



Van Buren County Parks Commission

Location: Administration Conference Room
219 E Paw Paw Street, Suite 303
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Minutes

October 11, 2022

11:00 AM

1. Call to Order & Attendance
 - Present: Mike Chappell, Kurt Doroh, Richard Godfrey, John Small
 - Absent: Joe Parman, Ryan Post
 - Minutes: Cari Elmore
2. Approval of Agenda
 - Motion to approve the agenda by Kurt Doroh, Supported by Richard Godfrey; Motion: Carried.
3. Approval of Minutes
 - Copies of the September minutes were not provided. To be approved at the 11/8/22 meeting.
4. Kayak Launch Project
 - The Meachum letter is currently being reviewed by the attorney.
 - Discussed kayak launch.
 - Acquisition of the property is with the attorney. We are now working with a new title company, the last one was not taking action.
 - John Small asked about if there is a design drawing of the bridge. It would be nice to attach that to the park.
5. Northpoint Lease with DNR
 - DNR is managing the property for us to maintain the property.
 - A lot of the beach has washed away and become a bluff.
 - The plan is to keep it with DNR for maintenance.
6. Tax Default Properties
 - There is some swamp land coming up on the tax auction, there may have small buildable area. Commissioner Chappell suggested taking a drive to look at it before the auction. Perhaps it could become another kayak launch if it's on a public lake.
 - There is a special needs home for adults on the tax auction. It is in rough shape but has a lot of rooms.
7. Mission and Vision Statement
 - Examples from other Parks online were passed out. Commissioner Chappell asked the group to review the examples and come up with ideas for our own mission and vision statement.
8. Round Table Discussion
 - The Van Buren County Fair grounds were discussed. They have a lot of activity, with different festivals and shows. Their lease is through 2050. Ideas were discussed:
 - Possibly building items that they can use as well. Frisbee golf, camping facilities, etc.
 - The Fair Board didn't like when the sheriff was using the property, they were very protective.
 - Using the property could raise revenue for them which might be acceptable, but you would need staff for clean-up.

- There are several acres they are not using.
- There is a need to fix an existing septic system problem. There is a hill that is usable for a drain field.
- There is a park in Bangor that is being fixed up. They are making a dog park area, and kids sledding. Maybe we could add it to a park pamphlet.
- Friends of Kal-Haven Trail presented Commissioner Godfrey with a recognition award.
- Inter Dunal Trail is going in South Haven. Chappell to keep updated.
- Park next to museum here in Paw Paw was discussed. It would be nice to update and develop the park, it's the focal point of the town, perhaps a butterfly garden. We could use people doing community service for upgrades. Paw Paw's Park & Rec just updated some garden space, John will check with them for information. John said he will come up with a concept drawing.

9. Adjournment: 11:38 AM

Next Meeting: 11/8/2022 at 11:00 AM