

Antrim County Parks and Recreation Commission

January 11, 2005

Minutes

Members Present: Jerome Dobrzelewski, Allen Pecar, Russ Blasdell, Stan Moore, Linda Gallagher, Mike Meriwether, and Jerry Basch

Members Absent: Mike Crawford and Mark Stone

Staff Present: Eileen Wallick

Others Present: Mark Randolph (note taker)

I. Call to Order

Jerry Basch called the meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission (Parks & Rec) to order at 9:04 a.m.

Jerry thanked the members for their service to the commission and for their accomplishments of the previous year.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Allen Pecar, seconded by Jerry Dobrzelewski, to approve the December 16, 2004 Minutes. Motion passed – unanimous.

III. Election of Officers

Jerry Basch opened the floor to nominations. Mike Meriwether nominated Stan Moore as chairman and Linda Gallagher as vice-chair.

Motion by Jerome Dobrzelewski, seconded by Allen Pecar to close nominations and elect the slate presented. Motion passed – unanimous.

IV. 2005 Meeting Schedule

The commission agreed to continue meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month.

V. Parks and Recreation Plan Update

Stan Moore presented the latest draft of the Parks and Recreation Plan and described minor changes from the previous draft. Allen Pecar distributed the capital improvement plan. The commission then prioritized the individual projects worksheet and discussed plan format.

Motion by Stan Moore, seconded by Jerry Dobrzelewski to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve Resolution #1 (attached) from the Parks and Recreation Commission. Motion passed by roll call vote: yea: Jerry Basch, Russ Blasdell, Jerry Dobrzelewski, Linda Gallagher, Mike Meriwether, Stan Moore and Allen Pecar. Nay: none. Absent: Mike Crawford and Mark Stone.

Jerry Basch requested that the commission continue to work on necessary elements not included in the capital improvement plan, such as strategic planning, defining parks, natural areas, recreation land, etc.

Allen Pecar noted that the overall parks database should include far more than public access sites, and that work on it should be considered at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Antrim County Parks and Recreation Commission

March 24, 2005

Minutes

Members Present: Stan Moore, Jerome Dobrzelewski, Mike Meriwether,
Linda Gallagher, Russ Blasdel, Allen Pecar
Members Absent: Jerry Basch, Mike Crawford
Staff Present: Elizabeth St. Pierre, Eileen Wallick, Pete Garwood

I. Call to Order

Stan Moore called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

II. Approval of February 24, 2005 minutes

Motion by Jerome Dobrzelewski supported by Allen Pecar to accept the February 24, 2005 minutes was carried unanimously.

III. Forum update

Two topics, forest health (insect pests) and locations for outdoor shooting opportunities in Antrim County are being developed for the next forum. The senior center and Helena Township hall are being considered as the location for this event.

IV. Parks and Recreation Facilities Maps

Maps of Parks and Recreation facilities for each township were reviewed. Members stated that the quality looks good and that the location of some school properties may be added to the maps.

V. Parks and Recreation Plan Update

The Parks and Recreation plan has been submitted to the Michigan DNR for approval.

VI. Parks and Recreation Database Update

Motion by Linda Gallagher seconded by Allen Pecar to limit information on the Parks and Recreation database to the location of Antrim County's Parks and Recreation's public recreation facilities. Carried unanimously.

Mike Meriwether suggested that if the county sold several narrow lots to neighboring private landowners on Lake Michigan, funding could be used to purchase wider lots that would provide greater public access or improve existing lots.

Elizabeth St. Pierre distributed a brochure that describes methods of preventing shoreline erosion that could be given to the new shoreline owners. The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is currently distributing packets including this and other publications to all area realtors who sell shoreline properties.

VII. Grant Updates

\$2475 for contracting with LIAA was approved by the Finance Committee and the Board. Pete Garwood will contact Dave Frey from LIAA regarding what is covered under this funding. Stan Moore will work with Allen Pecar and staff from LIAA on future website formats for the parks and recreation database.

A Michigan DNR Trust fund proposal for developing trails and campgrounds on Wetzel Lake will be mailed this week.

Two proposals for the Antrim Creek Natural Area have been written. A proposal for funding from Coastal Management to construct displays was sent out March 23. Another proposal will be submitted to the Michigan DNR Trust Fund before the end of March.

VIII. Barnes Park Update

Bids for work on the new building at Barnes Park will be accepted until April 4 so that work can be completed by mid-May. In the meantime, construction trailers may be available for use as office space at Barnes Park. However, these trailers heat up quickly and may become uncomfortable for staff and visitors during hot weather according to Eileen Wallick.

