



Van Buren County Parks Commission

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



Meeting Minutes – May 14, 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, Richard Godfrey, Joe Parman, Becky Grabemeyer, Vice Chair John Small, Paul Garrod, Emily Hickmott, Wayne Nelson and Daywi Cook. **Absent:** Kurt Doroh. Also in attendance included: Lisa (Imus) Ransler and John Faul.

2. **Approval of May 14, 2024, Agenda** - Motion to approve by Parman, supported by Godfrey; Motion: Carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes** - Motion to approve the April 9, 2024, minutes by Godfrey, supported by Garrod; Motion: Carried.
4. **Public Comments** - None.
5. **New Business: ORV Recreational Ordinance** – Chappel gave an update on the progress of the Ordinance that will be presented to the County Board of Commissioners at today's Commission meeting. A copy of the draft Ordinance was sent to local units of government and the Road Commission for their input. They were informed of the following schedule:

May 2nd: Send out draft for comment.

May 14th: The County Board of Commissioners will review at Committee of the Whole meeting.

May 28th: The County Board of Commissioners will review any draft changes and receive Public Comment at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

May 31st: Local unit requests to opt out entirely or partially are due.

June 11th, The County Board of Commissioners will consider and vote to approve or not approve the Ordinance with the requested opt outs listed and included as an Attachment to the Ordinance.

To date we have received a couple of comments. One to remove the requirement for a 12' safety flag (Section 6-Operating Conditions, Section F). This seems reasonable as there are other safety requirements such as head and brake lights. From the other County samples only Cass has this in their ordinance. Allegan and Ionia do not. It is not legally mandated to have this requirement.

The Road Commission has suggested some language changes that are being reviewed by legal counsel prior to submitting a final draft for the Board's consideration.

6. **Ongoing Business/Reports**

- a. **County Park in Downtown Paw Paw:** Chappel explained that there has been interest in upgrading the park and encouraged members to engage in potential ideas.

- b. **Ongoing Business / Reports:** None.

- c. **Staff Reports**

- **Millage:** After discussion, it was recommended that the millage collection be held in December.
- **Budget:** No change from April.
- **Fairgrounds and Museum Lease** – Ransler reported that we are still waiting for a response from the Fair Board for input on final boundary adjustments.
- **MNRTF Kayak Launch** – Ransler provided an update regarding the donation of the land and survey.
- **Blue Star Trail** – Staff reported that Marcy Hamilton of SWMPC is working on trail with Abonmarche in

Berrien County. There is a \$15 million Federal grant that the county could apply for to build the trail from Berrien County Boarder to South Haven. Ransler will continue to work with SWMPC

d. Review of Project Worksheet – No additional projects were discussed.

7. General Member Comments and Discussion – None.

8. Adjournment: All business being completed, Godfrey, supported by Cook made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 AM with unanimous consent.

Submitted by:

Lisa Ransler

Lisa (Imus) Ransler, Secretary