

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, June 4, 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, Richard Miller, Road Commissioner Steve Zemcik, and Nancy Zdunic. Absent: Drain Commissioner Tony Newman and Bruce Robb. Also present: Mike Cheff and Superintendent Phil Heavilin.
4. **Call to the Public** – No public comments
5. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Bartz to approve the Agenda as amended, supported by Ebmeyer. Motion passed.
6. **Approval of the minutes.** A motion was made by Zdunic to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2014 meeting as presented. Motion supported by Bartz. Motion passed.
7. **Old Business:**
 - No Old Business presented at this time.
8. **New Business:**
 - Superintendent Heavilin spoke on behalf of Mike Cheff of **Cheff's Canoe Rental** requesting that the commission approve his use of the parks in the course of his canoe livery business. He has submitted an updated copy of his insurance for our files. Motion by Downer to approve Cheff's use of the parks, seconded by Bartz. Motion passed
 - Heavilin requested the adoption of the updated **5-Year Plan**. Motion by Zdunic to approve as presented; second by Bartz. Motion passed
9. **Buildings and Grounds Superintendent's Report**
 - The current **Reservations Report** was distributed for review; it was noted that reservations are down tremendously and discussion ensued as to the affect that lack of maintenance has had on the reservation rates.
 - Heavilin walked the commission through a park-by-park **evaluation of the parks system** identifying current conditions, repair and maintenance needs and upkeep challenges. This generated much discussion regarding the reality of a parks system with no funding over an extended period and whether we are fostering false expectations in the public and whether we are even being honest with ourselves in perpetuating the illusion of an operating parks system on zero budget using only volunteer staffing.
 - Heavilin fielded a request from the [Steam Railroading Institute](#) to borrow loose picnic tables from Henderson Pavilions A&B and Shiatown West pavilion. The [Train Expo 2014](#) will be hosted in Owosso on June 20-22. This is a national event and they expect thousands of visitors to the area as a result. Heavilin will be sure that each of our tables is clearly marked. SRI will be responsible for pick-up and return of the tables. The one pavilion is rented for Saturday the 21st so Heavilin will make sure they leave enough tables for that parks patron. Motion by Downer to approve the use of the tables under the condition that any damaged tables will be replaced by SRI; motion supported by Ebmeyer. Motion passed.
10. **Commissioners heard:**

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- Commissioner Bartz assured the Commission that the Board of Commissioners is very aware of the financial challenges of the parks and that they hope the [Headlee Amendment](#) Override proposal on the ballot in August passes. This will surely provide the parks with some financial base, but there are many other, more urgent needs in the county and there are no guarantees that the public will pass the measure. If the request is not successful, we will probably be forced to look at a request for a dedicated millage (November?) or total closure of the parks system. He encouraged Parks Commissioners to attend the Committee of the Whole meeting on Wednesday, June 11 to publicly voice their concerns to the Board of Commissioners.

11. Good and Welfare: No comments

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

13. Adjourn: 6:55 p.m.

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