

Parks and Lands Committee

Christian Marcus

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Gene Dawson

MINUTES

February 5, 2013

Members Present: Christian Marcus and Gene Dawson

Members Absent: Bernie Blackmore

Staff Present: Mike Crawford, Joe Meyers, Eileen Wallick, Mike Meriwether, Rich Hannan, Megan Olds, Kris Elbert, Sherri DeCamp, Bob Basset, Jan Basset, David Schultz, and Laura Sexton

1. Meeting called to order at 1:05 by Gene Dawson.

2. Public Comment

Ed Martel spoke on the Elk Rapids Dam and Lake Levels.

3. Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

Megan Olds spoke on the 12 miles of trails at Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area and how the conservancy would like to see that expand. Ms. Olds also spoke on potential grant funding for a water trail in Antrim county.

Ms. Olds also spoke on behalf of East Grand Traverse Bay business owners regarding a regional brand and wanted to know if the County would be interested in participating in that process.

Joe Meyers indicated that they Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was working on some of these issues. Ms. Olds indicated that she would keep in touch with the Administration and Planning Office.

4. Art Rapids/Elk Rapids Day Park

Sherri DeCamp thanked Antrim County for allowing an art park at the Elk Rapids Day Park. Ms. DeCamp went through the chosen sites of the sculptures and asked the Committee to approve the locations (attached).

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to approve the first seven sites for the Walk of Art in the Elk Rapids Day Park. Motion carried – unanimous.

Discussion ensued over the signage for the Walk of Art.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to approve the updated signage for the Elk Rapids Day Park for the Walk of Art with moving the entrance sign from the north driveway to the south driveway. Motion carried – unanimous.

Kris Elbert spoke about the grand opening of the Walk of Art on July 27, 2013 from 4-6 p.m.

Motion By Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to approve the Art Rapids event for the Walk of Art for July 27, 2013 from 4-6 pm. Motion carried – unanimous.

Discussion ensued over the potential pavilion at the Elk Rapids Day Park. Further discussion ensued over the need for a pavilion at the Day Park.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Board of Commissioners vote whether a pavilion at the Elk Rapids Day Park is needed.

Motion carried – unanimous.

5. Village of Bellaire

David Schultz, Village of Bellaire President, explained to the Committee what the Economic Vitality Incentive is and how it pertains to village revenue sharing.

Mr. Schultz also spoke on the history of the Richardi Park Lease.

Mr. Schultz spoke on the recreational needs of the Village as identified in the Village Recreation Plan. Discussion ensued over a portaging station to allow access from the Upper Chain to the Lower Chain of Lakes. Christian indicated that he would like to see the Village of Bellaire recreation plan before making a final decision.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to request legal Counsel review the Lease and report back to the Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA)

Rich Hannan, GRNA Director, gave an update on events happening at Grass River Natural Area.

Mr. Hannan spoke on the Targeted Invasive Species Program. Mr. Hannan spoke on the issues with the viewing platforms and the boardwalk.

Discussion ensued over the sedimentation of the Grass River.

7. Forestry and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Mike Meriwether spoke on the County Forest Land (attached).

Discussion ensued over the need to update the County's Recreation Plan to include newly acquired parks and updated census data.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve amending the Parks and Recreation Plan.

Motion carried – unanimous.

8. Parks Update

Eileen Wallick spoke on last year's tree cutting at Barnes Park.

9. Michigan Maps Online Ad

Discussion ensued over the Michigan Maps Online Advertisement. Ms. Wallick indicated that she would like to see the ad look different. The Committee indicated that the Barnes Park Manager could change the advertisement as she saw fit.

**Motion by Christian Marcus, supported by Gene Dawson, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the ad for the Michigan Maps Online Tourism Map for \$365, noting that the company is owned by the Antrim County Drain Commissioner.
Motion carried – unanimous.**

10. Yohe Enterprises

The Committee reviewed the letter from Yohe Enterprises (attached).

**Motion by Christian Marcus, supported by Gene Dawson, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the Yohe Enterprises Inc. consent letter.
Motion carried – unanimous.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Christian Marcus

***Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman***

Gene Dawson

MINUTES March 5, 2013

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Christian Marcus, and Gene Dawson

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mike Meriwether, Joe Meyers, Marcia Price, and Michael Spence

1. Meeting called to order at 1:05 by Gene Dawson.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Richardi Park Lease

Discussion ensued over the Richardi Park Lease (attached).

Joe Meyers informed the Committee of the additions to the Lease from legal counsel. The Committee decided they would like the Board of Commissioners to review the Lease before any action is taken.

4. Forestry Program

Mike Meriwether went through his annual report he will be presenting at the Board of Commissioners meeting. Mr. Meriwether spoke on the various timber cuts that are happening on County forest lands.

5. Elk Rapids Day Park Pavilion

Discussion ensued over the location and size of the Elk Rapids Day Park pavilion.

Discussion ensued over the expense of the pavilion and whether or not to have an engineer come in to get a rough price and concept.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Finance Committee approve \$1000.00 for an engineer to develop plans for a potential pavilion at Elk Rapids Day Park. Motion carried – unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Christian Marcus

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Gene Dawson

MINUTES

April 2, 2013

Members Present: Christian Marcus, Gene Dawson and Bernie Blackmore

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mike Crawford, Joe Meyers, Eileen Wallick, Mike Meriwether, Rich Hannan, Sherri DeCamp, and Janet Koch

1. Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Gene Dawson.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Bellaire Leases

Joe Meyers informed the Committee of the history of the Little League ball field lease with the Village of Bellaire. Mr. Meyers indicated that the County could choose to cancel the lease or do nothing to extend the lease for 10 years.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to not act and by doing so extending the lease for 10 years. Motion carried – unanimous.

