of life for residents and visitors, by preserving parks and open spaces and providing natural resource-based recreation and education opportunities.*

- **Poor Farm Cemetery Dedication** – The cemetery dedication at Eastmanville Farm was a huge success with over 200 people in attendance. As expected, Friends of Ottawa County Parks, through their cemetery committee, and with assistance from county park staff, did a wonderful job with the event. The barn was the perfect setting for the dedication ceremony. Curt TerHaar, who assisted the group with layout and design issues, spoke at the event as did Margie Viveen, head of the cemetery committee, and Eldon Kramer. Mr. Kramer has been the driving force for many years in restoring the cemetery in recognition of his grandfather who is buried on the property. He has also donated funds to assist in the restoration and long-term care of the site. Most people made the trip out to the cemetery following the ceremony to inspect the improvements. I was impressed by how passionate people were toward the cemetery and the history of the poor farm. It also struck me how diverse the group was and how we were reaching people that are likely not our regular park users.



- **Request Foods Mitigation** - Request Foods opted to exercise their option on conservation easement related to their mitigation project at the Holland Country Club property. I took it directly to the Board which approved it on July 27. Request Foods completed their survey work and determined the mitigation area is 21 acres. They have now paid us in full for the easement (21 A @ \$3,500 = \$73,500). Construction of the wetland is expected to begin in September of this year and be completed by the end of October.
- **EPA Grant Update:** With Curt doing the bulk of the work, we have now submitted a revised grant application in response to comments from our EPA grant administrator. Changes needed were minor and we are optimistic we are on track for final approval of our grant application in the near future. Once we get approval we will go through a process to select a consultant and then gear up for project construction in 2011. We intend to go through a park master planning process this fall which will help shape our plans plus provide direction for the \$200,000 park improvement project we have planned for this site in 2011.

- **Bass River Recreation Area Management Plan:** Some time ago Curt and I participated with state officials in a management planning process for the Bass River Recreation Area. This was not a full master planning process to identify detailed future facility plans, but it does classify land within the site as to the specific uses that can be permitted. They are now finalizing the management planning process and we still have opportunity for comment. I attended their public meeting on July 28 and made comments and I intend to follow-up with a letter. My key points are: 1) this is very important property to be in public ownership – great job in assembling the lands, 2) great job in managing the site and gradually turning a misused site into a site that offers positive recreation experiences, 3) most important – we need them to change their use designations to allow the future greenway trail through their site. Park Commissioners likely know that there is an old road/trail on the high riverbank along much of the Grand River’s south bank including our Eastmanville Bayou property. This would be an ideal location for a paved greenway trail. In order for this trail to go east to get around the Eastmanville Bayou, we would need to run the trail a short distance into state land to connect with 76th Avenue extended. One problem currently with this approach is that this portion of the site (i.e. the eastern half – formerly the Bakale property) is labeled as “primitive” in the draft management plan which does not permit paved trails. I would be asking for an exemption to permit the trail in this area. If this is allowed, the trail would likely follow streets around to the western half of Bass River where the trail could run through the state land in an area proposed to be zoned as “recreational.” If the state was even more open to trail uses in their “primitive” area, the trail could continue along the river bank past Eastmanville Bayou to the mouth of the Bass River where a footbridge could connect to the western portion of the site. This would be an absolutely stunning trail and footbridge and is what we originally envisioned for the site. It is likely, though, that hunters would oppose the trail in this location. The trail would be on the very edge of property which would limit impact on hunting, but it would likely be viewed as an intrusion. We might look for ways to compromise with hunters which might include opening Eastmanville Bayou to more hunting, consistent with Bass River and offering to close the future trail during deer gun season and possibly other peak hunting periods. Any direction the Parks Commission would like to give me on this issue would be appreciated.
- **Green Infrastructure Leadership Council:** I continue to participate in monthly meetings on the Green Infrastructure Leadership Council through the West Michigan Strategic Alliance. Our group seeks to promote green infrastructure projects throughout West Michigan. There is one staff person to assist the group and recent staff turn-over has slowed our progress, but I see that changing now with the hiring of a new director. I will report on progress as it occurs. Recently a regional inventory of park and recreation areas was completed. Also, the group is nearly ready to unveil a “toolbox” on its web site featuring methods to expand green infrastructure.
- **Riley Trails Red Pine Management:** Park staff recently discussed the report by our forestry consultant recommending red pine management at Riley Trails. We feel it would be good to have another expert review the report and give us their reaction. We have somebody in mind and will seek to get that review and then report back to the Parks Commission with a recommendation.

