

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, October 20, 2025

I. Call to Order

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

Also Present: *Building & Grounds Superintendent Rob VanNieuwenhuz, Building & Grounds Deputy Superintendent Thomas Kaminski, Deputy Administrator Shannon Elliott, Marketing & Communications Coordinator Jennifer Ambrose, Administrative Coordinator Carissa Zubke*

Absent: *Dan Bruggeman*

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

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: September 15, 2025

Motion by Blanco, to approve the minutes of September 15, 2025 seconded by Collins. Motion carried.

III. Finance Reports

A. Finance Report

Deputy Administrator Elliott reviewed the Parks finance reports; a few projects remain open and will come forward to close soon.

Elliott noted that there has been an increase in employee wages due to the nice weather and the parks being open longer in the season.

IV. Parks Updates

A. Parks Monthly Report

Deputy Building & Grounds Kaminski shared highlights from the monthly report. The carport demolition at Ramsdell has been completed and is in the process of being rebuilt.

Work to remove black locust at Taylor Rd. park was recently done.

Kaminski reported that the Onsted (OCRC) soccer games held at BiCentennial Park are done for the season. Comm. Collins stated OCRC were very pleased with hosting the games at BiCentennial and hope to do so again in the future.

B. Request: Weather Station Bird Monitoring

Siena Heights Professor Wassmer would like to install a weather station and bird monitoring system at Ramsdell Park. Funding from the Oaks Foundation would be utilized for this project. The request is to reimburse Professor Wassmer up to \$2,500 from the Oaks Foundation Grant for the purchase of a bird monitor, weather station, mounting poles, and solar-powered battery backup.

Deputy Administrator Elliott shared information regarding the long-standing collaboration between the Oaks Foundation and Ramsdell Park. The original requests from Oaks Foundation have been fulfilled like trail markers, signs, and kiosks. Oaks Foundation have also collaborated with Siena Heights in the past. There are no ongoing expenses after the initial purchase and there will be an available balance for future projects.

Motion by Blanco to reimburse up to \$2,500 for the Bird Monitor, Weather Station and accessories, seconded by Daly. Motion carried.

The data will be made available to the public on a website and Professor Wassmer plans to maintain the station after Siena Heights closes in 2026.

V. Updates & Other Business

No discussion.

VI. Public Comment

Julie Connley from the Lenawee Conservation District made comment.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Blanco, to adjourn the meeting at 11:10am, seconded by Collins. Motion carried.