

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, May 7, 2014
3rd Floor Surbeck Building
201 N. Shiawassee Street
Corunna, MI 48817
6:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 6:00PM by Chairperson Buckelew
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call:** Board Present: Commissioner Jeffery Bartz, Tanya Buckelew, Joe DeCaire, Robert Downer, Robert Ebmeyer, Road Commissioner John Michalec , Richard Miller, Bruce Robb and Nancy Zdunic. Absent: Drain Commissioner Tony Newman. Also present: Administrator T.J. Clark and Superintendent Phil Heavilin.
4. **Call to the Public** – No public present
5. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion by DeCaire to approve the Agenda, supported by Ebmeyer. Motion passed.
6. **Approval of the minutes.** A motion was made by Downer to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2014 meeting. Motion supported by DeCaire. Motion passed.
7. **Old Business:**
 - No Old Business presented at this time.
8. **New Business:**
 - The MGROW (Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds) has requested participation in their efforts by our organization. This organization is concerned with the tributaries of the Grand River which are in the southwestern corner of the county especially the Looking Glass River. Although it is not clear what input we should have as a Parks & Recreation Commission, Commissioner Downer stated that he would look into it for the board. Commissioner Bartz also owns property within that watershed. It is noted that MGROW serves a purpose similar to Friends of the Shiawassee River with which we have no formal connection but cooperate on projects and efforts where we have common objectives.
 - Superintendent Heavilin forwarded a concept for repurposing an historic Shiawassee bridge by moving it to Shiatown Park and refurbishing it to provide the walkable link between the two halves of the park. The closest such bridge would be the Martin Road Bridge which is abandoned and the stone abutments are crumbling. The Shiawassee County Road Commission owns the structure and Commissioner Michalec expressed interest in donating the bridge to the project. Heavilin noted that if this is our goal, then the Commission needs to make that desire known to the committee working with the Friends of the Shiawassee and the Michigan DNR demolishing the Shiatown Dam as the north and south dam components may be adequate to serve as the supporting abutments for a bridge at the park. Saving those components from demolition would save funds in that process and save the Parks Commission money when/if a bridge is moved to the site. **A motion was offered by Bartz to have Superintendent Heavilin draft a letter to the Friends of the Shiawassee expressing this concept and our desire that it be considered in the process of removal of the dam. The motion was supported by Zdunic and was passed.**
 - Heavilin noted that the pile of logs removed two years ago from the Shiatown dam impound area is still stacked in the park and presents a safety concern for sledders and is an eyesore. He requested support for a letter to the Friends of the Shiawassee River strongly requesting removal of the pile as soon as possible. **Motion by Bartz to have Heavilin Draft a letter and send it to the Friends of the Shiawassee River. Motion was supported by Zdunic and passed.**

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- Michigan Relic Hunters has requested permission to metal detect in Pine Grove Park. Bartz asked that we see if they have liability insurance. **Motion by Bartz to allow them to detect in the park and provide a copy of their insurance if they have it. Motion supported by DeCaire and passed.**
- Superintendent Heavilin acknowledged receipt of Caledonia Charter Township's \$2,000.00 contribution to the parks and suggested that we utilize it as much as possible for improvements in Kerby Park. Possible projects he named were replacement of the roof on Pavilion B and replacement wooden bollards.

9. Buildings and Grounds Superintendent's Report

- The current Reservations Report was distributed for review
- Heavilin reported that the Earth Day parks clean-up was a success with many volunteers showing up at several parks to pick up branches and trash: Corunna Rotary at Lytle Road; Shiawassee-Owosso Kiwanis at Shiatown West, Modern Woodmen and Boy Scouts in Shiatown East and Durand AMVETS at Geck Road. Notes of appreciation have been drafted and sent to all of the groups for their continued efforts and partnership with us.
- The volunteer mowing for us has used the new Grasshopper mower and likes it.
- For the most part, the parks are ready with a few exceptions (Henderson Park's gravel drive issues and turning on the water at Henderson). The AMVETS have had the porta-jon set at Geck Road and one has been ordered for Shiatown West to be set before Memorial Weekend. The Shiawassee-Owosso Kiwanis Club is working on a way to pay for that unit.
- Heavilin reported on the status of the Shiatown Dam removal project.
- Eagle Scout candidate Matt Doherty is working on placing a set of stairs near the overlook at Henderson Park. This will tie to the trail he built in the fall that runs along the bottom-land to the east canoe launch.
- The break-up of spring ice took out two canoe launch signs. The one from Henderson has been recovered and will be reset, but the Lytle Road sign is gone.

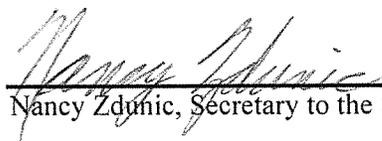
10. Commissioners heard:

- Commissioner Bartz mentioned a concept that Administrator Clark would like to pursue. The idea is to solicit companies that specialize in landscaping or property maintenance to "adopt" one of the parks and keep it mowed, and maintained to some degree in exchange for the right to place signs at the park advertising their services. A motion was offered by Zdunic to endorse the concept. Motion supported by Bartz and passed.

11. Good and Welfare: No comments

12. Next Meeting: June 4, 2014, **6:00 p.m.**, 3rd floor Surbeck Bldg., 201 N. Shiawassee St., Corunna, MI.

13. Adjourn: 7:01 p.m.



Nancy Zdunic, Secretary to the Shiawassee County Parks & Recreation Commission