

**Van Buren County Parks Commission Board  
 Regular Meeting Minutes  
 July 11, 2023**

**Donald Hanson Board of Commissioners Room, Van Buren County Administration Building  
 219 E Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw MI 49079**

1. **Note: The meeting location was moved from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference to accommodate the number of attendees**

**Call to Order and Determination of Quorum and Attendees**

At 11:02 AM, by Chair Mike Chappell with attendees/absentees/status as follows:

Board Member Attendance Report--Parks and Recreation Commission										
Name	Position	Attendance/Quorum Status	Declared Remote Location			Present	Present	+ Late	- Early	Present
			Municipality	County	State	Anytime	@ Start	Arrivals	Departs	@ End
Mike Chappell	Chair	Attended physically				Yes	Yes	✓		Yes
John Small	Vice Chair	Attended physically				Yes	Yes	✓	✓	Yes
Wayne Nelson	Secretary	Attended physically				Yes	Yes	✓		Yes
Joe Parman	Member	Attended physically				Yes	Yes	✓	✓	Yes
Kurt Doroh	Member	Attended physically				Yes	Yes	✓	✓	Yes
Lorna Nenciarini	Member	Attended physically				Yes	Yes	✓	✓	Yes
Dick Godfrey	Member	Attended physically				Yes	Yes	✓	✓	Yes
Paul Garrod	Member	Attended physically				Yes	Yes	✓	✓	Yes
Emilly Hickmott	Member	Attended physically				Yes	Yes	✓	✓	Yes
Daywi Cook	Member	Attended physically				Yes	Yes	✓	✓	Yes
Count:						10	10	0	0	10
Members Present:							10 of 10	10 of 10	10 of 10	10 of 10
Quorum (Yes/No):							Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

- a. **Board Members Present (10); Board Members Absent (0); Board Vacancies: (0).** A quorum (10 of 10) is initially present, and a quorum remained throughout the meeting.
- b. **Staff and Others Present:** John Faul, County Administrator; Ron Sefcik, Hartford Twp Supervisor; Don Blackmond, Keeler Twp Supervisor.

2. **Approval of Agenda**--The prepared agenda was approved 10-0 on the motion of Doroh, supported by Nenciarini.
3. **Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting held June 13, 2023**--The proposed minutes of the meeting were included in the agenda packet. The minutes were approved by a vote of 10-0 on the motion by Doroh, supported by Parman.
4. **Public Comment**—None
5. **New Business**—
  - a. **Welcome to new Member**—Daywi Cook was appointed by the Board of Commissioners on June 27, 2023, as the tenth member of this Board. We all welcome her.
  - b. **Michigan SPARKS Grant, Round 2**—Development of the grant application was finalized, and the application was submitted to the state on June 27.
  - c. **Keeler Township bus tour**-- The tour was conducted on June 21. Keeler Township Supervisor Don Blackmond discussed the proposed park and recreation sites and expressed support for a coordinated approach to ultimate implementation. The township will work with the Road Commission for ways to implement a park site on Round Lake along the congested area of County Road 690. Several questions about the possible sites were asked by members. The Board thanks Blackmond for hosting the tour and Chappell for arranging bus transportation through the Public Transit Department.
  - d. **Columbia Township Letter of Support**—Columbia Township is applying for funding to expand their Township Park with the addition of new features for recreation, walking, tranquility, accessibility, and support of veterans. The Board approved sending letter of support, which was sent on July 21, 2023.
6. **Unfinished Business**—
  - a. **County Fair Board and Museum Leases**—The county’s GIS staff is continuing to review the Fairgrounds and Museum leases at the county’s property in Hartford Township.
  - b. **Kayak Launch Project**—No update on the application resubmission submitted in April.

**7. General Member Comments—**

- a. Nelson asked whether we should have an official Executive Director, such as the County Administrator, so as to have a permanent office location. The statutes and bylaws will be reviewed, and the matter may be considered at a future meeting.
- b. Cook asked whether a county Parks & Rec Commission may apply for a DNR Trust Fund projects for a township without an approved parks plan. This may be reviewed and considered at a future meeting.

- 8. Adjournment—**All business being completed, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 11:26 AM, on the consensus motion of Godfrey, supported by Hickmott.



Wayne Nelson, Secretary

Van Buren County Parks and Recreation Commission