IX. Other matters

Todd Vigland from the Grand Traverse Conservancy is helping Forest Home Township and potentially Antrim County acquire the Sevald property which is adjacent to land currently owned by the county. Details of the deal must be worked out to the satisfaction of Antrim County.

Elizabeth St. Pierre indicated she has references (co-authored by a variety of hunting and other groups) that explain how keeping these mature forest stands connected or at least in locations where they serve as “stepping stones” will help sustain populations of a variety of insect-eating songbirds that historically migrated through this region but which are now declining in number due to forest fragmentation.

Ms. St. Pierre also can provide guidelines that illustrate how and where mature tree canopy, limbs, twigs (as well as other structures that develop and accumulate over time) can benefit this property by:

- shading soils, seeps, temporary pools and thus slowing evaporation during the hot droughts predicted for Michigan (on p. 15-16 of the 2005 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for Antrim County).
- channeling excess rainwater to groundwater for later use by vegetation and human use during times of drought.

Mike Meriwether recommended that the Sevald property be purchased in order to connect forested lands and that it be managed for timber revenues that could eventually reimburse the county for this expenditure. Several committee members indicated that this property could serve as an area for trails as well.

Motion by Linda Gallagher seconded by Alan Pecar to encourage the Antrim County Board of Commissioners to acquire the Sevald property for public recreation. Carried unanimously.

The State of Michigan (DNR) is selling 500 acres of land in Emmet County that could add to existing recreational areas.

X. Communications

None.

XI. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

**Next Meeting
April 28, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.**

Antrim County Parks and Recreation Commission

April 28, 2005

Minutes

Members Present: Stan Moore, Mike Crawford, Jerry Basch, Russ Blasdel, Jerry Dobrzelewski, Mike Meriwether, Al Pecar
Members Absent: Linda Gallagher, Mark Stone
Staff Present: Pete Garwood, Eileen Wallick, Janet Person

I. Call to Order

Stan Moore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Approval of March 24, 2005 minutes

Motion by Alan Pecar, supported by Jerry Basch, to approve the minutes of March 24, 2005, with a change in paragraph VII, adding the following to the last sentence in the first paragraph, "...for the parks and recreation database." Motion carried – unanimous.

III. Parks and Recreation Plan Update

Stan Moore informed the Commission the Parks and Recreation Plan was approved by the State. He also stated the type of review the State does before approval is to make sure all the proper sections are included. Later, when we go for grants, they will make sure the plan contains the appropriate content.

IV. Forum Update

Agendas for the Forum were distributed. The title of the forum is Sight in on Shooting Sports. The representatives on the agenda from the MUCC and the DNR are not totally nailed down yet.

Mr. Moore will devise a survey using the "Option Finder" equipment (an electronic survey system) on shooting sports. The option finder can take up to 70 participants. If we have more than 70 we will have to go with paper banners and dots.

The Commission reviewed the questions that Mr. Moore has formulated for the survey and gave ideas for changes.

The Committee discussed keeping track of the number of people coming, as well as what refreshments should be available. Mike Crawford will call pizza places and see if they want to donate pizzas to the forum. Mr. Crawford will also pick up and bring the pizzas to the forum.

V. Parks and Recreation Database Update

Land Information Access Association (LIAA) continues to put the new information about the County parks and access sites on the web page.

VI. Grant Update

Mr. Garwood informed the Commission the Trust Fund grant for Wetzel Lake has been submitted, and a Trust Fund grant and a Coastal Management Program grant have been submitted for Antrim Creek Natural Area. Janet Person informed the Commission that a Coastal Management Program grant for improvements at Wetzel Lake has also been submitted.

VII. Wetzel Lake

Janet Person informed the Commission that Mancelona Township, working with ACT, is intending to run a “swim bus” for Mancelona children to Wetzel Lake and back this summer. Members of the Commission cautioned to look into the liability issue. Mancelona Township may also fund a lifeguard for Wetzel Lake.

Mr. Garwood, Ms. Person and Allen Pecar updated the Commission on their meeting with the MDNR on leasing the Wetzel Lake property.

VIII. Other Matters

The Commission discussed how and where to put a boat launch on Lake Michigan, with Barnes Park coming up as the best alternative worth exploring.

