

The meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board was held on Wednesday, April 2, 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
Commissioner Chester E. Travis, Member
Kevin Henning, Interim Managing Director
Pixie Coats, Board Clerk
Steve Ball, Operations Manager
Angie Kline, Assistant Engineer
Mary Jo Crumpton, Secretarial Clerk

Also Present: General Public

Chairman Eric Tobin called the regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board to order at 6:38 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Coward to approve the March 5, 2008 regular meeting minutes of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board. Voice vote: motion carried.

INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Henning provided the following report:

- At last month's Parks Trustees Board meeting, Tom Garnett of the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) gave a presentation on the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance (CCTA) and asked the Board to approve two resolutions to reaffirm their support of the Trailway Master Plan and the connection of trailways throughout Michigan. At their 3-20-08 meeting, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution in support of the Connecting Michigan Statewide Trailways Vision and Action Plan. Mr. Henning noted that the group is actively seeking funding to implement the plan and Mr. Garnett has asked if the Parks Trustees Board would be willing to serve as fiduciary for the CCTA if grants are received. Once funding is secured, they are also asking for assistance in mapping, developing a scope of work and the bidding process. Mr. Henning noted that a formal recommendation would be brought to the Parks Trustees Board in May.

Commissioner Tobin stated that he is in full support of the Board serving as fiduciary for the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance and added that Mr. Garnett is meeting with the Battle Creek Community Foundation on 4-17-08 regarding grant funding.

- The Lumberjack Open Disc Golf Tournament held recently at Kimball Pines went very well, other than a flooded parking lot. The various disc golf clubs have been working together and have agreed upon the layout of the 18-hole course and will be using their volunteers to redesign the course for the World Championship on 8-11-08. Plans have been coordinated with the Silver Leaf Renaissance Faire (SLRF) that runs from 7-5-08 through 8-3-08.

Mr. Henning noted that he met with SLRF and Emmett Township personnel today, regarding permit issues. He also noted that there has been a lot of vandalism at Kimball

Pines over the past few months. Mr. Henning stated that Russ Gruber, General Manager for SLRF, seems to be very open and has been working well with everyone. Discussion took place on SLRF long range plans at Kimball Pines. Mr. Henning informed SLRF that all plans would need to be approved by the Parks Trustees Board. Commissioner Brown asked if there was an original plan that was submitted by SLRF. Mr. Henning replied that a 5-year plan was submitted.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Tobin thanked Mr. Henning for his volunteer work on Parks operations and stated that he is very impressed with Mr. Henning's work. He believes that SLRF and the Disc Golf course at Kimball Pines have been good for the county and he provided data on attendance and participation. Commissioner Tobin informed everyone that he has a significant interest in our parks and is contacting County Commissioners individually on funding for our parks. Commissioner Travis suggested gathering additional data to provide to the County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Tobin asked that "Commissioner Comments" on the agenda be moved to come after "Supervisor, Public Official, and Citizen Time".

SUPERVISOR, PUBLIC OFFICIAL, AND CITIZEN TIME

- Dick Harvey, Bedford Township Trustee, asked if the Managing Director would wear 3 hats. Commissioner Brown responded that the Managing Director would assume the role of Parks and Public Works Director. The new Managing Director would be responsible for hiring any additional staff needed.
- Gardy Berezonsky, Marengo Township resident, suggested that MDOT install sound barriers on I-94 at Historic Bridge Park.
- Bing Robinson, City of Marshall resident, informed everyone that he is involved with the Brooks Area Nature group that has developed trailways in the Marshall area. He offered to share a PowerPoint presentation on their work at the May Parks meeting. Commissioner Tobin directed Mrs. Coats to include this presentation on the Parks Trustees Board meeting agenda for 5-7-08.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 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 7:08 p.m.

Eric J. Tobin, Chairman

Mary Jo Crumpton, Secretarial Clerk