

The regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board was held on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 6:05 p.m. in their office located at 13300 Fifteen Mile Road, Marshall, Michigan.

PRESENT: Commissioner Eric Tobin, Chairman
Commissioner Hugh Coward, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Charles Monaweck, Member
Commissioner Christopher Vreeland, Member

ABSENT: Commissioner Scott Brown, Member - Excused

ALSO PRESENT: Kevin Henning, Managing Director
Pixie Coats, Director of Administrative Services/Board Clerk
Angie Kline, Assistant County Highway Engineer
General Public

Chairman Eric Tobin called the regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board to order at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENTATION

Commissioner Monaweck commented that he has always been opposed to the Road Commission being involved with the parks for many reasons, especially for financial reasons. The Parks Trustees Board currently operates under Public Act 90 of 1913 that allows the Board of Commissioners to appoint the Road Commission as Parks Trustees to manage the parks. He noted that Public Act 261 of 1965 allows the Board of Commissioners to form a Parks Commission that is made up of ten members. He believes this to be an advantage, as it takes responsibility away from the County Board and Road Commission, and allows individuals with an interest in parks to manage the parks. As of today, approximately 80% of Michigan counties have established a Parks Commission to manage parks.

He reminded everyone that several months ago, he shared an article with the Board regarding a resolution passed by the Cass County Board of Commissioners to appoint a Parks Commission for parks management. He noted that Commissioner Louis Csokasy, Cass County Road Commission, was the sponsor and driving force in getting that resolution passed. Commissioner Monaweck believes that we should encourage our Board of Commissioners to appoint a Parks Commission.

Commissioner Monaweck introduced Mr. Louis Csokasy, Cass County Manager and former Cass County Road Commissioner. Mr. Csokasy shared his experience of dual roles as Road Commissioner and Parks Trustee and the legal and financial ramifications. He provided information on the process for the Board of Commissioners to form a Parks Commission under Public Act 261. Discussion continued.

MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Coward to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 4, 2009. Voice vote: Motion carried.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Henning announced that we have opened the gate at Kimball Pines Park and Historic Bridge Park has been opened and is being utilized. Electric and water will not be turned on until July.

SUPERVISORS, PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND CITIZENS TIME

Mr. Gardy Berezonsky stated that he is opposed to the Calhoun County Recreational Plan.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Tobin thanked Commissioner Monaweck for meeting with Cass County and for inviting Mr. Csokasy to tonight's meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2009, 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 6:48 p.m.

Submitted by:

Mary Jo Crumpton, Deputy Board Clerk

Eric J. Tobin, Chairman