IX. Communications

None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

**The next meeting will be
Thursday, May 26, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.**

Antrim County Parks and Recreation Commission

May 26, 2005

Minutes

Members Present: Stan Moore, Jerry Basch, Russ Blasdell, Jerry Dobrzelewski, Mike Meriwether, Al Pecar, Linda Gallagher
Members Absent: Mike Crawford, Mark Stone
Staff Present: Pete Garwood, Eileen Wallick
Others: Janet Person

I. Call to Order

Stan Moore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Approval of March 24, 2005 minutes

Motion by Jerry Dobrzelewski, supported by Linda Gallagher, to approve the minutes of April 28, 2005. Motion carried – unanimous.

III. Forum Update

Stan Moore, Chairman, presented the results of the survey from the forum.

Mike Meriwether and Linda Gallagher both agreed the best option for a shooting range is the Alba Sportsman Club. Mr. Meriwether thought if we can help find them some money, an expansion of their current operation could be possible. Ms. Gallagher said it will take cooperation from the State, County and Township level. Ultimately, most of the Parks and Recreation Commission members thought if a shooting range in Antrim County is to be successful, it will have to be a collaborative effort of the three conservation/sportsmen clubs.

Russ Blasdell indicated he thought property in the center of the County would be a good way to go.

Ms. Gallagher was concerned about the future of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). Peter Garwood, Coordinator/Planner, summarized the lawsuit *Comben v. the State of Michigan* and the potential effects of a spin-off lawsuit on the MNRTF.

Mr. Moore reviewed the survey from the Parks Forum with the Commission.

Motion by Jerry Basch, supported by Linda Gallagher, to send a memorandum to the Parks Committee and the Board of Commissioners regarding shooting sports and shooting ranges that would include the following recommendations:

- **Expand the types of shooting range opportunities (e.g. long range shooting, trap shooting, etc.)**
- **The consolidation/coordination of conservation clubs in the County.**
- **Expand youth program, including gun safety instruction.**
- **Encourage the use of the facility by law enforcement.**
- **Include a strong emphasis on safety.**
- **Seek out Tourism opportunities.**

Motion carried – unanimous.

Stan Moore and Peter Garwood will put a communication together and will allow the other members to review and comment through email.

IV. Parks and Recreation Database Update

Mr. Moore updated the Commission members about his electronic conversations with Rob from LIAA about the new information on the database. Ms. Gallagher reminded the Commission that they had previously decided the database would display public facilities only.

The Commission discussed the public lands book that had previously been published as a hard copy. The Antrim Conservation District is getting ready to do a limited print of fifteen hard copies. The information is to be accessible through the internet. The Commission discussed if and how the database that LIAA is working on might be able to be put into hard copy.

V. Boat Launch on Lake Michigan

Mike Meriwether and Janet Person indicated they have some generic plans that were given to them by Voss Guntzville for a boat launch on Lake Michigan. The Commission discussed a variety of places that could possibly be made into a more formal boat launch site on Lake Michigan.

Motion by Linda Gallagher, supported by Al Pecar that a sub-committee of Stan, Jerry, Mike and Linda, inventory potential boat launch sites on Lake Michigan and report back at the June 23, 2005 meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

VI. Other Matters

- Barnes Park

Ms. Gallagher inquired about why there is not a sign for Barnes Park on U.S. 31. Ms. Wallick indicated that MDOT regulations require a sign to be so far back from the actual roadway. It wasn't worth putting on US 31.

Jerome Dobrzelewski will check to see what it will cost to get a regular sign or one of the blue information signs, offered to businesses by MDOT, along side US 31 for both Barnes Park and Elk Rapids Day Park.

The Commission discussed the possibility of a Petoskey Stone Festival at Barnes Park.

- Wetzel Lake Park

Janet Person and Pete Garwood updated the Commission on where the negotiations are with the State DNR on leasing the property.

- Elk Rapids Day Park Sign

The Commission members passed around photos of the new sign for the Elk Rapids Day Park.

IX. Communications

None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

**The next meeting will be
Thursday, June 23, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.**

Antrim County Parks and Recreation Commission

July 28, 2005

Minutes

Members Present: Stan Moore, Jerry Basch, Russ Blasdell, Al Pecar, Linda Gallagher and Mike Crawford
Members Absent: Jerry Dobrzelewski, Mark Stone and Mike Meriwether
Staff Present: Eileen Wallick
Others: None

I. Call to Order

Stan Moore called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. Approval of March 24, 2005 minutes

Motion by Jerry Basch, supported by Linda Gallagher, to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2005 meeting. Motion carried - unanimous.