Discussion ensued over the Richardi Park Lease. Janet Koch, Village Clerk, informed the Committee that the Village Council would be acting on their legal counsel's recommendation at the council meeting on April 3, 2013. Mr. Meyers informed the Committee that they could wait until their next meeting to address the issue or refer it to legal counsel to make a final recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the Richardi Park Lease with the Village of Bellaire pending legal counsel's review. Motion carried – unanimous.

Mr. Meyers informed the Committee that in 2006 the Board of Commissioners approved extending the lease for the Bellaire Walking Path from 10 years to 50 years (attached). Mr. Meyers indicated that this was done due to the maintenance agreement the Village signed with the State of Michigan. Mr. Meyers further informed the Committee that the Village never acted upon the lease and it is legal counsel's recommendation that the Board reaffirm the 50 year lease.

Motion by Christian Marcus, supported by Gene Dawson, to reaffirm the motion from the Board of Commissioners from 2006 for the Bellaire Walking Path. Motion carried – unanimous.

4. Forestry/Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Mike Meriwether discussed how the frost laws are impacting the Alba Road timber cuts' timeline.

Mr. Meriwether also spoke on the Simpson Road timber cut.

Discussion ensued over the management plans on the County forestlands.

Mr. Meriwether discussed the Parks and Lands Classification that he put together and how it impacts the Forestry Ordinance.

The Committee requested Mr. Meriwether to redraft the list and bring it to the Committee next month.

5. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA)

Rich Hannan spoke on the events happening at Grass River Natural Area.

GRNA is applying for a grant from the Department of Environmental Quality DEQ for a macro-invertebrate study.

Mr. Hannan also spoke on having more than one day cleanup day at GRNA.

6. Barnes Park

Eileen Wallick spoke on the different advertisements for the Michigan Maps Online advertisement.

The Committee reviewed the three quotes for the hot water heater at Barnes Park (attached).

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Finance Committee approve the quote from E.H. Niepoth and Sons to replace the hot water heater for \$4,975. Motion carried – Yes, Christian Marcus and Gene Dawson, No Bernie Blackmore. Motion carried.

Mr. Blackmore indicated that he voted no because he felt that the project should have been bid out instead of gathering quotes.

Gene Dawson and Christian Marcus indicated that they went with the middle quote because of the relationship E.H. Niepoth has with Barnes Park.

Ms. Wallick presented quotes for the backpack blower for Barnes Park (attached).

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Finance Committee approve the quote for the backpack blower. Motion carried – unanimous.

7. Elk Rapids Day Park Pavilion

Discussion ensued over the potential Elk Rapids Day Park Pavilion. Mr. Meyers indicated that he received a quote (attached) from Environmental Architects out of Traverse City to do design work and site analysis.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to accept phase one of Environmental Architects' proposal for predesign work on the potential pavilion at a cost not to exceed \$2,000. Motion carried – unanimous.

8. Various Matters

Bernie Blackmore left the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Discussion ensued over fracking.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Christian Marcus

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Gene Dawson

MINUTES April 30, 2013

Members Present: Christian Marcus, Gene Dawson and Bernie Blackmore

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mike Crawford, Joe Meyers, Eileen Wallick, Mike Meriwether, and Rich Hannan

1. Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Bernie Blackmore.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA)

Rich Hannan informed the Committee of the educational events happening at GRNA and complemented the Road Commission on the work they did on the GRNA entrance.

Mr. Hannan inquired about the liability of volunteers working at the GRNA cleanup days. He also spoke on the County's woody debris test program on Grass River.

4. Barnes Park

Eileen Wallick informed the Committee of the ongoing events at Barnes Park.

Ms. Wallick spoke on the need to cut trees at the Elk Rapids Day Park before the Art Rapids places the first sculpture on the walk of art. Discussion ensued over whether to declare an emergency so the tree cutting can happen before May 4, 2013. Ms. Wallick presented three quotes for the tree cutting (attached).

Company	Quote
Aerial Bucket Services	\$1,750
A-1 Professional Tree Service	\$1,000
Top View Tree Service	\$1,000

Motion by Christian Marcus, supported by Gene Dawson, to approve Top View Tree Services at a cost of \$1,000 for tree cutting at Barnes Park and declare an emergency due to the increased activity at the Elk Rapids Day Park and recommend the Board of Commissioner's approve the quote. Motion carried – unanimous.

The tree cutting will take place on May 4, 2013.

5. Legal Counsel/Lease Issues

Charlie Koop spoke on the Richardi Park lease. Mr. Koop informed the Committee he was redrafting the lease to address their concerns and would get the lease to the Village of Bellaire for their review.

Discussion ensued over the Emery Property right of way across the County's railroad grade. Discussion ensued over the history of the property.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to recommend legal counsel negotiate an easement with the Emery Family. Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Forestry Report

Mike Meriwether spoke on the tree liability at the Elk Rapids Day Park.

Mr. Meriwether indicated that tree cutting at the Alba Road Property should be completed within the next week.