Order

Michigan Supreme Court
Lansing, Michigan

July 26, 2010

141005

Marilyn Kelly,
Chief Justice

Michael F. Cavanagh
Elizabeth A. Weaver
Maura D. Corrigan
Robert P. Young, Jr.
Stephen J. Markman
Diane M. Hathaway,
Justices

OTTAWA COUNTY and OTTAWA COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE,
Plaintiffs/Counter-Defendants-
Appellees,

v

SC: 141005
COA: 288167
Ottawa CC: 07-060272-CH

KERRY SHAFFER, JASIU MILANOWSKI,
WENCEL A. MILANOWSKI, and RICHARD
VANDAM TRUST,
Defendants,

EDWIN CONGER TRUST,
Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff-
Appellee,

and

FRED VAAS,
Defendant-Appellant.

On order of the Court, the application for leave to appeal the March 18, 2010 judgment of the Court of Appeals is considered, and it is DENIED, because we are not persuaded that the questions presented should be reviewed by this Court.



s0719

I, Corbin R. Davis, Clerk of the Michigan Supreme Court, certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the order entered at the direction of the Court

July 26, 2010

Corbin R. Davis

Clerk

**COORDINATOR – PARKS MANAGER
REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
JULY 2010**

WEATHER SUMMARY

- July was mostly hot, dry and sunny. 24 of the first 26 days had high temperatures of 80° or above. 14 of the first 26 days had 80% or more of percentage of possible sunshine and the only significant rainfall events occurred on the 8th and 22nd. Lakeshore parks were often in park full mode.

REVENUES COLLECTED

- Motor vehicle permit sales for the month of July (as of 7/25/10) were \$128,343 giving us a YTD total of \$169,329.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS COMPLETED

- System wide mowing operations were conducted daily.
- Set-up and clean-up was provided for 185 facility reservations.
- Minor repairs were made to grounds keeping equipment as needed (belts, cables, switches, bearings, etc...).
- Nineteen downed trees were removed at Pigeon Creek (5), Riley Trails (1), Riverside (8), HOBP (2), Pine Bend (3).
- Five dead trees were dropped at Kirk (3) and NOD (2).
- Low wet turf areas were filled in and seeded at the Fillmore at the Bend parking area.
- Minor playground equipment repairs were made at Hager, Grose, and Grand River.
- Sand was removed from the parking lot, picnic shelter, and Brock Deck at North Beach following high winds.
- Minor repairs to three chairs and an exterior door lock were made at Pigeon Creek.
- Erosion repairs following heavy rains were made at Spring Grove, Kirk, Rosy Mound, Pigeon Creek, and Mt. Pisgah.
- The tractor was used at the boat launch docks at Riverside and Grand River to adjust them to accommodate changing water levels.
- Two damaged traffic signs were replaced and one new no parking sign was installed at Hager and a damaged comment card box was repaired at Grand River.
- Low, overhanging tree limbs on the trails at Hager and Grand River were trimmed.
- The Age of Discovery restroom building walls and floors were power washed.
- A damaged curb at the Pine Bend entrance island was repaired.
- Property boundary markers on properties with Grand River frontage were inspected and replaced as needed in coordination with the Grand River Heritage Water Trail project.
- Damaged fencing at the river overlook at Pine Bend was repaired.
- Parking lot drains at UMNA were cleaned out.
- Minor plumbing repairs were needed at Hemlock Crossing, Hager, North Beach, Rosy Mound, and Tunnel.
- Minor irrigation system repairs were made at Hager and Tunnel.
- Damaged cable on post & cable at HOBP and Fillmore at the Bend was repaired.

