



## **Van Buren County Parks Commission**

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



### **Meeting Minutes – October 8, 2024, 11:00 AM Regular Meeting Agenda**

**A. Call to Order & Attendance** – Chairperson Mike Chappell called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

**Present:** Chairman Mike Chappell, Vice Chair John Small, Joe Parman, Becky Grabemeyer, Kurt Doroh, Wayne Nelson, Daywi Cook, Paul Garrod, Richard Godfrey and Emilly Hickmott.

**B. Approval of Agenda** - Motion to approve the October 8, 2024 Agenda by Parman, supported by Godfrey; Motion: Carried.

**C. Approval of September 10, 2024 Minutes** – to be approved at next meeting.

**D. Public Comments** - None.

**E. New Business**

**F. Ongoing Business/Reports**

**1. Staff Report: Ransler provided updates on ongoing projects:**

- a. Parks and Recreation Master Plan: The County Master Plan will expire at the end of 2025, and we will need to update to remain eligible for Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund Grants. Parman suggested that County Treasurer Nesbitt be contacted regarding foreclosed property that could be used as productive park property.
- b. The Fairgrounds lease discussions continue. The Parks Commission would like to see the boundary dispute with the neighbors to the west addressed and have the garbage cleaned up. Small volunteered to speak with the landowners.
- c. The Kayak Launch project is awaiting a final contract from the state. Once received, construction design and oversight will begin with Abonmarche.
- d. Land Preservation Board – The next meeting will be on November 13. Board is looking to apply for state funding this year to add additional land to conservation easements.

**G. General Member Comments and Discussion**

1. **Doroh** reported that the City of Bangor had appointed a new Parks and Recreation Commission, which they had not had for a few years.

2. **Cook** reported that Covert Township was submitting a grant application to the RAP program to fund the Community Reading Garden which would require a 50% match.
  3. **Chappell** reported attending a Parks and Recreation session at the MAC Conference, where he found it interesting to learn about initiatives other counties are implementing in their Parks and Recreation programs, including school involvement and creative campaigns for pet waste management.
  4. **Godfrey** shared that he was recently honored by the Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health Commission for his decades of dedicated service to the organization.
  5. **Hickmott** announced that the Conservation District's "Food, Farm, and Fun Guide" is being updated. She encouraged anyone with updates or advertising requests to contact the Conservation District office as soon as possible.
- H. **Adjournment:** All business being completed, Doroh, supported by Cook, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 AM with unanimous consent.

Submitted by:

*Lisa Ransler*

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Lisa (Imus) Ransler, Recording Secretary