

Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission

Don Miles
Blaze Budd

Jarris Rubingh, Chairman

Carl Veenstra
Lauri Gear

Minutes July 21, 2021

Members Present: Jarris Rubingh, Don Miles, Carl Veenstra and Lauri Gear.

Members absent: Blaze Budd

Others present: James Hunter, Bruce Laidlaw

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Jarris Rubingh

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Don Miles, seconded by Carl Veenstra, to approve the minutes from April 21, 2021 as presented.

Motion – Passed

4. Parks Director Update

ACNA Attendant Position

Position was hired in June, only 1 applicant applied. Position has been a success so far. Comments by Carl Veenstra on success and need of the position. General discussion ensued regarding needs of the natural area and work that needs to be completed.

Trash Can Update

Parks Director advised the commission about Trash Cans and presented a photograph with detail about the new trash cans. Identified both parking lot kiosks as the commission's desired location for the trash cans to be installed.

Driveway/Parking Improvements

Parks Director advised the commission by going over 'Antrim Creek Natural Area South Parking Lot Improvement Project Review.' Detailed explanation of work completed, cost and lessons learned. Project a success and completed under budget. Commission members commented on natural look of the completed project.

Road Signs on North Road

Parks Director advised commission on email sent to Road Commission requesting information on what a traffic engineer identifies as necessary signage to improve safety but negative response has been received. Discussed installation of new slope ahead sign, yield sign at the bottom of the hill and convex mirror at the top of the hill to improve safety for visitors.

School House

Parks Director deferred time to Bruce Laidlaw, whom has been in contact with owner ~~Angela~~. Bruce explained ~~Angela's~~ the owner's stance on selling or donating the property to complete the ACNA. Suggested making her an offer and explained different options he could present.

Motion by Jarris Rubingh seconded by Carl Veenstra to give Bruce Laidlaw permission to offer up to \$32,000 or a life lease on behalf of the ACNA Commissioners to the owner of the school house ~~Angela~~.

Motion - Passed

Commissioners asked Parks Director to draft a letter on their behalf for ~~Bruce~~ Mr. Laidlaw to present to ~~Angela~~ the owner to assist in starting negotiations. Mr. Laidlaw left the meeting shortly thereafter due to a prior obligation.

Capital Improvement Projects

Discussed eventual plan to eliminate porta-a-johns by installing permanent Privy-John vault toilets. Discussion amongst commissioners of the possibility of submitting this for the 2023 budget consideration.

FY2022 Budget

Discussion on budget & extending the ACNA Parks Ranger to a part-time 52 week a year position. Commission decided to wait on approving budget until figures from Finance could be reviewed.

Motion by Don Miles, seconded by Lauri Grear to extend ACNA Parks Ranger position through the end of FY21. All approved, motion passed.

Motion by Don Miles seconded by Jarris Rubingh to approve ACNA Parks Ranger position as a part time position for FY22. All approved, motion passed.

Grear left the meeting at 8:46 PM for a prior obligation.

5. Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy Signage Update

GTRLC representative did not show up to the meeting or correspond ahead of time. No update provided to commission.

6. Various Matters

Question was posed by Commissioner Veenstra on budget which was previously set at \$1,500 for roadway gravel. Director James Hunter was asked to review budget with Finance Director.

Question was posed by Jarris Rubingh about north roadway use. General discussion ensued.

Motion by Don Miles, seconded by Jarris Rubingh to construct trail with existing funds to connect N ridge trail (Blue trail) to the trail at the base of the ridge (green trail). Motion passed.

Question raised by Commissioner Veenstra, who asked if an archeologic dig would be required prior to choosing the location of the previously discussed trail.

Friends of Antrim Creek organization was presented by Don Miles. Friends have asked for signs to be installed in the park to communicate their existence to recruitable volunteers who want to become involve. Also, a list of tasks for volunteers to help with at ACNA was also requested.

General discussion on Grass River education programs at ACNA. James Dake was requested at the next ACNA meeting.

Motion by Jarris Rubingh, seconded by Carl Veenstra to reroof existing kiosks with metal roofs to stop the roof leaks. Motion passed.

General discussion on added Budget topics to April's meeting to start the discussion so July's meeting could be when the final budget was completed.

7. Public Comment

None, no public present.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 915 PM