

The meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board was held on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in their office located at 13300 Fifteen Mile Road, Marshall, Michigan.

Present: Commissioner Eric J. Tobin, Chairman
Commissioner Hugh T. Coward, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Scott A. Brown, Member
Commissioner Charles E. Monaweck, Member
Kevin Henning, Interim Managing Director
Pixie Coats, Board Clerk
Steve Ball, Operations Manager
Mary Jo Crumpton, Secretarial Clerk

Excused: Commissioner Chester E. Travis, Member

Also Present: General Public

Chairman Eric Tobin called the regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board to order at 6:17 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Monaweck to approve the January 2, 2008 regular meeting minutes of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board. Voice vote: motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. Coats, Board Clerk, read the communications as follows:

- a) Received Parks Trustees Resolution 2008-01, supporting the Connecting Michigan Statewide Trailways Vision and Action Plan
- b) Received Parks Trustees Resolution 2008-02, supporting the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance Master Plan

PRESENTATION on the CALHOUN COUNTY TRAILWAY ALLIANCE

Mr. Henning introduced Mr. Tom Garnett of the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) who was present to provide information on the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance (CCTA). Mr. Henning commented that the CCTA was spearheaded through the Parks Department when Annette Chapman was the Parks Director. The Parks Trustees Board adopted the Trailway Master Plan in November of 2006 and is being asked to approve two resolutions to reaffirm their support of the Trailway Master Plan and the connection of trailways throughout Michigan. Mr. Henning emphasized that the resolutions are to reaffirm support of the trailways and are non-binding and non-financial. If approved, they will be presented to the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners at their 3-20-08 meeting.

Mr. Garnett provided information on the North Country Trail Association and linking communities within Calhoun County. He explained that overall, the trail is 4600 miles long and runs from New York to North Dakota. In Michigan, the North Country Trail encompasses about 900 miles; however, there is a significant gap in Calhoun County to connect trailways with those in bordering counties. Mr. Garnett stated that the CCTA follows the Kalamazoo River through the county to connect trails in Battle Creek, Marshall, Albion and Homer. He reviewed the benefits of trailways and noted that there is a lot of trail activity in Michigan.

The Trailway Master Plan was developed through a grant from the National Parks Service and Mr. Garnett explained that they would be looking at funding the construction of the trailway through

private funding sources. He emphasized that funding is not being requested from the Parks Trustees Board, only reaffirmation of their support of the Trailway Master Plan and support for the "Connecting Michigan Statewide Trailways Vision and Action Plan".

Commissioner Brown asked about the timeline for completion of the trailway, given financial constraints. Mr. Garnett estimated that the trailway could be a 10-year project, depending on the funding sources that are secured for the project.

Commissioner Coward inquired about trail ownership and maintenance. Mr. Garnett replied that specifics are not yet in place at this time, but will need to be developed. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Tobin reiterated that the County is not being asked for a financial commitment.

A Marengo Township resident asked if the CCTA had spoken with the Michigan Farm Bureau regarding the trailway. Mr. Garnett responded that they had not.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Monaweck to approve Resolution 2008-01, supporting the "Connecting Michigan Statewide Trailways Vision and Action Plan". Voice vote: motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Monaweck to approve Resolution 2008-02, supporting the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance Master Plan. Voice vote: motion carried.

INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Henning thanked Mr. Garnett for his presentation. He announced that the Lumberjack Open tournament is being held at Kimball Pines Park on Saturday, 3-8-08. Mr. Henning also informed everyone that Mr. Vern Mesler would be giving a presentation on Historic Bridge Park at the 6-4-08 Parks Trustees Board meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Brown commented that he likes the idea of connecting trails.

Commissioner Coward thanked Mr. Garnett for his presentation and added that connecting trails is a good idea.

Commissioner Tobin commented that he is very interested in the Parks system and would like to see the cities in Calhoun County connected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., following the 5:30 p.m. regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners.

There being no additional business before the Parks Trustees Board, Chairman Tobin adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Eric J. Tobin, Chairman

Mary Jo Crumpton, Secretarial Clerk