



**Van Buren County
Parks and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, February 10, 2026
11:00 AM**



**Location: Donald Hanson Board of Commission
Chambers, Rm 204,
Van Buren County Administration Building
219 E Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw MI 49079**

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order, and Quorum Determination:** Chair Mike Chappell, Vice Chair John Small, Wayne Nelson, Gail Patterson-Gladney, Kurt Doroh, Joe Parman, Becky Grabemeyer, Paul Garrod, Emily Hickmott, and Daywi Cook
- 2. Approval of Agenda**—By unanimous consent or motion.
- 3. Approval of Minutes**—January 27, 2025, by motion.
- 4. Financial Review**
- 5. Public Comments**
- 6. New Business**
 - a. 2026 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application (MNRTF)
 - b. MDARD County Fair Capital Improvement Program - Signage
- 7. Ongoing Business/Reports**
 - a. Kayak Launch Update
 - b. Fair/Museum Signage Update
- 8. General Member Comments and Discussion**
- 9. Adjournment**—by motion or unanimous consent.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2026

VAN BUREN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**Donald Hanson Board of Commissioners Chambers, Room 204
Van Buren County Administration Building
219 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079
January 27, 2026 – 11:00 AM**

I. Call to Order and Attendance

Chair Mike Chappell called the special meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Present: Mike Chappell, John Small, Wayne Nelson, Kurt Doroh, Joe Parman, Becky Grabemeyer, Paul Garrod, Daywi Cook **Absent:** Gail Patterson-Gladney, Emily Hickmott

II. Approval of Agenda

Doroh, supported by Cook, made a motion to approve the January 27, 2026 agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Approval of Minutes – November 14, 2025

Parman, supported by Grabemeyer, made a motion to approve the November 14, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Public Comment - None.

V. New Business

a. Election of Officers

Discussion was held regarding the annual election of officers for the 2026 term. The Commission expressed support for continuity in leadership.

Nelson announced that his membership has been reconfirmed by the County Road Commission Board of Directors.

Nelson, supported by Doroh, made a motion to re-elect the incumbent officers for the 2026 term. The motion was unanimously approved.

b. Establish 2026 Meeting Schedule

The proposed 2026 meeting schedule was reviewed and discussed. It was noted that the schedule follows the County Board of Commissioners calendar and no changes were requested.

Doroh, supported by Grabemeyer, made a motion to approve the 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting schedule as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Ongoing Business / Reports

a. Recommend Approval of Van Buren County Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2026–2030 - Staff reported that the required public input process was completed, including a public hearing held on January 13, 2026, at which no public comments were received. The Master Plan positions the County to remain eligible for future grant funding opportunities.

Nelson, supported by Doroh, made a motion to recommend approval of the Van Buren County Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2026–2030 to the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners. The motion was unanimously approved.

b. Kayak Launch Update - An update was provided on the kayak launch project. EGLE approved the permit on January 16, 2026, valid through 2031. The project will utilize an open-pile elevated boardwalk design with revised grading limitations. A contract amendment with Abonmarche in the amount of \$14,000 was completed to finalize revised plans. Bidding is anticipated within approximately ten weeks, with construction expected to begin in the spring and be completed by September.

c. Fair / Museum Signage Update - No new updates were available at this time. Staff indicated additional information will be provided at a future meeting.

VII. General Member Comments and Discussion

Commission members discussed upcoming grant opportunities through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and other programs. Members were encouraged to consider potential projects and community needs in advance of the February meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Doroh, supported by Nelson, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Submitted by:

Lisa Ransler, Recording Secretary