

PARKS COMMISSION

Kimberly L. Murphy
County Administrator

301 N. Main St, Adrian, MI 49221
p: 517-264-4508 | f:517-264-4512

[Website](#)



MEMBERS

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

MEETING LOCATION

Chambers

Minutes: Monday, March 16, 2026

I. Call to Order

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

Also Present: Board Member Dan Bruggeman, Building & Grounds Superintendent Rob VanNieuwenhuz, Building & Grounds Deputy Superintendent Thomas Kaminski, Administrator Kim Murphy, Deputy Administrator Shannon Elliott, Marketing & Communications Coordinator Jennifer Ambrose, Administrative Coordinator Carissa Zubke, Julie Conley-Lenawee Conservation District

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

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: October 20, 2025

Motion by Blanco to approve the minutes of October 20, 2025, seconded by Collins. Motion carried.

III. Finance Reports

A. Finance Report

Deputy Administrator Elliott reviewed the Parks financial reports.

Elliott reported that the Parks Division of the Capital Fund report represents the available balance for budgeted capital fund projects. The Parks Revenue and Expense report represents the overall account balance for operations.

B. **Request:** Close Gerber Park Resurfacing Project

The resurfacing of the parking lot at Gerber Park was completed in 2025 and ready to close.

Motion by Collins to close project CPPK 2504, seconded by Blanco. Motion carried.

IV. Parks Updates

A. Parks Monthly Report

Deputy Superintendent Thomas Kaminski provided an overview of the monthly Parks report. The electrical project at Gerber Park was completed on both sides of the park. The Blissfield Boy Scouts troop will be doing an overnight survival camp at Gerber Park in April, as they have done in the past.

The alternator on the tractor at Ramsdell Park was recently replaced and repairs have been made on the furnace. Professor Wassmer has installed the weather/bird monitoring station. Through this, live weather updates can be found along with bird migration patterns. A link to this is on our County website, under Parks & Recreation>Ramsdell page.

The Building & Grounds department is currently hiring a seasonal employees. It was shared that the soccer organization that utilized Bicentennial Park may come back later in the year to utilize it in the fall, again.

B. Request: Ramsdell Metal Roofing

\$20,000 was budgeted in the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan to place metal roofing on the Ramsdell house and garage. The recommendation is to accept the bids from Southwell for \$23,000, which includes a \$1,780 contingency.

Motion by Blanco, seconded by Collins to accept the Southwell bid for metal roofing at Ramsdell house and garage, as part of the 2026 CIP. Motion carried.

Deputy Superintendent Kaminski shared that any amount over the \$20,000 that was budgeted will come from the department's total annual contingency of \$5,000.

C. Request: Ramsdell Metal Siding

As part of the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan, \$30,000 was budgeted for metal siding on the Ramsdell barn. The request is to accept the bid from Southwell for \$28,900, which includes a \$2,000 contingency.

Motion by Blanco, to accept the bid from Southwell for metal siding on the Ramsdell barn, as part of the 2026 CIP, seconded by Tillotson. Motion carried.

It was clarified that the Ramsdell barn currently has a metal roof.

V. Updates & Other Business

County Parks will open Memorial Day weekend.

VI. Public Comment

Julie Conley from Lenawee Conservation District was present. The organization would like to utilize a few of the County Parks for the River Raisin Watershed Quest. Similar events have taken place in other communities, and they are excited to bring it to Lenawee.

The Quest utilizes a mobile app with location sharing and a list of tasks to be completed. Points are received after completing the various tasks. This event is planned for May 22-May

29th; Conley proposed including BiCentennial, Ramsdell, and Taylor Rd parks. Some of the potential activities may include visiting the bird station, the Vernon pool, and reading tree plaques. The group is expecting about 20 teams of five. Conley stated perimeters can be placed within the app specifying County park hours, only. The Building & Grounds Department recommended Gerber Park, Taylor Rd. and Ramsdell Park.

Discussion opened regarding replacing the bridge at Medina Park; VanNieuwenhze stated a previous quote for a new bridge came in at over \$500,000.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Blanco to adjourn at 11:28am, seconded by Collins. Motion carried.