

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, October 1, 2014  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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, Drain Commissioner Tony Newman and Nancy Zdunic. Absent: Road Commission representative  
Also present: Superintendent Phil Heavilin.
4. **Call to the Public** – No public comments
5. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Zdunic to approve the Agenda as presented, supported by Downer. Motion passed.
6. **Approval of the minutes.** A motion was made by Downer to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2014 meeting as presented. Motion supported by DeCaire. Motion passed
  - Notes for the August 6 meeting were distributed. There was no quorum at that gathering so no business was conducted.
7. **Old Business:**
  - No Old Business presented at this time.
8. **New Business:**
  - Superintendent Heavilin revisited the problem he had in getting back our picnic tables he loaned (with June 4 board approval) to the Steam Railroading Institute for their Train Expo (see notes of August 6). After discussion of options, it was moved by Downer and supported by DeCaire to adopt a policy of not loaning out our picnic tables. Motion carried.
  - Heavilin noted that the roof on Kerby pavilion B has degraded rapidly over the last couple of years and he plans to replace it yet this fall. He priced materials and found that steel is now actually cheaper than asphalt shingles and is a better product with a much longer life expectancy. He thinks that using one of the Buildings & Grounds Department's new employees and trustees from the Sheriff, he can have the roof installed for <\$1,000.00 yet this fall. Caledonia Charter Township's annual contribution more than covers this expense. Motion by Bartz to approve this replacement; second by DeCaire. Motion passed.
  - Heavilin spoke of options for the county parks system going forward as:
    - A. Continue with the concept of Adopt-A-Park focusing more on other governmental units as they have better financial ability to fund upkeep. He noted that Caledonia Charter Township is already funding parks in their jurisdiction (Kerby and Lytle), Geeck Road is totally maintained by the AMVETS with the exception of fuel for mowing (Downer notes that they actually have an account for that as well), and Shiawassee Township Supervisor Anthony Karhoff has expressed interest in taking on more of the responsibility for Shiatown Park. Bartz also reports that there has been a very preliminary concept bantered about for the Conservation Association taking some responsibility for Henderson Park.
    - B. Heavilin stated that the only viable long-term solution he can see is for the development of a regional parks and recreation authority county-wide. He cited a recent article in the Grand Traverse record Eagle discussing cooperative efforts between Grand Traverse County and Traverse City to combine their parks operations and programs. Shiawassee County parks are

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all enjoyed regionally as are select parks in Corunna (McCurdy Park) and Owosso (Jerry Collamer – Hopkins Lake, and Harmon Patridge –Green Meadows). These parks are all regional in nature and are large enough that they present funding challenges for the respective governments. The model would entail an agreement between the governments to lease their selected parks to the authority which would then fund, maintain and provide programming from a millage levied for that purpose. Obviously, this would take time to form the cooperative agreement and would require a successful millage request for funding before it would be implemented.

The board agreed that now is not the time to request a parks millage as it would detract from if not scuttle other more vital operating millage proposals in play. We will continue to work on the adopt-a-park model in hopes of having a viable system for the 2015 season.

**9. Buildings and Grounds Superintendent’s Report**

- The current **Reservations Report** was distributed for review
- Heavilin noted the general condition of the various parks in the system.
- The two Kubota mowers we own and used up until the purchase of the Grasshopper are at Aldermans in Lennon. Tim Alderman says that he has found no one interested in purchasing the equipment as they both need significant hydraulic or transmission work. He suggested that he could send them to auction with other mowers that he takes in trade and get whatever we can get for them. After discussion, the board agreed that this is probably our best chance of a financial return of any type considering the challenges they represent. Aldermans is much better equipped to handle this process and would, through their exposure in the market, have better results than the Buildings & Grounds Department.
- Heavilin reported that the September 24 public meeting on the Shiatown Dam removal went very smoothly. Members of the public had very logical and well-considered questions and concerns which were answered adeptly and to their satisfaction by panelists from the state, Shiawassee Township, Friends of the Shiawassee and the engineering firm working on the project.

**10. Commissioners heard:**

- No comments at this time.

**11. Good and Welfare:** No comments

**12. Next Meeting:** March 4, 2015, **6:00 p.m.**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Surbeck Bldg., 201 N. Shiawassee St., Corunna, MI.

**13. Adjourn:** 6:51 p.m.

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