III. Parks and Recreation Database Update

Stan Moore asked for initial findings and questions, on the review of the parks and recreation database, by commission members. Mike Crawford turned in Helena and Custer Townships, with minor corrections. Mike indicated that we may be missing an access point in Grass River Natural Area, off Bliss Rd. Mark Randolph will be asked to comment on this. Jerry Basch indicated that we may want to look at the names of the sites in the database. Several of the sites have common names by which they have been known for years, but no signs have been placed using these names. Improvements may lead to easier accessibility, especially for non-resident guests.

IV. Boat Launch on Lake Michigan

Stan Moore gave a PowerPoint presentation on a Lake Michigan potential boat launch review. At the May 26th meeting, a subcommittee of Stan Moore, Linda Gallagher, Jerry Basch and Mike Meriwether, was charged with this task. Four sites were visited: Barnes Park, Lore Road Extension, Banks Township Park, and Traverse Bay Nature Preserve. Lore Road was determined to be insufficient for a boat launch, due to size and accessibility.

Pros and Cons were listed for each of the remaining sites:

Barnes Park:

Pros

- County control of site
- Room for parking, turn around
- Could manage charging for boat launch

Cons

- Steep grade to water
- Need for isolation from young campers
- Cost of excavation
- Need to add break wall and dredge

Banks Township Park:

Pros

Slightly steeper drop off than Barnes
Partial break wall already established
Some Parking

Cons

Close neighbors
Limited turn around ability
Would change park greatly

Traverse Bay Nature Preserve:

Pros

Steepest drop off
Wide road to access
Allow boat launch now
Room for additional turn around and parking

Cons

Not under county ownership, Torch Lake Twp.
Preserve?

Motion by Jerry Basch, supported by Al Pecar that based on the data provided by the Lake Michigan Boat Launch review group, that we charge the review group to gather additional information as to the possible boat launch development of Barnes Park and Traverse Bay Road sites. Motion carried – unanimous.

V. Other Matters

Linda Gallagher shared concerns about the signs for Barnes Park. The park signs do not give clear indication that swimming and camping sites are available to the public.

Linda also shared concerns about damage being done to bridges and trails in Mohrmann Park. ATVs have destroyed two of the foot bridges and have created serious erosion problems on the trails and in the streams. Horse traffic is leaving manure on the trails as well. Mike Crawford indicated that he would bring this issue to the Parks Committee for consideration of signs on the trails.

Linda and Eileen continue to work on the Antrim County Festival, featuring Petoskey stones and other Antrim County specific items. The plan is to have this on Memorial Day. Eileen and Linda will make recommendations to the Parks Committee for approval. Stan asked them to also keep the commission updated.

Al Pecar expressed concern about the recent Wetzel Lake meeting. Poor publicity of the meeting led to only three individuals attending. Security and vandalism continue to be a problem at the site as well.

VI. Communications

None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

**The next meeting will be
Thursday, August 25, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.**

Antrim County Parks and Recreation Commission

August 25, 2005

Minutes

Members Present: Stan Moore, Jerry Basch, Al Pecar, Linda Gallagher and Jerry Dobrzelewski
Members Absent: Mike Crawford, Mark Stone, Russ Blasdel and Mike Meriwether
Staff Present: Joe Meyers and Eileen Wallick
Others: None

I. Call to Order

Stan Moore called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

II. Approval of July 29, 2005 minutes

Motion by Al Pecar, supported by Linda Gallagher, to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2005 meeting pending the changes of the word “destroyed” to “damaged” and stating that the Pro’s and Con’s of the boat launch sites were per Stan Moore’s presentation. Motion carried - unanimous.

III. Parks and Recreation Database Update

Jerry Basch presented his findings but stated that with more time he could do more research. Mr. Basch would like to hold on to them until next meeting so he can find out more information. Linda Gallagher presented her findings with questions regarding landlocked Public land on the Parks and Recreation website. The Commission agreed with Ms. Gallagher to disregard all of these parcels due to speculated problems with property owners. She also stated that we need to indicate where roads/trails are improved and unimproved. Stan Moore made a few suggestions about labeling of places. It was suggested that every park have an address and/or driving directions. Stan also noted that the libraries and the chamber of commerce should be added with phone numbers, where applicable, as well as any additional information.

IV. Boat Launch on Lake Michigan

Stan Moore and Linda Gallagher both spoke about the Torch Bay and the Barnes Park Sites. Stan noted that the soil erosion officer thought that there would be less erosion with the Torch Bay Site. Through all of the positive and negative aspects of both places the Commission wants to pursue both of the locations for further information.

