

Minutes of September 5, 2007

The regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board was held Wednesday, September 5, 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 A. Brown, Member  
Dennis Randolph, Managing Director  
Joanna Johnson, Assistant Managing Director  
Kevin Henning, Finance Director  
Pixie Coats, Human Resource Director  
Angela Kline, Assistant County Highway Engineer

Also Present: Steve Ball, Calhoun County Road Commission  
Paul Adams, Calhoun County Road Commission  
General Public

Chairman Monaweck called the regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board to order at 10:10 a.m.

Commissioner Monaweck stated there being no additions or corrections to the regular meeting minutes of September 1, 2007 they stand approved as printed and distributed.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Received a memo from Joanna Johnson, Assistant Managing Director, regarding a request for a Special Use Permit from Silver Leaf Renaissance Faire to hold a SLRF appreciation party on September 8, 2007.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No unfinished business brought before the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Moved by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Travis to approve the Special Use Permit from Silver Leaf Renaissance Faire to hold a SLRF appreciation party on September 8, 2007, pending approval from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) on whether the park should be open or closed during the party. Discussion on the security of the party took place. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Commissioner Monaweck commented that he feels, since the County is not funding the County Parks, we may want to consider suspending all activities at the parks. We need to get a better resolution from the County Commissioners and the possibility of the use of Act 51 funds, and whether we are using it correctly or not.

Commissioner Brown asked if we are going to be spending any more money in the parks this

year. Mrs. Johnson stated that on a daily basis we have dollars being allocated to parks because we are mowing and cleaning restrooms. She commented that there aren't any grants out there that remain open for the parks, but we still have the up-keep and maintenance on the parks.

Commissioner Monaweck stated that someone needs to step up to the plate with the County and have the County make up their minds if they are going to help fund this or not. Commissioner Monaweck commented that he guesses that way back when, someone from the County thought it was a good idea for the Road Commission to take over these activities because they thought that the Road Commission could use some of their Act 51 money. He stated that if you read the resolution, we are supposed to be asking the County for funds to support these parks. Commissioner Monaweck said we need to cut to the chase and get the County involved. We can't shoulder this responsibility anymore; we just can't do this.

Commissioner Brown said that he has done some checking as well. He stated that he has talked to the Auditing Division at the Michigan Treasury and was also provided the Attorney General opinion which actually defined what a roadside park is. Basically, the acceptable use of monies for a roadside park is the primary purpose of a roadside park has to be for the rest of the motoring public and not recreational. All of these parks are recreational and are not under the definition of a roadside park.

Commissioner Monaweck said that there has been so much effort put into these parks and maintained to the point that the public uses these parks and uses them a lot. He would hate to put that in jeopardy, but on the other hand, he can't see how the County can expect the Road Commission to pay for all of this. Commissioner Monaweck said that he feels we should not put any more money into the parks and bring this all to a head.

Mrs. Johnson commented that we have made a lot of improvements in the parks. Obviously, the County Commission is not funding the parks. Improvements have still been made over the years. The question of what funds have been used for those improvements have been very well known by the County Commission over the years and there is documentation to support that.

Mr. Henning said that not only does the County Commission know where the money came from, but so does the State of Michigan. The State Audit Department is the one that grants us these transportation enhancement project grants, knowing that we are using Act 51 non-motorized funds for a match. They grant it, they award it, they pay it, and they audit it.

Commissioner Brown said that they showed an extraordinary response when he talked to them on the phone. They wanted him to write a letter and he chose not to because he didn't want to put our road funds in jeopardy.

Mrs. Johnson said that she wanted the Commissioners to know that there are still activities going on in the parks today and there is still no funding from the County today. The funds that are being utilized today are the same funds we have used prior and these are the dollars that are in

question. She wanted them to know that this is just going to continue.

Mrs. Johnson said that the budget submittal to the County for the maintenance of Kimball Pines Park and the Historic Bridge Park is \$74,552.00. The submittal to the County for the Ott Biological Preserve is \$16,809.00.

Commissioner Travis stated that if the County won't fund the parks, then we should give them back at the end of the year.

Mr. Randolph said if the Board wants to show strong support for the Road Commission to receive County funding, then they need to let the County know this.

Commissioner Brown stated that if we don't get any resolution from the County at tomorrow's budget meeting, then maybe at the next Road Commission meeting we should look at no longer spending Act 51 money on the parks.

Moved by Commissioner Travis and supported by Commissioner Brown to pass Resolution 2007-02 stating that in order for the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board to continue to operate and maintain the Calhoun County parks system we hereby strongly recommend that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners fund the operations and maintenance of the Calhoun County parks system. Voice vote: Motion carried.

#### **SUPERVISOR & PUBLIC OFFICIAL TIME**

Supervisor and Public Official comments were made.

#### **CITIZEN TIME**

Citizen comments were made.

#### **MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT**

No report was given.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Monaweck announced that the next regular meeting of the Parks Trustees Board is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, 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 10:51 a.m.

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Charles E. Monaweck, Chairperson

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Pixie Coats, Deputy Clerk