WORK ON SMALLER PROJECTS

- The garage service door and three exterior doors on the house at Connor Bayou were boarded up to prevent future break ins.
- Erosion control matting was installed at HOBP for the corner cottager near the gap.
- Two permanent picnic tables were installed at Grand River.
- Ten bollards were installed at the Bend Area parking lot.
- A memorial bench was installed at Rosy Mound.
- A large maple tree was removed at Spring Grove in preparation for the new septic drain field.
- Accumulated brush piles at Spring Grove and the POC were chipped.
- Exposed tree roots on the trails at Hager were removed with a stump grinder.
- Old chain link fence on the east side of the road at the Grand River entrance was removed to eliminate some mowing.
- Sections of the soffit on the Hager Visitor Center was painted.
- Two AV screens were mounted to walls at the NEC.
- The drinking fountains were removed and covers were built over exposed plumbing fixtures at the NEC.

WORK ON LARGER PROJECTS

- The beach access stairway at the south end of the Kirk beach previously lost to beach erosion was rebuilt by the Super Crew.
- The exterior walls and porch railings on the Weaver House were painted.
- Eight trees (including six that were pulled out of the river by a contractor) were cut up and removed at Riverside. Two large stumps were ground up and turf damage from the tree removals from the river was repaired as part of the same project.
- Three new park benches were built and installed at the NEC.
- Twelve new interpretive, informational and / or construction signs were printed and installed at HOBP (2), HCC (3), Riverside (4), Eastmanville Farm (2), and Bolthouse Property (1).
- 130 feet of post and cable was installed at the point at Riverside to discourage horseback riding and ORV activity.
- 150 feet of wire fencing was installed on the property line at Fillmore at the Bend to prevent dogs from trespassing onto the neighbor's property.
- Significant logistical support activities were provided for the Eastmanville Farm Cemetery Dedication and the Grand River Expedition overnight camp sites at Riverside and Boynton's Landing.
- 60 feet of split rail fence and a woodchip path were installed at the NEC.
- The exterior doors on Pigeon Lodge and the Hemlock Crossing restroom building were painted.

STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY

- The Stewardship Crew Supervisor provided a presentation on invasive plants at the WMPA Annual Meeting at HOBP. (Approx. 50 cottage owners in attendance.)
- More than 350 bags of spotted knapweed were removed from Rosy Mound, Hemlock Crossing, and Pigeon Creek.
- Purple Loosestrife was removed at UMNA, Adams St. Landing, HCC, and HOBP.

- Weed control mowing was done at UMNA and the Bolthouse Property.
- The Stewardship Crew constructed a 1.5 mile trail loop at PSNA.

PURCHASES MADE

- A new extended reach hedge trimmer was purchased for Musketawa Trail brush clearing on the sides of the trail. This will save staff time and may eliminate the need for an annual Road Commission tractor and 'brusher' being needed (an \$1100 bill).
- A handheld blower was purchased for use at HOBP to replace a 2 year old blower obtained from the Sheriff's property room.
- A replacement weed whip trimmer was purchased for the North Area Parks (replacement of 10 year old string trimmer).

STAFF NOTES

- Nothing to report.

SWAP ACTIVITY

- Assisted with cleaning out the barn at Eastmanville Farm in preparation for the Cemetery Dedication.
- Assisted with erosion repair at Spring Grove.
- Assisted with trail trimming at Grand River.
- Assisted with clean-up at Riverside in preparation for the Grand River Expedition.
- Assisted with pulling spotted knapweed at Rosy Mound.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

- Thirty-six volunteers pulled 104 bags of knapweed at Hemlock Crossing, Rosy Mound, and Pigeon Creek.
- A group from Johnson Controls conducted a beach sweep at Tunnel early in the month.

EMPLOYEE SAFETY ISSUES

- Two Maintenance Work Crew workers and two Stewardship Crew workers developed annoying cases of Poison Ivy.
- Two ticks have been removed from seasonal employees and sent to the Health Dept. for identification/testing (1 result negative, the other still pending).

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

- A 6 year old child went missing from Tunnel on a busy weekend day (child was found just north of HOBP by Park Twp Fire Rescue personnel).
- A 21 year old male overexerted and had difficulty breathing while doing a human chain search for the missing 6 year old at Tunnel (he was transported to Holland Hospital by paramedics).

PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTACTS

- The North Area Park Supervisor worked with organizers of the Coast Guard Park Trail Run (they used a small section of NOD trails as part of the race course).
- The North Area Park Supervisor worked with the organizers of the Eastmanville Farm Cemetery Dedication.

- The North Area Park Supervisor worked with organizers of the Grand River Expedition regarding details for activities at Deer Creek and Riverside.

INCIDENTS OF VANDALISM

- Three traffic signs were damaged at Hager.
- A comment card box was damaged at Grand River.
- A trash can was set on fire at Tunnel.
- Turfing incidents were reported at Grose, UMNA, and Riverside. (The perpetrator at Grose was caught thanks to quick action by the Park Attendant, who contacted 911. Michigan State Police responded and cited the individual for no operator's license and destruction of property).
- Household trash dumping was reported (and cleaned-up) at Hiawatha Forest and HCC.
- Trail signs at Riley Trails were hit with paintballs.
- The overlook fence at the river overlook at Pine Bend was damaged by kayakers exiting the river.
- A section of chain link fence was cut and rolled back presumably by the owner of a locked in vehicle at Tunnel (investigation still in progress).

RULE ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- Illegal campers (local HS kids) were evicted by Scott from Rosy Mound at the start of the 4th of July weekend.
- Evidence of ORV and alcohol use was reported at PSNA.
- Horseback riding and ORV use was reported at Riverside and VanBuren Dunes. Posts and cable were installed at Riverside to curb the problems there.

VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT NOTES

- The '97 GMC 4x4 was in for repair to a broken brake line.
- The '00 GMC 4x4 was in for replacement of the fuel pump.
- The '05 Ford 350 Dump truck was in for service on an acceleration problem.

PARKS MANAGER COMMENTS

- Consistently good weather throughout the month kept us very busy with park operations and also presented opportunity for getting several maintenance projects completed. The lakeshore parks were the busiest (for obvious reasons) and the most notable projects completed were the Weaver House painting and Kirk beach stairway construction.
- In addition to the usual daily operations and maintenance activities, a great deal of staff time was spent in preparation and support of the two major events of July: the Cemetery Dedication and Grand River Expedition. I think our seasonal employees (and full-timers too) have done an outstanding job of taking the busy workload this month in stride.
- One of the more unique happenings to occur this month was when one of the Stewardship Crew workers discovered a .22 caliber rifle in the river at Riverside Park when he waded into the water to cool off on his lunch break. The weapon was turned over to the Sheriff's Dept. for possible identification.

COORDINATORS COMMENTS

Grand River Heritage Water Trail (GRHWT) update: The Grand River Heritage Water Trail project is now at the stage where all the information has been compiled, summaries written; the interactive map developed and the web link developed. It now needs to be reviewed, edited, and finalized before it is made available to the public via the County Parks web site.

If you should like an opportunity for a sneak preview, and are interested in viewing it, the link is <http://miottawa.org/ParksVI/WaterTrail/> -any comments and feedback would be extremely welcome, send them directly to me dmazurek@miottawa.org.

Special Events in July: We had two special events in July, both hosted by north area staff – the ‘poor farm’ cemetery dedication was Saturday July 10, at the Eastmanville Farm; and the Grand River Expedition was hosted overnight at Riverside Park on Sunday 7/25 – Monday 7/26. Both events went very well, and in both cases special recognition must go out to Anne (North Area Parks Supervisor) and her staff -especially Al Cooley (Riverside Park Attendant) for putting in an effort recognized by many as above and beyond the call of duty.

Also, the efforts of the Friends group needs comment as they did their typically superb job with activities and refreshments at Eastmanville Farm; and provided great food service for the expedition including lunch (at Deer Creek Park) and dinner on Sunday, and breakfast on Monday. It’s nice to have friends.

July was an extremely busy month for field staff. At the Lakeshore Bob (West Area Parks Supervisor) and Gerry (Seasonal Parks Supervisor) are having their busiest season, with frequent park full situations (on more than 12 days this month). Revenues are running almost \$50,000 ahead of last year (a record year) at this time.

Revenues are one of the best indicators of the number of visitors and level of park use at the Lakeshore parks during the summer; however some people have also become very savvy at parking outside the parks and walking in.

