

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, April 20, 2026

I. Call to Order

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

Also Present: 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

Absent: Dan Bruggeman, Building & Grounds Superintendent Rob VanNieuwenhze

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: March 16, 2026

Motion by Collins to approve the March 16, 2026 minutes, seconded by Daly. Motion carried.

III. Finance Reports

A. Finance Report

Deputy Administrator Elliott reviewed the parks' financial reports.

IV. Parks Updates

A. Parks Monthly Report

Deputy Superintendent Kaminski reviewed highlights from the monthly report.

Recently the department has replaced some boards on the bridge at BiCentennial Park. Additionally, they are preparing for the parks to open with the nicer weather and mowing has started.

The Blissfield Boy Scouts will be doing overnight survival training this month at Gerber Park.

Deputy Kaminski has started to reach out to local fire departments to coordinate a controlled burn at Ramsdell Park. This controlled burn is meant to get rid of unwanted brush in the park.

Kaminski is awaiting a callback from the fire department to schedule. If the burn occurs and goes well, they plan to consider this at other County parks in the future.

B. Request: Close Project CPPK2503 Gerber Park Electrical

Last year, electricity was installed at both Gerber Park Pavilions as part of the 2025 capital improvement. The project is completed and ready to close; remaining funds will be returned.

Motion by Blanco to close project CPPK2503, seconded by Collins. Motion carried.

V. Updates & Other Business

Discussion opened up regarding the possibility of the Onsted soccer team using BiCentennial park again in the fall. If they request to do so, it will come before the Parks Commission for approval.

County Parks are set to fully open up the Friday before Memorial Day.

VI. Public Comment

Julie Conley from the Lenawee Conservation District was present to share additional information regarding the upcoming River Raisin Watershed Quest.

The River Raisin Watershed Quest is underway. Registration is now open and will take place at various parks in Lenawee from May 22–May 29. County Parks include Gerber and possibly BiCentennial. As discussed last month, the quest is a virtual list of parks to visit throughout Lenawee.

Conley shared that other stops include Heritage Park and the Stubnitz center, among the 17 planned locations. Time constraints will be placed in the app that only authorizes activity during park operating hours. Registration allows for a max total of 20 groups.

Conley plans to list whether the park is a City or County park.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Collins, seconded by Blanco to adjourn at 11:13am. Motion carried.