

Shiawassee County Parks & Recreation Commission  
February 16, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Surbeck Building.

Members Present: Cody Baker, Jeff Bartz, Mike Constine, Robert Ebmeyer, Larry Johnson, John Michalec, Tony Newman, and Bonnie Reno. Quorum was met. Commissioner John Horvath, consultant Phil Hathaway and guests Terry McLeod and Junior Love were present.

1. Robert E called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance and roll call were completed.
3. Distribution of the updated Goals list; Capital Improvements List, and Public Input Action recommendations documents were shared with everyone.
4. Call to the Public was announced. No one else was present.
5. Larry Johnson moved with Cody Baker seconded to approve the agenda with one addition from Robert Ebmeyer to add the reading of a letter to The Argus Press Letter to the Editor<sup>1</sup>. Motion carried.

Phil Hathaway began a discussion of the County Parks and Recreation Master Plan with a slide show that provides the history of the Shiawassee County Parks, maps, and proposals covering short and long term development, maintain, and proposed improvements of the parks. Phil provided a brief narrative with each slide, explaining his intent to show the same presentation to various organizations around the county.

The board reviewed the 10 goals and objectives via both the slides and handouts that were emailed in advance to each member as well as distributed during the meeting.

Phil H. then led the discussion on the 3-page Capital Improvements Plan spread sheet document beginning with Shiatown projects with estimated cost and funding sources divided into short, medium, and longer term changes. The document included objective symbols for potential funding sources with priority numbers defined as 1 – Top Priority; 2 – Medium Priority; and 3 – Somewhat Low Priority

The commissioners/board members agree to the following:

Shiatown Short Term:	Priority
Canoe Launch at East Park	1
Trail System – North Park & 2 Benches	2
Invasive Species Control – Bottomland	1
Bennington East-West Connect	2
150' River Footbridge –	Move to Medium Term Priority

Sledding Hill & Benches	1
Expanded Parking Wet Pavilion/Shiatown Square	1
Expand Parking Canoe Lunch – 12 Spaces	2
Fishing Access Pier East Side	1
Accessibility Paths & Tables at Pavilions	1

The commissioners/board members agree to the following – Continued:

Shiatown Medium Term:	Priority
Install Biking Informational Signage	1
Fill East Drive Drainage Swale	1
Reforest East Park Hillside & Trail Edge	1
Fishing Access Pier West Side	2
Viewing Deck East & West Side Parks	2
Bottomlands Trail & 2 Benches	3
Bottomlands Fishing Platform	3
Bottomlands Trail Plantings	3

Shiatown Long Term ;	Priority
Osprey Nest Tower – Bottomlands	2
Upgrade canoe launch – barrier free	2
Island Arch Bridge	3

Larry J. suggested each member prioritize the remainder of the parks’ listed on the Excel Spreadsheet emailed to each member and forward their choices of priorities to Phil H to calculate and summarize. All members agreed with Larry J’s suggestion.

Phil H. shared the ‘To-Do’ list with everyone present that included the items to be completed with the cooperation with Rowe Engineering. The listed items included an ‘open space’ county-wide map; county-wide map for bicycling; public input record; park facilities accessibility evaluation and ranking; and county park recreational loop and destination bicycle rides map with the latter to still be requested by Phil H.

Phil H shared he has offered to be a guest speaker with some organizations and groups around Shiawassee County to share and ‘market’ the 5-year plan and obtain public input. Bob E and Bonnie R requested a listing of the scheduled presentations of clubs and organizations and Phil H agreed to email said schedule. It was suggested that the Committee of the Whole County Commissioners may be interested in the presentation possibly for March or April.

Phil H indicated he was hoping to be able to be placed on the agenda for a public hearing for May, 2016.

Guest Terry McLeod shared the 'Friends of the Fred Meijer Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail newsletter – The Trailblazer, Winter 2016 along with inviting everyone to attend their organization on Thurs., March 17<sup>th</sup> 7pm at the Memorial Healthcare Hospital Auditorium with the keynote speaker from DNR.

Robert E shared a letter he wrote intending to send it as a Letter to the Editor to both The Argus Press and The Independent and would like feedback. The letter highlights the parks and encourages the public to comment on ways to improve the parks and provided an email address Robert E has set up.

The next regular Parks and Recreation meeting is set for Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 6pm Surbeck Building, Corunna. Robert E called for any and all comments to the Public. No one responded.

Mike Constine called for a motion to adjourn with Tony Newman seconding the motion. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.