At Tunnel last weekend for example, on Saturday there were 295 cars parked on local streets outside the park, with the park’s 388 spaces at capacity – that’s 75% over parking capacity, meaning great additions for staff in terms of keeping the bathrooms clean, litter picked up, trash emptied, tables and grills clean, etc. It also adds to the chances for needing rule enforcement and the potential for emergencies and other incidents to occur.

What impresses (pleases) me most is being this busy *without* a significant increase in problems and incidents. (knock on wood).

Behind the scenes, Scott schedules staff on a daily basis to help ensure the right people are available and deployed effectively. His scheduling job has been made a little more difficult this year by our reduction in SWAP and the addition of the Super Crew. This has added to our abilities (splitting the crew, more involved types of work) and has worked greatly to our overall benefit (especially this year), but make no mistake, it has added to the complexity of our daily operations, all handled by Scott.

As a final comment, I will add that it seems to me like our season *actually began* as early as March this year, with the unusually pleasant spring weather. We have been very busy but as they say, *it's all good*.

Interpretive and Information Services

Report for 6/16 to 7/15/10

Submitted by Chip Francke

1. Summary of Activities and Projects

Visitation to the center remained consistent despite the hot weather during this period. A number of issues with the mechanical systems in the building are being addressed. The main issues relate to the geothermal and plumbing/water systems. The stewardship crew and volunteers worked on eliminating garlic mustard and spotted knapweed from Hemlock Crossing. The cover crop of rye was mowed in the vicinity of the Nature Education Center. The native grassland along the park entrance was a very attractive feature in the park and also a valuable educational tool for programs. Over 50 species of wildflowers (both native and exotic) were found in the grassland during this period.

2. Attendance: Total attendance for period - 1,316

- Nature Education Center walk-in attendance for this period was 1,134 (average of 44 per day). The high for the period was 90 on Sunday, June 20 and the low was 12 on Wednesday, June 23.
- Public program attendance was 123 (One Beach Zone program and one Kayak trip were cancelled due to bad weather).
- School/youth program attendance was 24 (3 groups).
- Misc. program attendance was 35.

3. Nature Education Center Sales: Total sales - \$2,485.02 (gross)

- Gift shop sales - \$617.02
- Park Vehicle Permits - \$43.00
- Public program registration fees - \$1,765.00
- School/youth program fees - \$60.00

4. Program Planning: Kristen and I continue to spend a good deal of time on fall program planning. In addition to planning the public programs that will be listed in the fall newsletter, we are planning the fall school programs that will be available for schools and other youth groups wishing to visit the center this fall. Once the programs are set, they will be posted on the web site for teachers/leaders and the information will be distributed to area schools. We are also planning the next training for Naturalist Guides that is scheduled for August 2.

5. Friends of Ottawa County Parks: Friends held a successful Eastmanville Farm Cemetery Dedication on July 10 with an estimated 200 people attending. The group is holding a fundraiser on Sunday, August 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Nature Education Center that will include refreshments and live music with Tiki O'Riley. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids.



Kristen in the grassland with the Outdoor Skills Day Campers in July.



Naturalist Guide Mary Terpstra working with the Grand Haven Open Door group in the Wildlife Den.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Proposed Minutes

DATE: July 15, 2010

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Parks Office

PRESENT: Bobbi J. Sabine, Ted Bosgraaf, Joyce Kortman, Roger Jonas, Ray Statema and Dave Vander Kooi.

STAFF: John Scholtz, Director and Chip Francke, Coordinator of Interpretive and Information Services.

Chairperson Sabine called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Scholtz handed out and highlighted selected parts of the *Ottawa County Communication Plan* and a draft of the *Ottawa County Social Media Policy*. The committee feels that staff should pursue having a Facebook page for parks. The next step is for staff to prepare and submit a proposal for Facebook as outlined in the draft policy. Scholtz will work with Kristen Hintz on the proposal. The amount of staff time to manage a Facebook page is a concern. Francke stated that posting several Facebook messages each week would be easy for staff, but that replying to messages should be discussed further. Kortman suggested getting an intern to help set up the Facebook page.

