

MINUTES

BELLE ISLE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 27, 2014

Dossin Great Lakes Museum
100 Strand Drive, Belle Isle, Detroit, MI 48207

Present for Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee (BIPAC)

Michele Hodges, chairperson
Michael Curis
Bryan Barnhill (second portion of meeting)
Alicia Minter
Bud Denker
Rev. Lonnie Peek, Jr.
Sommer Woods

Present for Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff

Ron Olson
Scott Pratt
Joe Hall
Mike Terrell
F/Lt. David Malloch
Other department staff

Committee chairperson **Michele Hodges** called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Approval of January 30, 2014, Minutes

Committee member **Bud Denker** made a motion that minutes of the January 30, 2014, meeting be approved as submitted. Committee member **Rev. Lonnie Peek, Jr.** seconded the motion, and it passed.

Designation of Vice Chairman for 2014

A resolution in support of the appointment of committee member **Peek** as vice chairman of the BIPAC, with a term expiring December 31, 2014, was adopted by a vote of 6-0, with one committee member absent.

2014 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Applications for Belle Isle

Committee member **Alicia Minter** made a motion that the BIPAC adopt a resolution in support of the DNR's submission of three Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund applications. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman **Peek** and passed on a vote of 6-0, with one committee member absent.

Framework for Decision-making Process

The communications process was discussed, and **Hodges** indicated the importance of responding to inquiries through a coordinated method. It was decided that any questions received should be forwarded to **Hodges** or **Ron Olson** who will determine the facts and then respond accordingly. Accurate information also will be included on the website.

Establishing Welcome Center/Service Center and Operations and Public Safety Headquarters

Olson noted that the internet and phone number will be established soon on Belle Isle. He also noted there will not be a toll gate to the island. Once the office is fully staffed, it will provide a convenient location for public information.

General Updates

It was reported that a U.S. Forest Service grant in the amount of \$150,000 will help with trees on the island, including replanting.

It was reported further that Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix is installing LED lighting systems to the casino and also renovating some island restrooms.

Olson noted that an event the previous Saturday was overbooked, and law enforcement did not allow additional entry to the island.

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Public Comment

Mike McClelland and **John Cullen** from the World Cup of Gardening asked for support of a proposed World Cup of Gardening event on Belle Isle in 2015. **Minter** made a motion to support the request subject to DNR approval. The motion was seconded by **Denker** and passed unanimously.

Margaret Daniel, private citizen, inquired about the Recreation Passport for her guests during a family reunion at a reserved shelter.

Todd Scott, representing the Detroit Greenways Coalition, spoke about his interest in submitting ideas to enhance biking, walking and running opportunities on the island. He also would like to discuss the option of using the athletic buildings for bicyclists.

Helen Gentry asked for termination of the Grand Prix on Belle Isle.

Donald Greenup, private citizen, spoke about the Grand Prix and the bottleneck on Jefferson.

Deandre Calvert, District 5, spoke in support of the Grand Prix.

Eugene Thomas would like to host a prostate cancer run on the island and inquired on the approval process.

John Burtka, Detroit City Cellars, would like to put an urban winery and vineyard on the island.

Geraldine Jackson, private citizen and Michigan Fitness foundation member, spoke about the youth day cleanup event on the island and the need for outdoor recreational opportunities for youth, including making improvements to the athletic facilities.

Anita Twardesky, private citizen, is interested in bringing kayaking to the island. She expressed interest in attending the recreation listening session.

Announcements

F/Lt. **David Malloch** of the DNR Law Enforcement Division and Michigan State Police Lt. **Bob Hendrix** provided a brief update as requested by the committee.

Hodges announced that the next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2014, at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by **Michael Curis**, seconded by **Peek**, and passed unanimously by the committee. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

APPROVED: Date 5/22/14



Michele Hodges
BIPAC Chairperson



Ron Olson
DNR Parks and Recreation Division Chief