V. All Antrim Festival

The Commission recommended that instead of the festival being called the All Antrim Festival it would be called the Petoskey Stone Festival. The group also recommended that the focus should be mainly on the Petoskey stone because of the lack of experience that the Commission has with preparation of a festival. Al Pecar also recommended that the Commission should contact Joni Moore because of her experience with planning events. The Commission would like to inform to the Parks Committee that they would like to put out a brochure on Antrim County’s Parks and Recreation opportunities to be distributed at the festival. Jerry Basch will also be part of the group setting up the Festival.

VI. Barnes Park Sign Update

Jerry Dobrzelewski had nothing new to update the Commission with, regarding the sign for Barnes Park on US-31. Eileen Wallick volunteered to call Jerry on her way back to Barnes Park and let him know exactly what the sign on M-88 has printed on it.

VII. Communications

None.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

**The next meeting will be
Thursday, September 22, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.**

Antrim County Parks and Recreation Commission

September 22, 2005

Minutes

Members Present: Stan Moore, Jerry Basch, Al Pecar, Linda Gallagher, Jerry Dobrzelewski, Mike Crawford, Russ Blasdell and Mike Meriwether
Members Absent: Mark Stone
Staff Present: Joe Meyers and Eileen Wallick
Others: None

I. Call to Order

Stan Moore called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

II. Approval of August 25, 2005 Minutes

Motion by Al Pecar, supported by Jerry Dobrzelewski, to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2005 meeting. Motion carried - unanimous.

III. Boat Launch on Lake Michigan

Stan Moore informed the Commission that we are still in the preliminary stages of the boat launch and we have not chosen a site but are exploring our options. Linda Gallagher informed Mr. Moore that a meeting with the DEQ would be good at this time to see what they think about our two preliminary sites. Ms. Gallagher also noted that she has contacted Brad Gerlach from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy about these two sites and he could be a valuable resource. Mr. Moore noted that he will contact the Army Corps of Engineers about possibly doing a site visit.

IV. Parks and Recreation Database Update

Mr. Moore informed the Commission that Valerie Craft, Secretary for the Coordinator/Planner office, has been working to fix all of the corrections to the Parks and Recreation database. Mr. Moore noted that LIAA (Land Information Access Association) has made some changes to the database; the general public can no longer view the landlocked parcels and the private businesses (but still included in the database). Mr. Moore also noted that he will talk with LIAA about incorporating parcel lines, for each of the properties in the database, in the maps.

Al Pecar commented that a DVD burner could be heavily utilized for storing the Parks and Recreation database, and several pictures, as well as some other projects for the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Pecar also suggested that a "Contact Webmaster" link be included on the webpages for people who have questions or concerns about the Parks and Recreation database.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Jerry Basch, to recommend to the Parks Committee to approve purchase of a DVD burner for a computer in the Coordinator/Planner office for support of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Motion Carried – unanimous.

V. Petoskey Stone Festival

Ms. Gallagher advised the Commission on the progress of the Petoskey Stone Festival. She has been in contact with Joan Moore, with the Mancelona Chamber of Commerce, and has been getting a lot of ideas on how and where to promote the festival. Ms. Gallagher would also like to have a website set-up and work on graphics for the promotion in various local and regional magazines.

VI. Parks and Recreation Brochure

Mr. Moore showed the Commission some of the publications from the area that could possibly be asked to help in creating a display of Antrim County's recreational uses. Mr. Moore noted that Terry Crandall-Kimble, from the Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce, would be a good contact person.

VII. Barnes Park Sign Update

Mr. Dobrzelewski informed the Commission that there are signs for Barnes Park but they are green and say Antrim County Park. He has spoken with the Road Commission and was informed that even though they have the wrong name on the signs they would not be a top priority.

Motion by Jerome Dobrzelewski, seconded by Linda Gallagher, to recommend to the Parks Committee that they recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they draft a letter to the Antrim County Road Commission regarding the need for signs at Elk Rapids Day Park and Barnes Park. Motion carried – unanimous.

VIII. Member Comment

Mike Meriwether, Antrim County Forester, commented that he is working on gaining access to some of the landlocked parcels and that the parcels should be able to be set back for viewing on our website.

Linda Gallagher informed the Commission that she is attending the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund meeting in Lansing on the Sevald Property.

Al Pecar inquired about the lease acquisition of Wetzel Lake.

Mike Crawford inquired about cutting wood on County land.

Meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

**The next meeting will be
Thursday, October 27, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.**

Antrim County Parks and Recreation Commission

October 27, 2005

Minutes

Members Present: Stan Moore, Jerry Basch, Al Pecar, Jerry Dobrzelewski, Mike Crawford and Russ Blasdell
Members Absent: Mark Stone, Linda Gallagher and Mike Meriwether
Staff Present: Joe Meyers and Eileen Wallick
Others: Rick Westerhof and Janet Person

I. Call to Order

Stan Moore called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

II. Approval of August 25, 2005 Minutes

Motion by Jerry Batch, supported by Jerry Dobrzelewski, to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2005 meeting. Motion carried - unanimous.

