

Menominee County Parks and Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Bob Desjarlais at the Stephenson Annex in Stephenson, Michigan on December 7, 2015.

Reporting for roll call were: Bob Desjarlais, Dick Peterson, Glenn Cody, County Commissioners Bill Cech and John Furlong, and County Administrator Brian Bousley. There was a quorum present to conduct the meeting.

Approval of agenda: James made a motion that was seconded by Dick to move the Forestry Plan item on the agenda to the top of the list. The motion carried.

Minutes: A motion was made by Bill to approve the minutes from the last meeting that was seconded by Bob. The motion carried.

Public Comment: Mark and Sandra Aubert questioned the committee's decision to establish overnite camping sites at River Park. Their property borders the park. Specifically, they were concerned about the lack of supervision at the park and that the boundaries were not clearly marked. They stated that underage drinking had also been a problem in the past along with four-wheelers, target shooting, and intoxicated individuals. Bruce and Deborah Solberg, owners of Lower Twin Island in the middle of the Menominee River across from the park, substantiated the Aubergs complaints and added trespassing, litter, and arson in the woods to the list.

Business:

- a. **Forestry Plan:** Brian submitted summarized copies of the recently completed forestry plan to the committee. The actual documentation provided for each park was very thorough and quite extensive. James suggested that the committee be given ample time to review the complete report before discussing any recommendations for harvesting timber in the parks. Park Ranger Jim Quist reminded the committee that timing was of the essence concerning scheduling any harvesting activity for the current season. No additional action was taken.
- b. **Park Ranger/Park Manager Update:** Brian reported that the parks were closed for the season and that there was not much going on.
- c. **Monthly Budget Review:** Brian distributed copies of the latest budget for the committee's perusal and review. Several questions concerning clarification of specific items were raised and answered. Both revenues and expenditures remain in line and on schedule for the year.
- d. **Parks Projects/ Grants:** Still no proposals for the rehab of Stoney Point. Parks did receive a Hannahville 2% Grant of \$5,000.00 to replace the roof on one of the pavilions at Shakey Lakes. Brian will apply for an additional grant in the spring for other projects

at the parks.

- e. **River Park Camping:** The committee discussed the sentiments expressed by Mark and Sandra Aubert and Bruce and Deborah Solberg during the public comment portion of the meeting. The committee stated that it was not possible nor desirable to cancel the already developed camping sites due to be available next spring, but the committee did ask the residents what could be done specifically to address their concerns. The residents recommended that the park consider collecting a daily use fee from all patrons who frequent the park, that the boundaries of the park be clearly posted, that there be a single point of contact who could respond to resident complaints, and that law enforcement officials police the park on a more frequent basis. For now, the committee agreed to establish signage that clearly designates the boundaries of the park and to talk to the county sheriff concerning the possibility of increasing law enforcement in the area.
- f. **Lease Program:** James made a motion seconded by Glenn that a "hold harmless" clause be added to the current campsite lease agreement and that it be drawn up by the prosecuting attorney. The motion carried.

Correspondence: None.

Public Comment: None

Any Other Items Members Wish to Present: Dick Peterson presented photographs of deteriorating caulk at the new bathhouse in Shakey Lakes Park. Bill made a motion seconded by Bob that the general contractor for the original construction project be contacted regarding this condition. The motion carried.

Glenn offered a motion to adjourn that was seconded by James. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Glenn D. Cody