

The meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board was held on Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at 10:31 a.m. in their office located at 13300 Fifteen Mile Road, Marshall, Michigan.

Present: Commissioner Charles E. Monaweck, Chairman  
Commissioner Scott Brown, Vice Chairman  
Commissioner Chester E. Travis, Member  
Dennis Randolph, Managing Director  
Joanna Johnson, Assistant Managing Director  
Pixie Coats, Human Resource Director  
Kevin Henning, Finance Director  
Angela Kline, Assistant County Highway Engineer

Also Present: General Public

Chairman Charles Monaweck called the regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board to order at 10:31 a.m.

Moved by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Travis to approve the October 3, 2007 regular meeting minutes of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board. Voice vote: Motion carried.

#### COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Joanna Johnson, Assistant Managing Director, read the communications as follows:

- a) Received a memo from Joanna Johnson, Assistant Managing Director, describing the Eagle Scout leadership project in the Ott Biological Preserve.
- b) No other communications or resolutions were received.

#### MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT

Joanna Johnson, Assistant Managing Director, commented on the following:

- Eagle Scout Projects: Mrs. Johnson noted that at a previous Parks Trustees Board meeting, discussion took place on an Eagle Scout project in the Ott Biological Preserve. The scout has finished making the birdhouses and we are working with him on location and placement in the Ott Biological Preserve.

Another scout has finished the retention wall as part of the Charlotte Highway Bridge project for his Eagle Scout project. He is now in the process of building steps. Mrs. Johnson stated her appreciation to the scouts for choosing our parks for their Eagle Scout projects.

Chairman Monaweck stated that he visited Historic Bridge Park to look at the project and commented that the scout has done a very nice job with the materials that were donated to him.

Chairman Monaweck asked Mr. Henning for an update on the meeting he attended with Mr. Randolph on October 25<sup>th</sup> with the County. Mr. Henning stated that they met with the County Administrator, Interim Finance Director and County Commissioner Solis to discuss the preliminary draft of the County budget, of which Parks is a line item. Mr. Henning noted that we have submitted a request to the County for approximately \$80,000 for the operation of Kimball Pines, Historic Bridge Park and the canoe launches. Discussion also occurred on how the parks had been maintained in the past years using Act 51 monies designated for roadside park maintenance. He noted that the County is interested in establishing minimum levels of service to keep the parks open and staff is currently working on these numbers. Discussion took place on the revenue generated through the Silver Leaf Renaissance Faire and possibly pursuing reimbursement from the Friends of the Ott for maintenance of the Ott Biological Preserve. Minimum levels of service would include monthly mowing and garbage pick up and, after a preliminary review of the costs, approximately \$20,000 would be needed for minimum service to keep the parks open. The County Administrator is planning to recommend that \$10,000 come from the County. The other \$10,000 could be matched with Act 51 monies that are designated for roadside park maintenance.

Mr. Randolph noted that he has sent correspondence to the Highway Department Director regarding park funding and is awaiting a response. He was pleased that the County is recommending \$10,000 in funding for the parks and he noted that, overall, the meeting with the County went well. Discussion continued.

Mr. Henning noted that he has subsequently met with County officials and Friends of the Ott Preserve regarding maintenance of the Ott Biological Preserve. The Friends of the Ott are willing to help pay for boardwalk maintenance, signage, etc., and the County agreed to pay for garbage pick up so that the Ott does not become a dumping site. In addition, the County would pay for the Public Works and Parks audits, as well as the insurance on Parks buildings. Therefore, the contribution from the County would be approximately \$11,200.

Discussion took place on having the Jail Alternative program participants maintain the parks.

#### COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chairman Monaweck asked if there was any discussion throughout these meetings on forming a commission for the parks, as other counties have done, to find funding and provide maintenance. He reiterated his belief that we should get out of the parks and public works and focus on our responsibilities as a road commission. Mr. Randolph noted

that he has asked Mr. Beardsley to continue to gather information on this issue and has asked for another opinion on relinquishing responsibility for the parks and public works.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Mr. Mesler commented that he is present to learn how decisions are made regarding the parks.

Mr. Berezonsky asked if we have ever approached Emmett Township for funding for the parks. Mr. Randolph responded that we have not; however, we need to keep in mind that both Emmett Township and the County will be receiving a percentage of the casino revenue and that could be used to help fund the parks. Mr. Berezonsky also asked if we had checked into subcontracting mowing in the parks. Commissioner Brown responded that this would be more expensive than using Jail Alternative participants.

The next meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2007 at 10:00 a.m., following the 9:00 a.m. public meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners. There being no additional business before the Parks Trustees, Chairman Monaweck adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

---

Charles E. Monaweck, Chairman

---

Pixie Ann Coats, Deputy Clerk