WEB SITE

There was also a discussion concerning the parks web site. Francke explained that a complete update was completed fairly recently and that several parks staff are now responsible for submitting updates for selected pages of the web site. Scholtz stated that he has been lax in updating the web site and he will make it a priority for all staff to keep it updated.

PARKS BROCHURE

Francke updated the committee on plans to revise the parks brochure. There are several properties that need to be added and several revisions to the copy. The committee discussed which properties to include, especially properties that we own but have not been improved such as the Holland Country Club and Olive Shores. Vander Kooi suggested listing those properties but referring people to the parks web site for details on progress and access. The committee agreed with this suggestion. Staff will review the property list and suggest which properties need to be added. Plans are to have the brochure printed in early fall.

NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

Systems - Francke reported that Jeff Poel is working closely with a number of people to learn how to adjust and run the complex geothermal system. The goal is to make it as cost effective as possible.

Water – It was discovered that the water softener was using a tremendous amount of water resulting in the use of a lot of salt. Because the water cannot be consumed, staff questioned whether the softener was needed. Staff has bypassed the softener to see what effects it has on the water. The DNRE and the Ottawa County Health Department are still investigating the source of ammonia in the water.

(Continued on back)

Holiday Hours – Francke submitted a calendar with suggested Nature Education Center hours during holiday periods for the remainder of 2010. This led to a lengthy discussion about when the center should be open during holidays, especially Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. There was no consensus and the committee asked staff to set the holiday hours for 2010.

Naturalist Guide Hours – Francke stated that the number of hours for receptionists at the center will exceed the budget in 2010 and that full-time staff will have to fill in for the Naturalist Guides on about 12 days. The committee said they would support a budget adjustment to make up this difference. Scholtz stated that increasing salaries and wages accounts requires approval from County Administration and is not a given.

Programs – Francke stated that he and Hintz are currently planning programs for schools and the public for fall. There will be a page on the web site where teachers/leaders can go for information on programs.

Visitation – Francke handed out visitation summaries for May and June with a breakdown by day, date and hour. For May, total attendance was 1,333 with an average of 51 people per day. June totaled 1,294 with an average of 50 people per day. This includes walk-in visitors only and does not include people or groups that came specifically for programs. Saturday and Sunday attendance averaged higher than weekdays.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Bosgraaf asked if parks kept a record of schools that use various parks. Scholtz explained that some parks, such as Hager, get lots of use by schools but the numbers are not recorded. Scholtz will consider how to track the numbers of schools using the parks. He also stated that the Outdoor Discovery Center met with a group of teachers at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area to discuss use of the site. The teachers suggested that having a covered shelter and a way to get to the edge of the river to collect aquatic life would make the site more attractive for schools.

Kortman suggested that parks staff promote the use of county parks to teachers that ask about programs and field trips. Francke stated that this information can be placed on the web site with the Nature Education Center program information.

CEMETERY DEDICATION

Scholtz commented that the Eastmanville Farm cemetery dedication went well and Jonas agreed. Sabine stated that most of the articles in local papers failed to mention that the cemetery was in an Ottawa County Park and failed to mention the role of Friends of Ottawa County Parks.

The next meeting of the Public Relations Committee will be held Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in the parks office. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:00 P.M.



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 21, 2010
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: Administrative Building, Fillmore Complex, Parks Conference Room
Present: Ted Bosgraaf
Bobbi Jones Sabine
Joyce Kortman
David Van Ginhoven
Jim Miedema
John Scholtz, Parks Director
Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development
Jonathan Nagel, Parks Planner

Ted asked for additions to the agenda. Discussions of the Van Dam property and campground locations were added.

Strategic Priorities and the Current Economy

Ted noted that in the current economic environment, construction bidding is very competitive. He also observed that while there are a lot of distressed and bank controlled properties, there doesn't appear to be much along the greenways. With that in mind, he questioned whether it would be better to spend money in the short term on capital developments rather than acquisition. Bobbi put it another way. She said that construction is a better bargain right now than acquisition of the land that we want.

John said that our priorities are clearly shown in our long range budget, but the timing of them could be adjusted to some extent. He said that we should still strive to buy what becomes available. He also asked the Committee what should be built. Ted suggested a campground and marina, and Joyce pointed out that those two ideas were money makers that would provide a return on the investment.

