

The meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board was held on Wednesday, May 7, 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  
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 7:24 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#### **PRESENTATION – Brooks Nature Center**

Mr. Bing Robinson and Mr. Dave Fhaner provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Brooks Nature Center that included the history of the property, geographical information, types of species found at the nature center, funding sources, etc.

The Nature Center covers 189 acres with two miles of marked trailways and is a significant park within the City of Marshall's park system. Partnering with the City of Marshall, funding is provided through grant funds from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fish and Wildlife Division, donations, volunteers, and support from the Stuart Lake Association.

The center encompasses walking trails, prairie restoration areas, signage, tree planting, birdhouses, benches, and one-acre food plots. Future additions planned for the nature center include biking, hiking and cross-country skiing opportunities, additional prairie restoration sites with native plantings, linking existing trailways, and providing viewing platforms for overlooks to Stuart Lake.

#### **INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT**

Mr. Henning thanked Mr. Robinson and Mr. Fhaner for their presentation.

Mr. Henning informed everyone that he is working with Tom Garnett and the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance. They are asking for our assistance with registering and recording easements for the proposed trailway, as well as possibly having the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board serve as the fiduciary for government grants the group may receive. The Battle Creek Community Foundation would serve as the fiduciary for private funding, gifts and donations.

#### **SUPERVISOR, PUBLIC OFFICIAL, AND CITIZEN TIME**

- Gardy Berezonsky, Marengo Township resident, asked what is planted on the food plots. Mr. Fhaner responded that the seed for the four one-acre food plots was donated. Two plots are sunflower and two are grain sorghum. Discussion took place on the problems with the deer population.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Tobin thanked Mr. Robinson and Mr. Fhaner for their presentation and asked if the Brooks Nature Center was home to federal and state listed species, as well as reptiles. Mr. Fhaner responded that a complete inventory has not been done, but it is one of their goals.

Commissioner Travis thanked Mr. Robinson and Mr. Fhaner for their presentation and the hours of volunteer time they dedicate to the Brooks Nature Center.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 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 7:56 p.m.

---

Eric J. Tobin, Chairman

---

Mary Jo Crumpton, Secretarial Clerk