Discussion ensued over the Elk Rapids Day Park Pavilion
The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Christian Marcus

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Gene Dawson

MINUTES June 4, 2013

Members Present: Christian Marcus, Gene Dawson

Members Absent: Bernie Blackmore

Staff Present: Mike Crawford, Joe Meyers, Eileen Wallick, Mike Meriwether, and Rich Hannan

1. Meeting called to order at 1:08 p.m. by Gene Dawson.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Forestry and Parks and rec update

Mike Meriwether informed the Committee of events happening on the County forest land (attached).

Mr. Meriwether indicated he would like to put the Simpson Road Property in Custer Township up for timber sale.

Motion by Christian Marcus, supported by Gene Dawson, to put the Simpson Road property in Custer Township out for timber sale. Motion carried – unanimous.

Mr. Meriwether indicated that the Alba Road property timber cut in Chestonia Township has been completed. He also indicated most of the roads in the forest have been closed to help control dumping.

Mr. Meriwether indicated Forest Home Township would like to have the second parking lot in Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area be constructed. Discussion ensued if there is availability in the budget. The Committee directed the Administration and Planning Department to research the project and bring it back to the Committee.

Mr. Meriwether spoke on issues with the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area trails.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to schedule a special meeting with Forest Home Township concerning the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area trails in July. Motion carried unanimous.

Mr. Meriwether informed the Committee that he would like to treat trees in the Ritt Road forest because they are becoming infected with the emerald ash borer and the Beach Bark Disease. He is requesting \$500 to treat select trees of significance.

Motion by Christian Marcus, supported by Gene Dawson, to recommend Board of Commissioners approve \$500 out of the Forestry Fund to treat the selected ash and beach trees. Motion carried –unanimous.

4. Parks Update

Eileen Wallick gave an update on the events at the park. (attached)

5. Pavilion

Joe Meyers informed the Committee that the pavilion for the Elk Rapids Day Park is currently being designed and the preliminary designs will be ready for the next meeting.

6. Yohe Nu Energy

Charlie Koop informed the Committee that Mackinaw Energy purchased leases on County land from Yohe Energy. Mr. Koop indicated they would like the County's consent on taking over the leases and to change the lease so they can purchase insurance for any issues with the lease instead of requiring a bond (attached).

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Board of Commissioner's approve amendments on four leases on County properties in Star Township. Motion carried – unanimous.

7. Emery Property

Mr. Koop informed the Committee that the County negotiated a lease for access to the Emery property across the Grass River Natural Area Bike Path but it was never fully agreed upon for various reasons. Mr. Koop indicated that the current owners of the property would like to get an easement so the property is no longer officially landlocked. Mr. Koop indicated that he agrees with giving them an easement with conditions.

Motion by Christian Marcus, supported by Gene Dawson, to recommend the Board of Commissioner's approve an easement to the Emery Property across the Grass River Natural Area Bike Trail to be drafted by legal counsel. Motion carried – unanimous.

8. Parks and Recreation Plan

The Committee reviewed the Parks, Lands, and Forestry Plan. Discussion ensued over the goals of the Plan and how it relates to County obligations.

Mr. Meyers informed the Committee of the process of adopting the Parks and Recreation Plan.

Motion by Christian Marcus, supported by Gene Dawson, to put the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Plan out for a 30 day public hearing to be held on July 16th, 2013 at 1:00 pm in the Board of Commissioner's room. Motion carried – unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Christian Marcus

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Gene Dawson

MINUTES

July 2, 2013

Members Present: Christian Marcus, Gene Dawson, and Bernie Blackmore

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Joe Meyers, Eileen Wallick, Mike Meriwether, and Rich Hannan

1. Meeting called to order at 1:08 p.m. by Gene Dawson.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Bid Opening

The Committee opened the bids for the timber cut on Simpson Road Forest Land. The bids (attached) were as follows:

- Hausler Sawmill \$20,380
- Ecklund Forestry \$23,924

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Board of Commissioner's accept the bid from Ecklund Forestry for a price of \$23, 924.

Motion carried – unanimous.

4. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update

Rich Hannan, GRNA Director, spoke on how Grass River's focus is on the boardwalks and they will be receiving figures to replace the worn out sections. Mr. Hannan spoke on the Switchback concert and how to improve on it next year. Mr. Hannan informed the Committee that there was no attendance for the first Antrim Creek Natural Area class, but they would refocus their efforts on advertising.

5. Forestry Update

Mike Meriwether spoke on the potential parking lot at Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area. The Committee discussed the airports need to get rid of 400 yards of fill. Discussion ensued over the potential for using the fill to construct a parking lot.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to allow Mr. Meriwether to construct a parking lot on Orchard Hill Road using fill from the airport.

Motion carried – unanimous.

Mr. Meriwether spoke on the Petoskey Stone Festival.

Mr. Meriwether also spoke on setting up a forestry tour.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Board of Commissioner's approve a forestry tour of the Simpson Road Property after the August 8th Board of Commissioners meeting and also after the County Fair.

Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Barnes Park Update

Eileen Wallick spoke on cleanup activities at our parks. Ms. Wallick indicated that she anticipates Barnes Park will be full starting this weekend. Discussion ensued over the improvements to the Elk Rapids Day Park that her crew has completed.

7. Elk Rapids Day Park Update

Discussion ensued over preliminary design work for the Elk Rapids Day Park Pavilion (attached).

**Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to have the family who is interested in donating money to the Elk Rapids Pavilion, review the plans for comment.
Motion carried – unanimous.**

8. Various Matters

Discussion ensued over the County Fairground placement.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Christian Marcus

***Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman***

Gene Dawson

MINUTES

July 16, 2013

Members Present: Christian Marcus, Gene Dawson, and Bernie Blackmore

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Joe Meyers Mike Crawford, and two members of the public

1. Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Bernie Blackmore.

2. Public Hearing

Christian Marcus requested that the word “expert” on page 19 be deleted because he did not feel like the Committee was an expert on parks and recreation issues.

Mr. Marcus also questioned if the changes to the motorized trail section got changed in the Plan. Joe Meyers informed him that the language had been changed.

Mike Crawford requested that the Committee insert the following statement into the Parks, Lands, and Forestry Plan; “Antrim County residents strongly agree that acquiring land for future parks and/or open space is an action that will improve the park system. The County will continue to evaluate land acquisition opportunities and will work with willing landowners and other public and private partners to acquire land that meets parks and recreation needs”.

Discussion ensued over safe harbors.

Discussion ensued over motorized trails in the County.

Joe Meyers informed the Committee that the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund needs to have pictures of the signage at each of our parks and he would like to add them to Appendix A.

Public comment period closed at 1:42 p.m.

Mr. Meyers informed the Committee of the process of adopting the Parks and Recreation Plan. He indicated that the Board of Commissioners would need to pass a resolution (attached).

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to revise the draft Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Plan to remove the term “expert” from page 19 of the Plan and to insert “*Antrim County residents strongly agree that acquiring land for future parks and/or open space is an action that will improve the park system. The County will continue to evaluate land acquisition opportunities and will work with willing landowners and other public and private partners to acquire land that meets parks and recreation needs*” on page 35, insert pictures of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund signage in appendix A, and send it to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Motion carried – unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Christian Marcus

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Gene Dawson

MINUTES July 30, 2013

Members Present: Christian Marcus, Gene Dawson, and Bernie Blackmore

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Joe Meyers, Eileen Wallick, Mike Meriwether, David Wentworth, Terry Smith, Dean Crandall, and Rich Hannan

1. Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Bernie Blackmore.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update

Rich Hannan informed the Committee that the educational class at Antrim Creek Natural Area had 9 participants.

Mr. Hannan spoke on how GRNA has located their car counter and is working on getting it fixed so they can more accurately judge how many people are entering the Natural Area.

Mr. Hannan spoke on the bike trail at GRNA. Discussion ensued over the railroad right-of-way and the past issues with some of the landowners surrounding it.

4. Forestry Update

Discussion ensued over the trails on the Kirkpatrick forest.

Terry Smith spoke on the how the GTRLC (Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy) is fund raising for an additional 20 miles of trail over the next 3 years. Mr. Smith also spoke on the progress on the bike trails on the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area. The Committee questioned how the trails would be laid out and if it would affect the timber. Mr. Smith indicated that they were looking to add one large loop on the Kirkpatrick forest and would not be as intensive as the current loops.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Board of Commissioner's approve the trail continuation onto the Kirkpatrick forest pending the County Forester's recommendation and approval. Motion carried – unanimous.

5. Parks Update

Eileen Wallick distributed an update on the County Parks (attached).

Ms. Wallick spoke on the Willow Day Park sign which was completed and installed. Ms. Wallick indicated that the Board of Commissioner's approved the sign at their July 12, 2012 meeting, but it took Pleasant Valley Signs longer to produce than expected and was not paid out of the 2012 budget. Ms. Wallick requested that the Committee approve the invoice for the sign.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to approve the Willow Day Park sign and indicate that it was approved at the Board of Commissioner's meeting on July 12, 2012. Motion carried – unanimous.

Ms. Wallick informed the Committee of the emergency repair for the pressure tank at the 1969 bathhouse at Barnes Park (attached).

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to approve the emergency repair for the pressure tank at the 1969 bathhouse located at Barnes Park. Motion carried – unanimous.

Ms. Wallick spoke on the speed bumps at Barnes Park and how there was a complaint about one of them being too large. She also indicated that there was a need for additional speed bumps at the Park. Discussion ensued over the speed bumps at the Park.

Ms. Wallick spoke on the Northern Camper advertisement for \$225.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Finance Committee approve the advertisement in the Northern Camper for \$225. Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Elk Rapids Day Park Update

Discussion ensued over the Elk Rapids Day Park Pavilion. Joe Meyers informed the Committee that per the email from David Wentworth (attached), the family would be willing to contribute \$23,000 for the pavilion.

Discussion ensued over the next steps on the Elk Rapids Day Park pavilion. Mr. Meyers informed the Committee that they would need to get the engineering (attached) completed and bid out the project.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Finance Committee approve \$3,500 to finish the design of the Elk Rapids Day Park Pavilion and bid out the project. Motion carried – unanimous.

Mr. Meyers presented a letter from the Elk Rapids Garden Club (attached) requesting placing flowers in the Day Park for the 2014 Garden Tour.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to allow the Elk Rapids Garden Club to include the Elk Rapids Day Park as part of the 2014 Garden Tour. Motion carried – unanimous.