Ted then asked whether there is a return on land purchased or what was developed on the land. John indicated that monetary return on investments is not currently how decisions are based. Referencing the Nature Education Center, Joyce pointed out that the return on investment is realized in the number of users rather than dollars. David added that it is not a business model like a marina or campground. Bobbi pointed out that at the UMNA for example, there is great value in improved water quality, flood storage and habitat development. Joyce agreed and asked how that might be measured. Ted asked that the topic remain on the agendas for the next few meetings. Curt suggested checking for bank control of target property to see if there are any deals out there.

Holland Harbor Walkway Additions

Curt displayed a concept plan showing an additional paved walkway at the Holland harbor parking lot that extends to the bike path north of Ottawa Beach Road, including a painted crosswalk on the road. He indicated that he has also received bids for additional survey work for the wooded area east of the new parking. There could be temporary paths through this area, however a circulation loop located along the water on the point would be more desirable. John indicated that there will be an inspection of the natural features in the wooded area. The Committee agreed that it is important to proceed with a marina study. Curt indicated that it would be best to understand not only development potential but also marina operations and funding options such as revenue bonds.

Ted asked about the progress toward a study of the potential museum. John said an RFP for design services was being developed. He has met with the Ottawa Beach Museum Committee which expressed confidence in their ability to raise their portion of the cost of the study.

Park West Drain

John said that a meeting was held with the County Drain Commission and their engineer about the proposed route for the Park West Drain that will extend from Quincy Street to Lake Macatawa. Curt displayed their preliminary plan that shows where it would impact Riley Trails. The plan is for a solid 48" pipe to be installed 8' to 11' deep within a 40' easement, running through the west side of the park. The engineer indicated that the full 40' width would likely not be impacted. This location is much better than earlier ideas which put the route through the middle of the site near the landfill and would cause much more disturbance to native woodlands. The new route is through pine plantation

The Drain Commissioner indicated that the all property owners within the proposed drainage district would be assessed for the portions through their properties; however, he referenced a recent Michigan Supreme Court ruling that may exempt public properties including parks. Staff will coordinate with the county administrator to further investigate the application of this ruling to our situation.

John pointed out that the drain commission was only looking for general consensus at this time. Further details will be worked out in the field. Ted felt that there is no reason not to cooperate, as did the rest of the Planning Committee. Bobbi asked if the new drain would have a negative impact on the pond. Curt indicated that his understanding was that the drain is almost all solid pipes so as not to adversely affect the water table.

Property issues were discussed.

A plan for development of the Van Dam property received from Holland Township was presented by John. The plan showed modest access improvements to the pond with parking and fishing amenities. Ted asked if the park could be tied into the bike path on Adams Street. John said that if and when a trail is developed along the river corridor, it would go through the site.

Pros and cons of locations for a potential campground were discussed. Connor Bayou, while a very attractive site, will likely be negatively impacted by noise from the US 31 bypass. At the same time the new road could provide easier access. Hiawatha Forest

was discussed as a potential alternative camping site. There is a non motorized easement linking Hiawatha and Kirk Park that would allow campers access to the beach, making it very attractive. John indicated that the natural high water table in Hiawatha Forest could facilitate development of a water feature there, and the site offers a lot of space to work with. Additionally, it's proximity to U.S. 31 is a positive aspect. Joyce stated that no outstanding natural features would be ruined by developing at Hiawatha. John felt that its closeness to Yogi Bear Campground could be a concern.

David asked if there was firm commitment to build a campground. John responded that it fits our mission, would be a revenue generator, and got a 44% "very desirable" response in the survey of public opinion. Ted asked about the possibility of using the northern part of Hemlock Crossing, citing the kayak launch and Nature Education Center as positive draws for campers. John said that the park was a prime trails facility and higher quality natural area. He then suggested that the land northeast of Rosy Mound has some possible potential. Ted asked to include the topic on the next meeting agenda.

John asked the Committee to review the 2004 Survey of Public Opinion About Ottawa County Parks, and forward any suggestions for the new survey to him. He pointed out that the survey will likely not be revised extensively so that there will be good comparisons to the previous year's surveys.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **September 22nd** at 3 p.m.

