

Shiawassee County Parks & Recreation Commission
January 14, 2016
Minutes written and submitted by Bonnie Reno, Temporary Recording
Secretary

Co-Chairperson, Robert Ebmeyer called the Parks and Recreation Commission Special Planning meeting to order at 6pm located on the 3rd floor of the Surbeck Building.

Members Present: Tony Newman, John Michalec, Robert Ebmeyer, Jeff Bartz, Larry Johnson, Cody Baker, Bonnie Reno. Quorum was met. Commissioner John Horvath, consultant Phil Hathaway and guest Gary Burk were present.

1. Robert E called the meeting to order
2. The Pledge of Allegiance and roll call were completed.
3. Call to the Public was announced. No one else was present.
4. Larry Johnson moved with Bonnie R seconded to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried.

Robert Ebmeyer announced that Nancy Zdunic has formally resigned after serving many years on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Cody Baker has been appointed as her replacement.

Phil Hathaway distributed a revised communication chart of the Parks & Recreation Commission members to review and enjoying members to communicate with one another as well as with the community.

Phil H. presented the highlights of the 58-page Shiawassee County Five-Year Parks and Recreation 2016-2020 document that was emailed to the board members the previous week for reviewing as a result of the previous Parks and Recreation meetings held in 2015. The document includes history of each park, administrative structure, department services, current and projected budget, and each park's issues and opportunities to be addressed in the Objective and Action Plan.

After an in-depth discussion by all members present, a review of park by park inventory, and fifteen goals to improve the parks, riverbanks, development strategies, and more were completed.

The commission members with Phil H leading the discussion, the Shiatown County Park Planning decision elements were addressed with the consensus to place the items into a site plan. Some of the items included the West-East park connections including the dam and Bennington's Bridge, viewing decks on the West and East bluffs, Park Drive drain and rock spillway changes, barrier-free access compliance, and more.

Additional discussion included the use/re-use of the 20 or more existing boulders on site to be used to fill the hole at the dam, line up for a parking lot boarder, allowing other unused parking areas to grow back naturally.

John H shared he had attended the Owosso Chamber of Commerce meeting in November, 2015 and offered there were some businesses present that shared their

companies may be willing and able to help pay their employees for doing volunteer work. John H passed along a business cards he had from Covenant Eyes, Internet Accountability and Filtering out of Owosso that would be a good company to contact. Bonnie will be passing it along to Tim Hill to follow-up on a possible resource of volunteers for park clean-up/maintenance.

Others at the meeting shared that both DNR and Consumers may have grants and/or matching monies to reforest park areas.

All members agreed that public input throughout the process is key as well as marketing the efforts and processes continuously. Phil H shared an outline of public input ideas that included:

1. Meet with the Friends of the Shiawassee River on all aspects of the Shiatown Park restoration.
2. Meet with Shiawassee Township Board/Planning Commission on both Shiatown and Geeck Road Parks.
3. Link Planning and Park Commissions
4. Meet with other township boards
5. Host a speaker series for service clubs/organizations
6. Conduct public meetings at township halls.
7. Conduct public meetings with 'nearest neighbors' of each park
8. Conduct focus meetings with groups such as Live Healthy Coalition, Shiawassee County Historical Society, Friends of the River board, biking clubs, etc.
9. Update Website with plans, photographs, encourage comments, Parks & Recreation articles, etc.
10. Write newspaper articles on the evolving plan elements, attend meetings, phone, write etc.

Bonnie R shared a Parks and Recreation article has been completed with changes and will be taken to Argus Press in the next week or so. Robert E suggested we submit the article to 'The Independent' as well. Bonnie agreed to follow up with them as well.

Phil H and Larry J. reminded everyone of the Friends of the Shiawassee River's dinner meeting on Tuesday, January 19th with the meeting to begin at 7pm.

With the consensus of agreement on the developed plan to date submitted by Phil H., the board agreed another meeting was needed. The next Special Parks and Recreation Meeting will be Tuesday, February 16th at 5:30pm at the Surbeck Building, 3rd Floor.

Robert E asked for an additional 'Call to the Public' with no response.

Cody B moved and Jeffrey B seconded to adjourn with the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 7:35pm.