7. Various Matters

Discussion ensued over a harbor of refuge on Lake Michigan. Mike Crawford indicated that he would like to see the Parks and Lands Committee work harder on this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Christian Marcus

***Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman***

Gene Dawson

MINUTES

September 4, 2013

Members Present: Christian Marcus, Gene Dawson, and Bernie Blackmore

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Pete Garwood, Deb Haydell

1. Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Bernie Blackmore.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Antrim County Fair Budget

Joe Variot presented the 2014 Antrim County Fair request. Mr. Variot indicated the Fair Board is planning upgrades to the kitchen and power upgrades. The Fair Board is requesting the appropriation be increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Motion by Christian Marcus, supported by Gene Dawson, to approve the appropriation for the Antrim County Fair (increase from \$10,000 to \$12,500) for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

4. Watershed Center Appropriation

Maureen McManus, from the Watershed Center requested an appropriation of \$1,000.

Motion by Christian Marcus, supported by Gene Dawson, to approve the appropriation of \$1,000 to the Watershed Center for submittal to the Finance Committee.

Motion carried – unanimous.

5. Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) Budget

Pat Cudney, MSUE District Coordinator, presented two options for the MSUE budget for 2014. The first option indicates an increase in the MSU Base Assessment from \$38,074 to \$66,474, which would go toward making the part-time 4-H Program Coordinator full-time.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to approve the MSUE 2014 budget request that reflects a full-time 4-H Program Coordinator for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

Mr. Cudney requested the ability to address the Finance Committee when they start working on the budget.

Capital Outlay

Motion by Christian Marcus, supported by Gene Dawson, to approve the 2014 capital outlay request for MSUE of \$1,600 for two computers for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) Appropriation

Kim Balkey with the CRA requested the annual appropriation for the CRA.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to approve the 2014 appropriation request of \$1,000 for the CRA for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

7. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Appropriation

Rich Hannan, GRNA Inc. Director, presented the GRNA appropriation request for 2014. Mr. Hannan also requested \$5,000 a year for the next three years to repair the worst sections of the boardwalk and platform.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to approve the 2014 appropriation request of \$50,150 for the GRNA for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to approve the 2014 request for \$5,000 for repairs to the boardwalk at the GRNA for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

Mr. Hannan invited the Committee members to the GRNA Annual meeting this evening. Mr. Hannan indicated he was surprised and thankful that the Road Commission worked on the entrance road. He also informed the Committee the GRNA will soon have a new Director.

8. Antrim Conservation District (ACD) Appropriation

Christy Roman, ACD Director, presented the appropriation request for the ACD.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to approve the 2014 general appropriation request of \$18,000 for the ACD for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

ACD – Forestry Program

Ms. Roman presented the Forestry Program budget request for the ACD.

Motion by Christian Marcus, supported by Gene Dawson, to approve the 2014 Forestry appropriation request of \$75,000 for the ACD from the Forestry Fund for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

Mike Meriwether, Forester, gave the monthly report for the Forestry Program.

9. Parks Budget/Update

Eileen Wallick, Park Manager, presented the 2014 budget request for Barnes Park.

Motion by Christian Marcus, support by Gene Dawson, to approve the 2014 Barnes Park budget request for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

Elk Rapids Day Park

Motion by Christian Marcus, supported by Gene Dawson, to approve the 2014 Elk Rapids Day Park budget request for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

Fund Raising

Motion by Christian Marcus, supported by Gene Dawson, to approve the 2014 Park Fund Raising Fund #236 budget request for submittal to the Finance Committee.

Motion carried – unanimous.

Mr. Garwood will request the electrical inspector take a look at the wiring in the campground pedestals.

Motion by Christian Marcus, supported by Gene Dawson, to pass the Barnes Park capital outlay request to the Finance Committee contingent on the Park Manager ranking the items. Motion carried – unanimous.

Elk Rapids Capital Outlay

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to approve the capital outlay request for the Elk Rapids Day Park (weed trimmer). Motion carried – unanimous.

Ms. Wallick gave a verbal and written (attached) report for the parks.

Motion by Christian Marcus, supported by Gene Dawson, to recommend the Board of Commissioner's approve the replacement of the double speed bump by the office and one of the single speed bumps for \$725 at Barnes Park. Motion carried – unanimous.

Ms. Wallick will contact a contractor to get a quote on a radiant heat treatment process on the potholes at the park.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Finance Committee and the Board of Commissioner's approve the advertisement of Barnes Park in the Traverse the Magazines website at a cost of \$855 with a recommendation it be paid for out of the Barnes Park budget. Motion carried – unanimous.

10. Walk of Art

Kris Elbert from the Art Rapids! Group made presentation regarding the Walk of Art in the Elk Rapids Day Park (attached).

Ms. Elbert requested permission to have carved pumpkins displayed throughout the Park. The pumpkins will be carved by local middle school children working with local artists.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to approve Art Rapids! Be allowed to have a carved pumpkin display in the Elk Rapids Day Park along the trails during the Halloween season. Motion carried – unanimous.

Ms. Elbert indicated the Art Rapids! Board would like to donate a painting by a local artist (see attached) in memory of Charlie Koop.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Board of Commissioner's accept the donation of a painting from Art Rapids!, completed by a local artist in memory of Charles H. Koop. Motion carried – unanimous.

