

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, May 6, 2015  
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 Superintendent Heavilin
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call:** Board Present: Commissioner Jeffrey Bartz, Tanya Buckelew, Joe DeCaire, Robert Downer (arrived later), Robert Ebmeyer, Larry Johnson, Road Commissioner John Michalec, Drain Commissioner Tony Newman, Bonnie Reno and Nancy Zdunic. Also present: Superintendent Phil Heavilin.
4. **Call to the Public** – No public comments
5. **Election of 2015 Officers:**
  - Commissioner Bartz nominated Tanya Buckelew to serve as Board Chair for 2015; nomination seconded by Reno. There were no other nominations offered. Unanimous vote in affirmation. **At this point, Buckelew assumed the chair.**
  - Commissioner DeCaire nominated Robert Ebmeyer to serve as Vice-Chair for 2015; nomination seconded by Reno. There were no other nominations offered. Unanimous vote in affirmation.
  - Commissioner Zdunic nominated Bonnie Reno to serve as Secretary for 2015; nomination seconded by Bartz. There were no other nominations offered. Unanimous vote in affirmation.
  - Commissioner DeCaire moved appointment of Superintendent Heavilin to act as Recording Secretary for the Commission for 2015; motion seconded by Newman. Motion passed
6. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion by DeCaire to approve the Agenda as presented, supported by Zdunic. Motion passed.
7. **Approval of the minutes.** A motion was made by Zdunic to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2014 meeting as presented. Motion supported by Bartz. Motion passed
8. **Old Business:**
  - No Old Business presented at this time.
9. **New Business:**
  - Mike Cheff has requested approval of the continued use of the parks for his canoe rental business. His proof of insurance is on file. Motion by DeCaire to approve Cheff’ Canoe rentals to use the parks for launching and pick up of canoes. Motion supported by Newman. Motion passed.
  - Heavilin suggested the board revisit the pavilion rental fee of \$35 in light of costs and lack of other funding. After much discussion, Michalec made the motion to increase the fee effective July 1 to \$40.00. Motion seconded by Johnson. Motion passed. This recommendation will be moved ahead to the Board of Commissioners.
  - Heavilin made comments about and suggested continued exploration of the concept of a Regional Parks Authority with a millage to fund “regional” parks throughout the county.
10. **Buildings and Grounds Superintendent’s Report**
  - The current **Reservations Report** was distributed for review
  - Heavilin provided a report of activities related to the Annual Earth Day Parks Clean-up conducted on April 25.

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- Tree Plantings: Modern Woodmen planted numerous ornamental species and pines at Henderson Park; the Shiawassee Conservation District donated 75 conifers of various species and Heavilin volunteers planted them in Henderson, Kerby and Shiatown Parks.
- The port-a-jons at Shiatown West and Geeck Road have both been vandalized so frequently (and destroyed) that we can no longer rent them. Purchase price is over \$2,000 for a handicap unit. For now we will have to do without. The AMVETS have set a unit at Geeck on a trial basis and it has already been tipped over. Permanent restroom structures are the optimal solution to this challenge.
- Commissioner Johnson reported on the potential disposition of funds received by the county from Waste Management under a Solid Waste agreement. There is potential that the parks could be the beneficiaries of a significant amount of money, and that it could repeat for an indeterminate number of years. The board discussed what the responsible use would be for this amount of money (tens of thousands of dollars) and it was decided that capital improvements such as permanent restrooms and water would be appropriate uses.
- Beyond the port-a-jons, Heavilin reported a rash of vandalism at Shiatown and Henderson parks including the destruction of Eagle Scout Andrew Whitman's par course, vehicles doing donuts in the lawns rutting up the grass and campfires in the woods.
- Heavilin discussed the continued difficulty in organizing volunteers and the potential liability of improperly trained volunteers or of volunteers not following training procedures and/or using personal protective equipment. The fact is that volunteers open the county up to the potential of significant fines for violation of MIOSHA and other regulations.
- Heavilin briefly updated the board on the impact of the Shiatown dam impound has on the size of the park. The county's acreage will increase by 60 acres of land because of the Consumers Power holdings upstream of the dam that will be acquired when the dam reverts to the county from the State of Michigan.
- U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife will be conducting a lamprey treatment of the Shiawassee River affecting Henderson Park's waters.
- Michigan Relic Hunters has requested and Heavilin has approved an extension of the permissions granted in 2014 for metal detecting of Pine Grove Park. Their proof of insurance is on file.
- Off-agenda, the board discussed the use of funds budgeted for the parks in the current year. Commissioners agreed on the purchase of fuel to remove that expense from the Buildings & Grounds budget. It was also agreed that part-time seasonal caretakers would be a huge asset for the money in helping to improve the cleanliness, access and image of the parks. Heavilin and Bartz will work out details to take to the Board of Commissioners at the June meetings.

**11. Commissioners heard:**

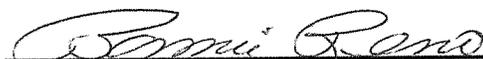
- No comments at this time.

**12. Good and Welfare:**

- Comments by Reno related to various topics of parks function.

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

**14. Adjourn:** 7:02 p.m.



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Bonnie Reno, Secretary to the Shiawassee County Parks & Recreation Commission