

PARKS COMMISSION

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MEMBERS

James Daly, Terry Collins, Dan Bruggeman, Beth Blanco, Ralph Tillotson
301 N. Main St, Adrian, MI 49221

MEETING LOCATION

Chambers

Minutes: Tuesday, February 18, 2025

I. Call to Order

Present: Commissioners: Ralph Tillotson, Jim Van Doren

Also Present: Board Member Dan Bruggeman, Building & Grounds Superintendent Tim Mehan, Building & Grounds Deputy Superintendent Rob VanNieuwenhze, Marketing & Communications Coordinator Jennifer Ambrose, Administrative Coordinator Carissa Zubke

Absent: Terry Collins, James Daly, Beth Blanco

The meeting was called to order by Comm. Tillotson at 11:01am.

Board Chairman Van Doren appointed himself as a voting member of the commission due to the absence of other commissioners.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: October 21, 2024

Motion by Van Doren to approve the minutes from October 21, 2024, seconded by Bruggeman. Motion carried.

III. Finance Reports

A. Finance Report

Finance Director Dan Zimolzak reviewed the Parks division of the Capital fund and the Parks fund revenue and expenses. No further discussion.

Comm. Van Doren moved to place the finance report on file, seconded by Bruggeman. Motion carried.

IV. Parks Updates

A. Parks Monthly Report

Deputy Building & Ground Superintendent VanNieuwenhze reviewed the monthly Parks report. Currently, the County parks are closed for the season.

This year there will be a primary focus on Gerber Park. The MSHDA grant will be utilized to install an accessible musical instrument park at Gerber.

The County has worked with Great Start of Lenawee and will be installing the "StoryWalk" at Gerber in the summer.

VanNieuwenhze also discussed the two Capital Improvement projects planned for Gerber Park this year, which include replacing the pavilion roof and adding electricity to the pavilion.

B. Ramsdell Kiosk

VanNieuwenhze provided an overview of the Kiosk's at Ramsdell Park that were possible with the donations received from the Oaks Foundation.

The new kiosk includes historical information, color coded maps, along with plant identification photos. Ramsdell Park Trails now has trail markers, to assist with identifying which trail visitors are on. Park visitors also have access to "All Trails", which is a mobile app to assist with trail finding at Ramsdell.

Dan Bruggeman opened discussion regarding burning the prairie at Ramsdell; VanNieuwenhze stated that has not been determined for 2025. Bruggeman shared he has worked with the City of Morenci fire department, who are willing to burn prairies and use it as a fire department training exercise.

C. Request: Close Medina Electrical

The request is to close project CPPK 2404, Medina Park electrical for pavillions.

Motion by Van Doren to close project CPPK2404, seconded by Bruggeman. Motion carried.

D. Request: Close Medina Restroom/Roof Update

The Medina restroom update and metal roofing project has been completed and is ready to be closed.

Motion by Van Doren to close project CPPK 2403, seconded by Bruggeman. Motion carried.

V. Updates & Other Business

Comm. Van Doren briefly discussed the Ramsdell Trust, which can be used for minimal things like the purchase of land. Van Doren shared that Mark Bruggeman may come to a future Parks Commission to further explain the Ramsdell Trust and answer any questions. Dan Bruggeman shared that an annual interest is earned, taxes are paid, and is deposited back into the trust.

VI. Public Comment

No comment.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Van Doren to adjourn at 11:17am, seconded by Bruggeman. Motion carried.

Parks Commission
2/18/2025