



Van Buren County Parks Commission
Donald Handon Board of Commission Chambers
219 E Paw Paw Street, Suite 204
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Minutes
January 9, 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, Paul Garrod, Lisa (Imus) Ransler, John Faul, Charles Lossie and several members of the public.
Absent: Daywi Cook
2. **Approval of Agenda** - Motion to approve the agenda by Doroh, supported by Hickmott; Motion: Carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes** - Motion to approve the December 12, 2023, minutes by Parman, supported by Doroh; Motion: Carried.
4. **Public Comments** - None.
5. **New Business**
 - a. **2024 Meeting Schedule** – Doroh, supported by Parman, made a motion to establish the 2024 Parks Commission monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am and a written schedule was distributed. Motion: Carried
 - b. **2023 MNRTF Grant Award** – It was confirmed that the County was awarded \$283,700 for the Paw Paw River Water Trail Access. No construction can begin before the final contract is signed; however, the boundary map can be finalized, and the prime professional may be secured. Ransler will begin this process.
 - c. **2024 MNRTF Grant Applications**- This years grant application is due April 1, details for an application will need to be decided in February in time to hold required public hearings and prepare the applications.
6. **Ongoing Business/Reports**
 - a. **Volunteer Opportunities** – None.
 - b. **Fairgrounds and Museum Lease** – County Surveyor Charles Lossie was present to update the Commission on the progress of the survey being done on the Fairgrounds. Lossie reported that he has concerns that buildings on adjacent property are over their lines onto the fairgrounds' property. He continues to refine the property descriptions for the museum and former Health and Human Services building lease renewals.
7. **General Member Comments and Discussion** – Hickmont noted that the City of Hartford will be holding a community input meeting for their proposed downtown park on Thursday at 5 pm.
8. **Adjournment:** All business being completed; the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 11:27 AM based upon unanimous consent.

Submitted by:

Lisa (Imus) Ransler, Secretary