III. Fish Hatchery

Rick Westerhof explained to the Commission about the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery and their functions:

He explained that the Hatchery, on average, spawns 1.9 million lake trout per year to go into the Great Lakes. He also noted that they set a record of spawning 2.15 million trout and entire program puts 4.1 million fish into the Great Lakes every year.

Mr. Westerhof explained that they had opened a 24 hour 7 days a week portion with a winter snowmobile track to enter the site. The site has restrooms and a hot beverage stand that is run very successfully by donations. The other part of the building is open 7 days a week from 7 am to 3:30 pm. This is the office portion where the staff's offices are. Even though they have office hours they are usually willing to stay open later if there are people that that are interested in a tour. He also noted that they are doing a lot of community outreach but they would like to do more and would also like to possibly team up with the Commission. The hatchery is also looking to start the Friends of the Jordan River Fish Hatchery and was wondering if any of the Commission was interested.

Janet Person, Executive Director of the Antrim Conservation District, inquired on if the Hatchery could handle 650 kids in one day. Mr. Westerhof explained that it would take a lot of planning but could possibly be done. Jerry Batch inquired on the volume of people that visit the Hatchery and Mr. Westerhof explained that they do not have an accurate count but it is around 14,000 to 15,000 people per year.

IV. Parks and Recreation Database Update

Joe Meyers informed the Commission that the list attached to their agenda was a list of the sites that no one has taken a picture of for the web site (attached). The commission was asked; if they had time this weekend, to take these pictures (cameras are available in the Coordinator/Planners Office as well as the MSU Extension office. Mr. Meyers informed the Commission that if there are duplicates pictures that was fine because we can put up more than one picture on the web site.

Eileen Wallick, Parks Manager of Barnes Park, noted that the pictures that were scanned in for her web site were not as good of quality and was wondering if there was anyway that we could fix the quality. Stan Moore indicated that there where many ways that it could be done through software. Al Pecar indicated that the program Adobe Photoshop has a function for viewing pictures on the internet.

V. Petoskey Stone Festival

Ms. Wallick informed the Commission that vendors are being contacted for the festival and Linda Gallagher was tasked with the promotion of the event. The Festival planning is on schedule.

VI. Parks and Recreation Brochure

Mr. Pecar informed the Commission that the information on the back of the Antrim County Road Map was severely out-dated. He knew this to be true because he wrote the information years ago. His idea was to use the information that we are collecting for the database and the brochure to help guide a new back of the map. Mr. Pecar also had an idea that we should pull from College Field trip guides if possible to see what they are promoting.

Mr. Moore indicated that we should contact Terri Crandall-Kimble with the Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce because she might have some information for this as well as will benefit all of the Chamber of Commerce's. Mr. Moore also tasked Mr. Pecar with contacting the local newspapers on running an article on where is your favorite hidden place in Antrim County.

VII. Barnes Park and Elk Rapids Day Park Sign Update

Mr. Meyers informed the Commission that the Board of Commissioners has approved the letter be sent to the County Road Commission and waiting to be signed. Jerome Dobrzelewski informed the Commission that the Road Commission is waiting for the letter and will be sending it with a letter that they will write.

VIII. November Meeting Date

Mr. Meyers informed the Commission that the next meeting was on Thanksgiving and wanted to know if the Commission wanted to change the meeting or cancel. The meeting was rescheduled to Monday November 14, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

IX. Other Comments

Ms. Person informed the Commission that the Antrim Conservation District is looking to dredge at Craven Pond along with various other locations. The dredging machine would be very compact and fit on a pontoon. She was wondering if she could partner with the Parks and Recreation Commission on that project. Mike Crawford indicated that it should be discussed at the Parks Committee meeting. Ms. Person also spoke on the grants to build wood bridges over three locations throughout the County.

Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

**The next meeting will be
Monday, November 14, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.**

Antrim County Parks and Recreation Commission

November 14, 2005

Minutes

Members Present: Stan Moore, Jerry Basch, Al Pecar, Jerry Dobrzelewski, Mike Meriwether, and Russ Blasdell
Members Absent: Mark Stone, Linda Gallagher and Mike Crawford
Staff Present: Joe Meyers and Eileen Wallick
Others: Terry Crandall-Kimble

I. Call to Order

Stan Moore called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

II. Approval of August 25, 2005 Minutes

Motion by Jerome Dobrzelewski, supported by Jerry Basch, to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2005 meeting with the noted changes. Motion carried - unanimous.