11. Assorted Park Budgets

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to approve the budgets for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Antrim Creek Natural Area (ACNA) Fund #234, Cedar River Natural Area/Mohrmann Natural Area/Murphy Park, and Noteware's Landing/Wetzel Lake/Willow Day Park for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

The Committee requested that the Chairman of the ACNA review the proposed budget to make sure it includes projects recently discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Christian Marcus

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Gene Dawson

MINUTES October 1, 2013

Members Present: Christian Marcus, Gene Dawson, and Bernie Blackmore

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Pete Garwood, Mike Crawford

1. Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Bernie Blackmore.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update

Rich Hannan, GRNA Director, joined the meeting. Mr. Hannan spoke on the programs that GRNA held at the Antrim Creek Natural Area (ACNA), the large woody debris project that was partially installed this past weekend and stream water testing will commence soon. Mr. Hannan announced that this might be his last report to the Committee as the new GRNA Director will be starting soon.

4. Forestry/Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Mike Meriwether, County Forester, was unable to attend the meeting.

5. Parks Update

Eileen Wallick, Park Manager joined the meeting and gave a verbal and written (attached) report.

The Committee discussed the schedule for firewood bids and porta-john bids.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to authorize advertising for bids for firewood and porta-johns for the 2014 camping season.

Motion carried – unanimous.

Sign for Noteware's Landing

The Committee discussed requesting funds for a sign for Noteware's Landing. No action was taken.

Elk Rapid Day Park

Signs along M-31 for the Elk Rapids Day Park was discussed.

Boat Launch

Mike Crawford, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, requested that the Committee renew their investigation regarding the possibility of a boat launch at the ACNA.

6. Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area

Dean Crandall and Terry Smith from Forest Home Township joined the meeting. Mr. Crandall gave an update on the trails construction at Glacial Hills. Mr. Crandall informed the Committee they have had discussions with Mike Meriwether, County Forester, on the location of a new parking lot on the Walter Kirkpatrick Forest (which is adjacent to Glacial Hills).

Mr. Smith informed the Committee the Township has been paying the camping fees and motel fees (when it rained for days) for the Americorp workers that assisted with the construction of the trail at the Glacial Hill and Walter Kirkpatrick Forest. Mr. Smith and Mr. Crandall requested the County pay 60% of the invoice.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Finance Committee and the Board of Commissioner's approve paying 60% of the invoice from Forest Home Township associated with work on the trail building at the Glacial Hill and Walter Kirkpatrick Forest to be paid for out of the Glacial Hill fund #238, not to exceed \$3,000. Motion carried – unanimous.

7. Elk Rapids Day Park Pavilion Update

Mr. Garwood gave an update on the plans as reported by Ray Kendra, the architect on the project (attached).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Christian Marcus

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Gene Dawson

MINUTES

November 5, 2013

Members Present: Christian Marcus, Gene Dawson, and Bernie Blackmore

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Pete Garwood

1. Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update

Hailey Breniser, the new GRNA Director, introduced herself to the Committee. Ms. Breniser gave the Committee an overview of her background. Since Ms. Breniser started yesterday she did not have an update prepared, but promised she will for next month's meeting.

4. Forestry/Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Update

Mike Meriwether, County Forester gave a verbal and written report (attached).

Mr. Meriwether requested permission to amend the contract with Northwest Hardwoods by extending the timeframe they have to complete the timber cut.

Motion by Christian Marcus, seconded by Gene Dawson, to recommend the Board of Commissioner's agree to extend the contract with Northwest Hardwoods to a new deadline of March 1, 2014. Motion carried – unanimous.

Notice of Timber Sale

Mr. Meriwether requested permission to bid out a timber cut for the forest land owned by the County on the corner of Ritt Road and Derenzy Road, known as the Pete Wilks Forest.

Motion by Christian Marcus, seconded by Gene Dawson, to approve the bidding of a timber harvest on the Pete Wilks Forest (corner of Ritt Road and Derenzy Road). Motion carried – unanimous.

Mr. Meriwether informed the Committee he has been negotiating with Lenny Draper for an easement that would be used for timber harvesting only. The easement would allow access to the east part of the Walter Kirkpatrick Forest (adjacent to Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area).

The Committee decided to go into closed session later in the meeting.

5. Parks Update

Eileen Wallick, Parks Manager, gave a written (attached) and verbal report of last month's activities.

Ms. Wallick indicated she contacted a number of tree service companies for quotes to remove both entire trees and hazardous branches of other trees.

Motion by Gene Dawson, seconded by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Board of Commissioner's approve a quote from Top View Tree Service to remove hazardous branches and trees in both Elk Rapids Day Park and the Barnes Park Campground at a cost of \$1,000.00 for each park. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion by Christian Marcus, seconded by Gene Dawson, to approve spending \$375 to place an advertisement on the Antrim County Map produced by Michigan Maps on Line. Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Elk Rapids Day Park Proposal

Sherri DeCamp, representative from Art Rapids!, presented a proposal to erect a banner along the outside of the fence at the Elk Rapids Day Park. The banner is a work of art by a relatively famous artist, Molly Dillworth, who also has ties with Antrim County. The banner-art is 56' x 12' and would be displayed for a year at that location. Christian Marcus opined that he would rather see the banner inside the fence as some may find it inappropriate. The majority of the Committee thought the decision should be made by the entire Board.

**Motion by Gene Dawson, seconded by Bernie Blackmore, to recommend the Board of Commissioner's approve the banner proposal from Art Rapids!
Yes – Dawson, Blackmore; No – Marcus.**

Motion by Gene Dawson, seconded by Christian Marcus, to approve the additional 28 sites for sculptures at the Elk Rapids Day Park (attached). Motion carried – unanimous.

