



Van Buren County Parks Commission

Donald Handon Board of Commission Chambers 219 E
Paw Paw Street, Suite 204
Paw Paw, MI 49079



Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2024 11:00 AM

1. **Call to Order & Attendance** – Chairperson Mike Chappell called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.
Present: Chair Mike Chappell, Wayne Nelson, Richard Godfrey, Joe Parman, Becky Grabemeyer, Kurt Doroh, Emily Hickmott, Vice Chair John Small, and Daywi Cook. Also in attendance included: Lisa (Imus) Ransler, John Faul, and Ron Sefcik. **Absent:** Paul Garrod.
2. **Approval of Feb 13, 2024 Agenda** - Motion to approve by Godfrey, supported by Cook; Motion: Carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes** - Motion to approve the January 9, 2024, minutes by Doroh, supported by Nelson; Motion: Carried.
4. **Public Comments** - None.
5. **New Business**
 - a. **2024 MNRTF Grant Applications** – The high priority projects in the Parks Master Plan were reviewed. After discussion, the Blue Star Roadside Trail rose to the top for a grant request. The project meets many of the Park Plan’s objectives by leveraging resources, utilizing universal design, and supporting local planning efforts. Additionally, it supports regional and state goals of connecting non-motorized networks. Doroh, supported by Godfrey, made a motion to develop the trail utilizing MDOT’s Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) in conjunction with a 2025 MNRTF grant application. Motion carried.
 - b. **Van Buren County Road Commission’s “Board of Park Trustees”** – The Road Commission has a group of 3 Commissioners that serve as the “Board of Park Trustees” (Act 157 of 1905). The last time the group met was in 2003/04. The Board has similar duties as the County Parks and Recreation Commission (Act 261 of 1965); however, both were established by different legislation. There were no provisions in the creation of the Parks and Recreation Commission for the cessation of the Board of Park Trustees. Nelson, supported by Cook, made a motion to refer the matter to the County Board of Commissioners to determine if any corrective actions are necessary. Motion Carried
6. **Ongoing Business/Reports**
 - a. **Fairgrounds and Museum Lease** – Chuck Lossie has indicated that he has a final determination on the descriptions of the current parcels for the fairgrounds, museum and former Health and Human Services building. Meetings will be held to review the results with the Museum and Fairgrounds.
 - b. **MNRTF Kayak Launch** – A driveway permit will be necessary from the Road Commission. A property description was created in 2021 and will be refined in order to work with Meacham’s for the property donation.
7. **General Member Comments and Discussion** – It was noted that the Parks and Recreation Millage should be put in place by summer to begin collecting funds for upcoming match requirements. Staff will confirm with the Equalization Director if the millage levy can begin in summer or winter.
8. **Adjournment:** All business being completed, Godfrey, supported by Doroh made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 AM with unanimous consent.

Submitted by:

Lisa (Imus) Ransler, Secretary