

PARKS COMMISSION

Kimberly L. Murphy
County Administrator

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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: Monday, July 21, 2025

I. Call to Order

Present: Commissioners: James Daly, Terry Collins, Beth Blanco, Ralph Tillotson, James Van Doren

Also Board Member Dan Bruggeman, Building & Grounds Superintendent Rob

Present: VanNieuwenhze, Building & Grounds Deputy Superintendent Thomas Kaminski, Administrator Kim Murphy, Deputy Administrator Shannon Elliott, Marketing & Communications Coordinator Jennifer Ambrose, Administrative Coordinator Carissa Zubke, Community Development Coordinator Francine Zysk

The meeting was called to order at 11:00am by Comm. Tillotson.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: June 16, 2025

Motion by Blanco, seconded by Collins to approve the minutes from June 16, 2025. Motion carried.

III. Finance Reports

A. Finance Report

Deputy Administrator Elliott reviewed the Parks Division of the Capital Improvement Plan and the Parks Revenue & Expense fund.

No discussion.

IV. Parks Updates

A. Parks Monthly Report

Deputy Superintendent Thomas Kaminski reviewed the monthly Parks report. A local corporation utilized BiCentennial Park for an employee event and everything went great. The Building & Grounds department received a request from Onsted Community Recreation Committee to host soccer games at BiCentennial Park. Discussion was held regarding the request to open the park earlier in the year and remain open later in the fall. This will be brought back for discussion during next month's park meeting.

Electrical projects at Gerber Park are underway, with the north pavilion electric complete.

Below is information regarding the Gerber musical instrument park that has been completed. Bruggeman stated that, historically, BiCentennial has been used for soccer many times.

B. Gerber Musical Playground

Our Community Development Coordinator, Francine Zysk applied for the MSHDA MI Neighborhood Community Amenities grant last year. Lenawee County was awarded \$75,000 for a musical instrument park at Gerber Park, Blissfield MI.

Photos from the completed musical instrument park at Gerber Park were presented. Deputy Kaminski discussed there being some groundwork that will be need to be done by Building & Grounds in the fall. Overall, the commission was very pleased with how quickly the project was completed and all the work that was put into this project.

Deputy Administrator Elliott shared information about the Great Start Storywalk that will be installed at Gerber Park. Earlier this year, the Building & Grounds department received the hardware to install the book stations. Now that the musical instrument park has been completed, the team will work to install the StoryWalk in between the musical instruments.

V. Updates & Other Business

A. Copy of Blissfield Parks Plan

The County Administrator's office received a copy of the Blissfield Parks Plan along with their public hearing information. Their Parks plan was included in the packet for the Parks Commission to look at; there is no action needed.

B. Community Amenities Grant - Letter of Support Discussion

Community Development Coordinator Zysk shared some information regarding the grant that was awarded to Lenawee for the musical instrument park. Lenawee was 1 of 11 communities to receive the Community Amenities grant from MSHDA. Since being awarded, the community amenities portion of the MI Neighborhood grant has been discontinued. During the MSHDA meetings that Zysk takes part in, there have been many recommendations and discussions to bring back the amenities portion of the grant.

*MSHDA representatives recommended **all** community members who support the Gerber Musical Instrument Park to submit a letter of support. These support letters may be submitted to Francine Zysk, and she will forward them directly to MSHDA. During the Parks Commission Picnic next month, Zysk will be inviting the MSHDA representatives to attend.*

Comm. Collins recommended the letters of support discussion be brought up at Blissfield Twp. Meeting. Administrator Murphy suggested the Parks Commission also submit a letter of support.

Board Member Bruggeman discussed how pleased Mr. Gerber would have been with the instrument park, and it completely falls in line with his vision of Gerber Park.

Discussion was held regarding the date/time of the Parks Commission Picnic. It will be held on August 18th at 5pm at Gerber Park. Representatives from Great Start and MSHDA will be invited to attend, with a possible ribbon-cutting ceremony for the musical instrument park. The Parks Commission's regular meeting will also be held at its regularly scheduled time and location.

VI. Public Comment

No discussion.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Collins, seconded by Blanco to adjourn the meeting at 11:32am. Motion carried.