



Van Buren County Parks Commission

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



Meeting Minutes – June 11, 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, Emily Hickmott, Kurt Doroh, and Wayne Nelson. **Absent:** Paul Garrod and Daywi Cook. Also in attendance included: Lisa (Imus) Ransler and John Faul.
2. **Approval of June 11, 2024, Agenda** - Motion to approve by Parman, supported by Godfrey; Motion: Carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes** - Motion to approve the May 14, 2024, minutes by Small, supported by Doroh; Motion: Carried.
4. **Public Comments** - None.
5. **New Business** – None.
6. **Ongoing Business/Reports**
 - a. **County Park in Downtown Paw Paw – potential upgrades** – Small reported that the Paw Paw DDA was donating 3 benches that matched the new streetscape design. The Village will be responsible for the removal of old and installation of new benches. The old benches will be returned to B&G for later use. Small has also had discussion with the Village about the maintenance and upgrade of the park fountain.
 - b. **County ORV Ordinance Update** – Nelson reported that the Road Commission voted to opt in Porter Township’s request for additional county roads to be added for ORV access. The ORV road map was approved. Chappel reported that the Board of Commissioners would review the final ordinance at their meeting later in the day.
 - c. **Staff Report** – Ransler noted that she was in the process of obtaining 2 lots in Syndicate Park by the donation from an owner. There was no new news regarding the MNRTF grant for Kayak Launch or Fairgrounds lease. She continues to work with Marcy Hamilton of SWMPC on a federal grant to fund the creation of the Blue Star Trail from Berrien County to South Haven.
 - d. **Review of Upcoming/Proposed Project Worksheet** – No additions.
7. **General Member Comments and Discussion** – Godfrey noted that the new ADA accessible Phoenix Kayak Launch along the south branch of the Black River, located at 69237 Phoenix St. in South Haven was open and also shared a newspaper article featuring “Cosy Costal Covert” from the *Harold Palladium* regarding the Ross Costal Plain Marsh Preserve that includes 1,500 acres and miles of trails owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy.
8. **Adjournment:** All business being completed, Godfrey, supported by Small made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 AM with unanimous consent.

Submitted by:

Lisa Ransler

Lisa (Imus) Ransler, Secretary