Submitted by Jonathan O. Nagel, Parks Planner, and Curtis TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development.

Planning and Development Summary Report

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

July 28, 2010

GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

Connor Bayou. No change since last report. Final master planning work is on hold pending results of camping feasibility study. A camping study work plan has been prepared. Final planning and determination of phase one improvements is anticipated for fall 2010

Bur Oak Landing. No change since last report. Additional field work has been completed to locate trails on both the east and west sections. Construction on the base system of trails is to start this summer.

Eastmanville Farm Cemetery. Project is complete. The July 10 dedication was a great success with approximately 200 people attending.

Eastmanville Bayou. Construction has been delayed by additional approvals required from Allendale Township and the Corps of Engineers. Final coordination with the road commission for the pedestrian underpass under the 68th Street bridge also continues. It is anticipated that construction work will commence later in August.

Planning and Construction Budget Summary

Approved Budget with contingency	\$ 232,960.00
Original Contract Amount	\$ 191,500.00
Contract Additions (Deletions)	\$ 0.00
Other Expenses	\$ 26,810.00
Budget Remaining (contingency)	\$ 14,650.00

Bend Area Planning. No change since last report. A final report from our consultant is being revised based on staff comments. Master plan concept revisions, water gage installation, coordination with the township mining authorities, and discussions/negotiations with property owners are in progress.

PIGEON RIVER GREENWAY

Crosswell Path (Project of Port Sheldon Township). Work is progressing well to construct new trail on Crosswell Street including sections adjacent to Hemlock Crossing. Boardwalks are substantially complete and paving is in progress



New Boardwalk



Standard Path



New Retaining Wall

MACATAWA RIVER GREENWAY

UMNA 2008 Restorations and Improvements. Seeding for remaining areas not completed last year has now been completed. Contract is in progress with DeSal Excavating for the work north of Byron Road.

UMNA Greenway Path. No change since last report. Project is on hold until Fred Meijer Kenowa trails project is solidified. Grant application may be resubmitted at that time.

Holland Country Club. Coordination continues as required to implement plans for the Request Foods wetland mitigation on the southern portion of the site. Construction is scheduled to begin later this summer. Additional materials have been submitted as requested by out Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant coordinator. It is anticipated that work will begin in late summer or early fall to design wetland restoration areas and to master plan the site for permanent recreation uses. Construction would be in 2011.

Ottawa Beach Bike Path Repairs. Project is complete. Some minor additions were required to adjust existing utilities, but project was started on a Monday and completed in 4 ½ days in time to open for the weekend.

Construction Budget Summary

Approve Bid	\$ 10,188.20
Contingency (5%)	\$ 510.00
Additions	\$ TBD
Budget Remaining	\$ 510.00



View from crosswalk area east



View from across Ottawa Beach Road



View looking west

LAKE MICHIGAN COASTAL GREENWAY

Tunnel Park Dune Stairs. Project is complete.

Mt. Pisgah Dune Protection Project. No change since last report. Additional work on the trails in the area of storm damage on hold pending coordination with the state park

Holland Harbor Fishing Access Project. Construction work is in progress including grading for the parking area pier abutments and concrete work. We are still awaiting final approval of permit by the Corps of Engineers after which pilings and work over the water can commence. A connecting walk to the bike path across Ottawa Beach Road is being added to the project including signage for a pedestrian crossing. A natural features inventory was also completed for the wooded area east of the construction zone in anticipation of additional path work. No plants of botanical importance or native plant communities were found.

Construction Budget Summary

Grant Funding with county match	\$ 650,000.00
Construction Contract Amount	\$ 454,662.97
Contingency	\$ 45,466.00
Additions (Deletions)	\$ 0.00
Other Costs (estimated)	\$ 57,910.00
Budget Remaining	\$ 91,961.03



Parking area looking south toward fishing pier location



Boardwalk approach looking west



Boardwalk approach looking east

Park 12 – Switchback and walk repairs. Project is complete.

OTHER/MISCELLANEOUS

Musketawa Trail Extension/Connector. No change since last report.