

MEETING MINUTES

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NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION *Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee*

April 9, 2015

Michigan State Diagnostics Center
Lansing Michigan

PRESENT FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Commissioner Louise Klarr, Chair
Commissioner Tim Nichols, Co-Chair
Commissioner Vicki Pontz, Co-Chair

PRESENT FOR THE MSPAC

Tom Bailey
Julie Clark
Mike Foote
Chris Graham
Jim Hendricks
Bob Hoffmeyer
Mike McDonald
Mary Pitcher
Amy Trotter
Tom Ferguson

ABSENT

Jefferson Gray
Ann Conklin

OTHERS PRESENT

Other DNR Management and Staff

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Klarr called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Klarr then took roll call, made introductions around the room and asked if there were any additions or adjustments to the agenda. No adjustments to the agenda were offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Klarr asked if the committee had any additional edits, changes or discussion regarding the minutes from the February 12, 2015. No additional edits were recommended for the minutes.

Tom Bailey motioned to approve the February 19, 2015 minutes; Mike Foote seconded the motion; the motion unanimously carried and the February 19, 2015 minutes were approved and adopted.

Reappointments to the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

Chair Klarr announced the reappointment of three current committee members of the MSPAC. Tom Bailey, Jim Bradley and Jim Hendricks were given their letter of congratulation and continuation of their service on the MSPAC from Chair Louise Klarr.

BAY CITY RECREATION AREA LAKEFRONT AND BEACH STUDY RESOLUTION

George Lauinger, PRD-Bay City State Recreation Unit Manger gave a presentation on the history of the Bay City Recreation Area (BCRA) and challenges that BCRA has faced over the years. The history, difficulties and current resolutions are the reason support of the resolution from MSPAC is being sought. The study will create an extensive planning process to partnership with Bay County government to identify strategies to enhance the beach recreation value to enrich tourism.

Commissioner Klarr asked for a motion on Resolution 04-2015-01 Recommending Approval of the Bay City Recreation Area Lakefront and Beach Study. Mary Pitcher motioned to support the resolution; Mike Foote seconded the motion; the motion unanimously carried and Resolution 12-2015-01 was approved and adopted.

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT UPDATE – Ronald A. Olson, Chief, DNR - Parks and Recreation. The DNR was put in charge of managing a summer youth employment program initiated out of the Governor's office. It targeted the 4 highest crime areas in Michigan and has been ongoing for a couple of years. Funding this year dropped to 1 million dollars and the last couple of years it was 2 ½ million. Collaboration with federal programs was sought under the Urban Outreach Initiative for youth employment and the DNR have met with various groups to see what their programs offer and how we can create models such as theirs in the state. The success rate on this program in the four core cities (Saginaw, Flint, Pontiac and Detroit) is 40% of the children, (age 16-19) that participated either went on to college or got a job. Because of the reduction in funding the DNR is seeking sources to help with these programs so that kids don't get turned away from this opportunity.

PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET OVERVIEW – Jackie Blodgett, PRD – Program Service Chief. Documents provided by Ms. Blodgett that were discussed and reviewed included the Park Endowment Fund, Park Improvement Fund, the Recreation Passport, Fiscal Year 2015 Overview and proposals for change, 5-year Capital Outlay Plan, and Long-Range Capital Outlay Plan.

PARKS AND RECREATION GENERAL UPDATES –

Silver Lake ORV Plan – There has been many changes at Silver Lake and in the agenda packet is a “Draft Action Plan” regarding the customer access challenge that has been long standing at Silver Lake. The action plan outlines goals and steps to correct the congestion, access, public communication, reliable process for traveling visitors and effective parking and parking options.

Trails Update – Paul Yauk, Acting State Trails Coordinator wanted to share two items with the committee. The first was an Iron Belle Trail Brochure that defines the trail system that is the new major project his division is working on. The brochure highlights the many miles that are going to be developed for bicycle, snowmobiles, ORV, and equestrian trails. Secondly Mr. Yauk talked about Michigan’s Showcase Trail, the Governor’s initiative for two trails that would go from Detroit to the Western Upper Peninsula. A map of the trails being designed was viewed by the MSPAC members. These trails would encompass 12,000 miles. Its slogan “Two routes, one great trail.”

Ron Olson then spoke to the committee about a handout the members received at the start of the meeting. The handout was a flyer about the Chateau Grand Traverse (GTC) – Celebrating the Great Outdoors, three wines, Woods, Picnic and Waters of Michigan. Maia Turek will be coming to a future meeting to discuss the pilot project between the DNR and CTG in an effort to benefit the Michigan state parks, trails and boating facilities throughout the state.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Brad Garmon, Citizen came to talk to the committee about a place called the “Honeymoon Cabin.” This is an area in the Pigeon River which had about 18 buildings on it originally and now has 2 cabins left on it. Mr. Garmon received a call that the cabins were going to be torn down. He said he didn’t come to try and save the cabins but to bring awareness to the committee about places that people have come to develop a history and passion with. When we make an attempt to eliminate places or objects that have this type of emotional attachment, it brings resistance, and generally in numbers of people. When we are left with no other option than to take away that place or object we should make an attempt to work with those attached to it and bring a resolution to show that there is respect and concern for how they feel about their loss. This could be in the form of taking something from the “old” and incorporating it in the new, creating a similarity or providing an artifact from the project for sentimental remembrance.

CLOSING BUSINESS – Chair Louise Klarr wanted to send her thanks to Yolanda Taylor for her service to the committee and understands that Yolanda has taken a new position in the DNR but would be getting together today with some MSPAC members for lunch. The MSPAC wishes her well.

11:20 a.m. – Chair Louise Klaar adjourned the meeting.