III. Parks and Rec Database Update

Discussion ensued about the name of the database. Valerie Craft entered the meeting to discuss the recent changes to the database. She noted that all of the pictures that have been taken have been put on the website and further noted that all of the pictures that were sized down needed to be retaken.

IV. Parks and Rec Brochure

Terry Crandall-Kimble presented to the Commission what the Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce currently has to promote the area. She also handed out the map produced by Mark Stone.

Jerry Basch noted that he feels that a County produced map should not be full of advertisements.

Al Pecar noted that he started a project similar to this but was incorporated into the website. He further noted that he would like to see an advertisement free brochure.

V. Boat Launch on Lake Michigan

Stan Moore presented a PowerPoint presentation on three potential sites for a boat launch on Lake Michigan. Mr. Moore explained to the Commission that this was per their request from last month's meeting. He further explained that the pictures were very preliminary and only for the purpose for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Quality so they could see the sites and the areas in question.

Eileen Wallick inquired if Banks Township Park was still a viable option. Mr. Moore informed the Commission that it was not due to the lack of property available.

Motion by Jerome Dobrzelewski, supported by Al Pecar to proceed with the boat launch. Motion carried – unanimous.

VI. Barnes Park and Elk Rapids Sign Update

Joe Meyers presented a letter from Burt Thompson, of the Antrim County Road Commission stating that they could not help us with the sign and that we would have to contact the Michigan Department of Transportation (attached).

Mr. Basch stated that he was upset with the letter because he felt that the Road Commission could have been more helpful.

**Motion by Al Pecar, supported by Jerry Basch to send a letter to the Michigan Department of Transportation about the Elk Rapids Day Park and Barnes Park Signs.
Motion carried – unanimous.**

VIII. Other Matters

Mr. Moore informed the Commission that Mark Stone, the County Drain Commissioner could not attend morning meetings.

Jerome Dobrzelewski informed the Commission that mornings were best for him but could also do an afternoon meeting.

Mr. Moore set the next meeting for 1:00 p.m. on December 22, 2005.

Eileen Wallick, Parks Manager, informed the Commission that there would be a timber cut at Barnes Park. The Commission inquired if the cut would be in the park and Ms. Wallick indicated that she does not know that for sure.

Mr. Moore informed the Commission that the cut would not be in the park and there would be a buffer around the park so it would not be noticeable while in the park.

Ms. Wallick further noted that there is a heavily under-utilized 14 acre park in Elk Rapids and she wishes that the Commissioners would let people camp out there.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

**The next meeting will be
Thursday, December 22, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.**

Antrim County Parks and Recreation Commission

December 22, 2005

Minutes

Members Present: Stan Moore, Jerry Basch, Jerry Dobrzelewski, Mike Meriwether, Russ Blasdell, Mark Stone, Linda Gallagher and Mike Crawford

Members Absent: Al Pecar

Staff Present: Joe Meyers and Eileen Wallick

Others: None.

I. Call to Order

Stan Moore called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

II. Approval of November 14, 2005 Minutes

Motion by Jerome Dobrzelewski, supported by Jerry Basch, to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2005 meeting. Motion carried - unanimous.

III. Parks and Rec Database Update

Stan Moore recommended that Valerie Craft put together another list of locations on the database that do not currently have a picture. Mr. Moore inquired the need for two drop down menus on the page and felt that one would be sufficient.

Linda Gallagher noted that we need to find another way to portray location because tourists do not know townships.

Mark Stone noted that we should have an index page along with a search engine because some people do not feel comfortable using a search engine. Mr. Stone further inquired about how many visitors the database gets a year.

Ms. Gallagher explained to the Commission that we need to do more tests on the website.

Mr. Moore requested that Ms. Craft attend next meeting for some layout discussion and other website questions.

IV. Elk Rapids Day Park

Joe Meyers informed the Commission that the Parks Committee tasked them to look into the feasibility of transferring Elk Rapids Day Park in control of the Village. Mr. Meyers explained to the Commission that this has been discussed before but has been at a standstill for the past two years.

Ms. Gallagher explained that she would have no problems with transferring the day park over to the village if there are restrictions on the property.

Mr. Stone was tasked with contacting the Village President to see if there was still a desire to have the park in the control of the Village. Mr. Meyers was tasked with contacting Teresa Kent, County Abstracter, about the restrictions on the property.

