

## Minutes of March 7, 2007

The regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board was held Wednesday, March 7, 2007 in their office located at 13300 Fifteen Mile Road, Marshall, Michigan.

Present: Commissioner Charles E. Monaweck, Chairperson  
Commissioner Chester E. Travis, Vice-Chairperson  
Commissioner Scott Brown, Member  
Dennis Randolph, Managing Director  
Joanna Johnson, Assistant Managing Director  
Kevin Henning, Finance Director  
Mary Jo Crumpton, Secretarial Clerk

Also Present: Tom Frank, Albion Township Supervisor  
Dave Veramay, Clarence Township Resident  
Joe Bramble, Convis Township Resident  
Clarence Millard, Newton Township Resident  
Gardy Berezonsky, Marengo Township Resident  
Sharon Drumhiller, Tekonsha Township Supervisor  
Nelson Shedd, Village of Tekonsha Resident

Chairman Monaweck called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m. He stated that there being no additions or corrections to the regular meeting minutes of February 7, 2006, they stand approved as printed and distributed.

### **MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dennis Randolph noted that he covered much of the park information in the report and PowerPoint presentation that was given at the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners' meeting, prior to this meeting.

Mr. Randolph reiterated that we are seeking federal funding for a non-motorized trailway hub in Historic Bridge Park where many different trailways intersect. We have submitted a proposal for additional parking and an interpretive center in Historic Bridge Park, as well as funding to connect to the trailways. We also did a pre-submittal to the Kellogg Foundation for additional funding.

Mr. Randolph noted that he is putting together an informational packet on our parks for the County Commissioners' Budget Workshop. He will provide copies to the Road Commissioners and asked for their input, prior to finalizing the packet.

Mr. Randolph met with County Commissioner Kate Segal last week regarding the parks and seems open to discussing possibilities for our parks. The focus of the County's Budget Workshop is on economic development.

As noted in the presentation that was given at the Road Commission meeting earlier this morning, the map showing the trailways across the state clearly shows a large gap in Calhoun County. The proposed railway would connect Battle Creek, Marshall and Albion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Johnson informed everyone that Kimball Pines Park is hosting a disc golf tournament on Saturday and Sunday, March 10-11, 2007.

Commissioner Monaweck commented that he believes it will generate a lot of interest when the new bridge is put up over the entrance to Historic Bridge Park. Mr. Randolph provided photos of the bridge and a map of the park and noted that additional parking is needed. The railway would go through the park to connect to the bike path on Wattles Road. He noted that we are proposing to enclose a bridge for the interpretive center to showcase information and materials. Mr. Randolph mentioned that he recently received a report from the State on a study they did on historic bridges—those that are 50 years old or older. The Living History Demonstration will be held in June at Historic Bridge Park.

The parks are gearing up for the spring and summer events. The Silverleaf Renaissance Faire (SLRF) staff are working in Kimball Pines on the weekends to prepare for this summer's event. This has been coordinated between them and the disc golfers. Mrs. Johnson noted that we are reviewing the map of Kimball Pines to determine what areas of the park the SLRF wants to use. The SLRF is planning to do a presentation to the Parks Trustees Board at their May 2, 2007, meeting. They want to show the Board how they would like to set up this year and also review future development plans.

Mrs. Johnson added that the I-69 Heritage Route staff is working on the prairie restoration project for the I-69 Tekonsha truck area. She mentioned that we would be reviewing the fee schedule for the parks, as we need to consider the greater use of our parks, especially Kimball Pines Park, during the off-season. The disc golfers have noted their need for the restroom and pavilion facilities.

The Charlotte Highway Bridge should be moving forward now that we have awarded the abutment bid.

We may have a potential Eagle Scout project at Historic Bridge Park. We have given them some ideas on building benches, swings, a gazebo, etc.

Mr. Randolph noted that when we move the bridge over the entrance to Historic Bridge Park, we are hoping to have media coverage so that we can raise awareness for our parks. Please let him know if you have ideas for promoting this event. Commissioner Brown commented that this would probably be a good year for bridge awareness, especially into July with the 50-year celebration of the Mackinac Bridge.

**CITIZEN'S TIME**

Mr. Frank asked the acreage of Historic Bridge Park. Mr. Randolph responded that he would need to check to give him an accurate number. Mr. Frank also asked the span of the bridge that would be placed over the entrance. Mr. Randolph stated that the span of the bridge is about 200'. Mr. Frank asked if the trailway would follow the road. Mr. Randolph responded that the ultimate plan is for the trailway to follow the river and up the bluff. In the meantime, we are setting things up along paved shoulders to put the trailway along the roadways. As plans develop further, the trailway will follow the river.

Mr. Veramay commented that the parks have always been one of his passions. He has always wanted an inventory taken of the parks throughout Calhoun County, including cities and villages, to promote unique features of our parks to increase awareness. Parks are an amenity and are important to residents. He has researched how much other counties spend on their parks and it is a lot of money as compared to Calhoun County, who does not spend any money on their parks. He believes a dedicated millage for parks would be a good way to support the park system in Calhoun County. Discussion continued.

Chairperson Monaweck announced that the next regular meeting of the Parks Trustees Board is scheduled for Wednesday, April 4, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. following the 9:00 a.m. Calhoun County Board of Road Commissioners meeting. There being no additional business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Charles E. Monaweck, Chairperson

---

Mary Jo Crumpton, Secretarial Clerk