7. Firewood Bid Opening

Motion by Christian Marcus, seconded by Gene Dawson, to recommend the Board of Commissioner's approve the firewood bid from Sandy and Rusty Barnes at \$3.00 a bundle for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 camping seasons. Motion carried – unanimous.

8. Porta-John Bid Opening

Motion by Gene Dawson, seconded by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Board of Commissioner's award the porta-john contract to Gmoser Septic Service, Inc. for a three year period at \$845.00 per year (2014, 2015, 2016). Motion carried – unanimous.

9. Proposed Easement Purchase

Motion by Christian Marcus, seconded by Gene Dawson, to go into closed session to discuss negotiations for the potential purchase of an easement from Lenny Draper that would allow access for timber harvest from the east portion of the Walter Kirkpatrick Forest. Motion carried – unanimous.

Closed session began at 2:30 p.m.

Closed session ended at 2:40 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Christian Marcus

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Gene Dawson

MINUTES

December 3, 2013

Members Present: Christian Marcus, Gene Dawson, and Bernie Blackmore

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Pete Garwood, Mike Crawford, Janet Koch, Mike Meriwether, Eileen Wallick, Haley Breniser, Dean Crandall and Terry Smith of Forest Home Twp., Bob Johnson, Haley Breniser, and Kristy Mortham

1. Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update

Haley Breniser, GRNA Director, told the committee that Grass River was in the process of hiring a new education director. The application deadline is December 6th and they plan to start interviewing on December 16th. Ms. Breniser said the GRNA was considering Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant applications for April 2014, and that she'd attended an Association of Nature Center Administrator's course and a NorthSky Nonprofit Network workshop. In addition, she has talked to Mike Meriwether, the County Forester, about the forestry issues at GRNA and is working on the 2014 GRNA budget.

Breniser introduced Kristy Mortham, the new Executive Director of the Antrim County Conservation District.

4. Forestry/Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Update

Mike Meriwether, County Forester, submitted a December 2013 forestry report.
(See attachment page 1).

During his presentation of the report, Mr. Meriwether told the Committee that the Simpson Road timber sale was expected to be a three week project and that the Vandermark Road sale at Glacial Hills was in progress. He said he'd be putting up signage to keep bicyclists and hikers away from the cutting areas. Mr. Meriwether said he's working at the GRNA on a sustainable harvest, a 10 acre non-commercial cut with educational purposes.

The Ritt Road timber sale had not been advertised. The Committee and Pete Garwood, County Administrator, noted that if any bids had been submitted that the submitters would have to be notified. Mr. Meriwether will provide Janet Koch, Associate Planner, with the information for the public notice.

Mr. Meriwether said he'd sent a letter to James Draper regarding the purchase of an ingress-egress easement for forestry maintenance purposes **(See attachment page 2)**. Mr. Meriwether said the \$5,000 offer is unlikely to be accepted, but that it's a starting point.

Terry Smith, Forest Home Township Supervisor, asked Mr. Meriwether how the Township can help with the signs for closing parts of the Glacial Hills trail system during the tree cutting. Mr. Meriwether and Mr. Smith will work out the details.

Mr. Meriwether brought up the continuing viability of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mike Crawford, Board of Commissioner Chairman, said the Advisory Board was created to do research for the Parks and Land Committee and only has to meet when required.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (MDNR) acceptance of the County's Recreation Plan was discussed. Mr. Garwood mentioned the self-certification that is required for each of the awarded grants. This needs to be completed before the Plan will be approved by the DNR.

5. Parks Update

Eileen Wallick, Parks Manager, submitted an update regarding Barnes Park (**See attachment pages 3-5**).

Noted were invoices for chipping by Top View (\$300), an estimate for furnace maintenance by Niepoth (\$215), winterizing costs by Lautner's for Elk Rapids (\$115) and Barnes (\$135), and septic pumping by Gmosher's for (\$2,160). Wallick had contacted other firms regarding septic pumping costs and they were \$3,995 from Jordan Valley Septic Pumping and \$3,695 from Niepoth.

Motion by Gene Dawson, seconded by Christian Marcus, to pay all of the requested bills. Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Elk Rapids Day Park Pavilion Update

Janet Koch, Associate Planner, told the Committee that the architect's contract for construction of the pavilion was at the Prosecutor's Office for review. Ms. Koch also told the Committee that the architect believes that a construction period of January 15, 2014 through the first week of February is reasonable, assuming that the contract is signed soon. The January date is due to the 4-6 weeks it could take to obtain the metal roofing.

David Wentworth, the representative of the family who has told the Board of Commissioner's that they will donate \$23,000 to the construction of the pavilion, has requested that a plaque be installed naming the pavilion the "Deborah Wentworth Memorial Pavilion." Mr. Wentworth has also asked that an agreement be drawn up detailing both the name of the pavilion and the donation.

Motion by Gene Dawson, seconded by Christian Marcus, to recommend that the Board of Commissioner's name the new pavilion the "Deborah Wentworth Memorial Pavilion." Motion carried – unanimous.

Wallick cautioned that if construction takes place during periods of high snowfall that the check dams on the hill could be removed. Mr. Garwood said the contractor should be taking care of that.

7. Antrim Conservation District (ACD) Forestry Management Contract

A contract for 2014-2018 had undergone legal review and was presented to the Committee. (See attachment pages 6-10)

Motion by Gene Dawson, seconded by Christian Marcus, to recommend the Board of Commissioner's approve and the chairman sign the 5 year Forest and Wildlife Management Program contract agreement. Motion carried – unanimous.

8. Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area Invoice

Dean Crandall, a trustee of Forest Home Township who is working on the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area, had presented an invoice to Antrim County for \$8,494.56 to cover building three miles of trail in October. Forest Home Township had been presented with an equivalent bill for an additional three miles. Mr. Crandall said they'd built 18 miles of trail this year. He told the Committee that the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy is behind in their fundraising.

Mr. Crandall told the Committee a draft partnership agreement with Forest Home Township, the Village of Bellaire, Antrim County and the Land Conservancy is being worked on. The agreement will discuss long term oversight and funding for Glacial Hills.

Mr. Smith asked the Committee to appoint a County representative to attend meetings with other stakeholders, a group that is tentatively called Friends of Glacial Hills. Mr. Garwood asked how often they'd meet; Mr. Crandall said probably once a month for about two years.

Possible trail-to-road connections to Village of Bellaire roads or M-88 were also discussed. Possibilities for continuing operational funding were discussed, one of which was sponsoring a trail.

Motion by Gene Dawson, seconded by Christian Marcus, to recommend that the Board of Commissioner's appoint Gene Dawson to the Friends of Glacial Hills. Motion carried – unanimous.

Regarding the invoice, Mr. Crandall said they're aware that it's "after the fact", but he wanted the Committee to be aware that the trail-building costs with his donated labor is \$2,700 - \$3,000 per mile compared with the typical \$10,000 - \$13,000 per mile.

Mr. Dawson asked if there was any money left in this year's budget. Mr. Garwood said there was money left in the fund. Christian Marcus said asking for payment "after the fact" is not the way the County can do business. Bernie Blackmore said he couldn't recommend approving the payment of the invoice. Mr. Crawford requested that the item become an agenda item for the full Board of Commissioner's.

In response to a question from Mr. Dawson, Mr. Crandall informed the Committee that the only additional Glacial Hills trail planned for land owned by Antrim County is approximately one mile that will connect the existing trail system to a private property. This connection will allow direct access to the roads in the Village of Bellaire; however, details regarding access to the property are still being worked out.

9. Johnson Septic Easement Request

Bob Johnson, 7855 Green Street, Helena Township, is requesting that the County allow a utility easement across a parcel of County-owned property. Doing so would provide a method for at least four homes on Clam Lake to switch from using mound septic systems to a more traditional drain field at a higher elevation. The proposed easement across County property would allow treated effluent from the septic tanks to be pumped up to drain fields on property owned by Mr. Johnson. Meriwether said the County property is wetlands.

Mr. Blackmore asked if the County had a policy regarding the issue. Mr. Meriwether said the County has a policy against granting easements unless there is an advantage to the County.

Mr. Johnson said the advantage for the County is that homes would be hooking up to an upland drain field farther from Clam Lake rather than using existing mound systems or older systems that aren't as environmentally friendly and are closer to the water.

Mr. Johnson was asked to supply the Committee with letters of support from the property owners who would like to hook up to the drain field on Mr. Johnson's property. He was also asked to talk to the GRNA, check if a DEQ permit will be required to directionally drill underneath wetlands, and to get opinions on the issue from Heidi Schaffer, Antrim County's Soil Erosion Control Officer, and the Health Department. Mr. Johnson said he'd already talked to Chuck Edwards of the Health Department. Mr. Edwards had told him the proposed system is more environmentally sound than a mound system.

10. Willow Day Park Kayak Access

Matt Webster is an outfitter for kayaks and Stand-up Paddle (SUP) boards. Though currently based in Florida, he is very interested in establishing an outfitter business in Bellaire and is asking the Committee for use of the Willow Day Park as an access point for rental kayaks, canoes, and SUPs. A trailer may or may not be left at the park during the day.

Mr. Dawson said it would be a good location. Mr. Webster agreed, saying it's a good access point for recreational kayakers, with its shallower and warmer water. Mr. Webster said ideally there'd be a storefront in Bellaire and a trailer at the site for dropping off and picking up boats. Eileen Wallick said parts of the Willow Day parking lot are often wet.

Mr. Marcus said it's a public park, that Webster has as much right to launch kayaks there as anyone else. Mr. Marcus added that outfitters on the Manistee and Au Sable Rivers use public access points just as Webster is proposing.

Mr. Dawson said Mr. Webster's proposal fits in with the proposed Chain of Lakes water trail. Mr. Blackmore didn't see the proposal as a problem. A discussion regarding the details of the business followed. Mr. Webster indicated the proposal could follow a number of different scenarios, depending on what the County required or allowed. Ideally, he would like to have a permanent rack there for the kayaks and SUPs with an employee stationed there daily. However, if that was not acceptable, he could simply do all the paperwork at the store in Bellaire and drop the vessels off at the park for the customer.

Though the Committee didn't see a problem with the launching and landing of boats, they didn't think a permanent rack or a trailer parked there for day-long periods should be part of the proposal.

Mr. Webster said he would have on-water liability insurance and would require anyone renting a boat to sign a waiver. He added that he'd like to have a business in place by May 2014. The Committee told Mr. Webster they'd discuss his proposal with legal counsel.

11. Various Matters

Eileen Wallick mentioned a Radio Shack invoice of \$84.97 for camera supplies that she hadn't included in the Barnes Park report. The Committee said since it was under \$100, that she could just submit it for payment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.