V. Parks Brochure Update

Mr. Meyers informed the Commission that he had been contacted by Harbor House publishers about possibly putting something about parks and recreation in the Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce yearly publication.

Mr. Stone noted that he publishes a map that Harbor House has been trying to put in the publication. He thought that maybe they could put that map in the publication with the write-ups on parks and recreation information surrounding the map. Mr. Stone will contact Terri Crandall-Kimble from the Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce about the layout.

Motion by Jerry Basch, supported by Linda Gallagher to contact Terri Crandall-Kimble about a two page spread within the visitors guide. Motion carried – unanimous.

VI. Boat Launch on Lake Michigan

Stan Moore informed the Commission that he, Mr. Meyers and Mike Crawford met Sue Bright from the Army Corps of Engineers and David Gentoft from the Department of Environmental Quality about the potential boat launch sites. Mr. Moore gave a report on each individual site, as follows:

❖ Antrim Creek Natural Area

Mr. Moore noted that this was traditionally a boat launch but Ms. Bright noted that there was no room for expansion due to the wetlands that were surrounding the “boat launch”. Ms. Bright also noted that there were historical artifacts found on one side of the area.

❖ Torch Bay Nature Preserve

Mr. Moore informed the Commission that this site has the right grade for a boat launch but the wetland on the right side of the site makes it challenging for expansion. Mr. Moore further noted that the Army Corps and DEQ saw potential problems with the lack of ownership and the deed restrictions of the property. Ms. Bright further noted that Torch Lake Township had taken out a permit basically “un-improving” the site.

❖ Barnes Park

Mr. Moore noted that this was, in the Army Corps and the DEQ mind, the better site because of the ownership and no restrictions. They informed Mr. Moore that they did not have any jurisdiction over that site and it would fall into the jurisdiction of the Soil Erosion Control Officer.

Ms. Bright noted that any of the sites would need to have yearly dredging done through a multi-year dredging permit.

VII. Barnes Park Timber Cut

Mr. Meriwether, County Forester, informed the Commission that the Parks Committee had asked this Commission to look into the forestry and park “issue” at Barnes Park. Mr. Meriwether noted that at the park there are 80 acres that are deeded for forestry purposes and 67 acres that have no restrictions placed on them. Mr. Meriwether presented a map of where a potential paved trail and a dirt trail could go (attached). Mr. Meriwether further noted that he felt that the forest needed to be thinned out.

Eileen Wallick, Parks Manager, expressed concern of the loss of lot 11 in the park due to the trail. Mr. Meriwether informed the Commission that we would work with Ms. Wallick to minimally impact any lot as a result of the trails. Ms. Wallick further noted that she would not like a trail to the entrance of the park for security reasons.

Motion by Mark Stone, supported by Jerome Dobrzelewski, to recommend the Parks Committee move forward with the County Forester plan to selectively harvest timber from Barnes Park and proceed with his ideas of the trail system that he is planning. Motion carried – unanimous.

VIII. Petoskey Stone Festival

Linda Gallagher reported on the events that have taken place regarding the Petoskey Stone Festival. Ms. Gallagher noted that some of the local politicians are planning to attend. Ms. Gallagher further noted that she has at least five vendors with many more possibly attending.

Ms. Gallagher noted that she will be attending a meeting on January 17, 2006 to promote the Petoskey Stone Festival. Ms. Gallagher further noted that things are moving along very fast and this festival could potentially be a lot larger than we had initially expected.

Joe Meyers presented a copy of the website that Al Pecar has been working on with the information that Ms. Gallagher provided (attached).

Ms. Gallagher informed the Commission that she has been in contact with some of the local Chamber of Commerce branches and wanted the Commission's opinion on if they wanted to let the Chamber's have their own areas. Discussion ensued about vendors at the festival and the Commission decided that we should contact Pat DuBois from the Bellaire Chamber of Commerce about possibly setting up one stand for all of the chambers in the area.

IX. Regional Non-motorized Transportation and Recreation Plan

Mr. Meyers informed the Commission that the Council of Governments requested a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission represent Antrim County in the creation of the regional plan. The Commission inquired about the times and places of the meetings. Mr. Meyers did not have that information so they decided to appoint Mr. Meyers for the first meeting and report back to the Committee.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mark Stone to appoint Joe Meyers to the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments Regional Non-Motorized Transportation and Recreation Plan Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

X. Public/Member Comment

Jerry Basch spoke to the Commission about how much of a pleasure it was to be on the Commission and how important and necessary the Commission actually is.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**The next meeting will be
Thursday, January 19, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.**