Members Present: President Joe Krapohl, Cloyce Dickerson, Commissioners Keeler, Madore, Wright, Nolden, Lynch

Members Absent: Secretary Bill Lucas and Commissioner Wright and V.P. Washington are absent.

Staff Present: Amy McMillan, Director; Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer; Danielle Fulcher, Marketing Specialist; Nancy Edwards, Program Specialist/Grants, Deborah Wilkes, Secretary; Patrick Linihan, Administrative Intern

Others Present: Sharon and Cliff Black (Friends of the Carousel) Tom Kehoe, 4304 E Stanley Rd, Genesee MI

1) Call to Order. President Krapohl presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. President Krapohl noted that we have Secretary Lucas with us via telephone to hear discussions but until legal counsel advises us otherwise, he will not be able to vote via telephone.

2) Opportunity for members of the public to address the commission. Sharon and Cliff Black, representing the Friends of the Carousel brought a report to the Commission: We now have a gentleman here doing some restoration on the carousel. Currently he is doing some painting, as belt buckles and back packs cause scratches throughout the season that require some touchups. We are going to try having him come back every year to keep up with that repainting so they don’t get deteriorated. He also does work on the carousel at Greenfield Village and other places across the country. He started last week and hopes to finish up with that work tomorrow. The Carousel group will take care of this expense.

The Carousel group has also ordered some new music for the Carousel organ. Another project that has been in progress for about a year, the hanger castings on the carousel, all 36, are being replaced. Some were very worn so the decision was made to replace all of them. The parts had to be casted, milled and installed. The Parks paid for that. The Friends of the Carousel is here to present a check to the Parks in the amount of $5,234.00 to reimburse the Parks for this project.

Tom Kehoe 4304 E Stanley. Very interested in hearing the report about the oil spill. It is within 200 feet of the Flint River.

3) Consent Agenda. President Krapohl asked commissioners if there are any items they wish to remove from the consent agenda for discussion. No items were removed from the consent agenda.

Action Taken:
Motion by Commissioner Keeler
Supported by Commissioner Dickerson

Motion and support for approval of consent agenda items A through D, as listed.

Roll Call
Yeas: Dickerson, Keeler, Krapohl, Lynch, Madore, Nealy, Nolden
Nays: None
Absent: Secretary Lucas, VP Washington and Commissioner Wright are absent.
4. Director’s Report
LaMonica Harris usually with us, but she called shortly before the meeting and said she is having surgery soon. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers and we’ll keep you informed of her progress.

First Try and Fast Try Triathlon Special event. We have hosted this event several times. It comes to the Parks Commission because it requires a waiver of the rules. Every year they request to swim outside of the designated swim area, and they also request that a small, non-motorized rescue/monitor boat be launched from the beach.

Keeler: How many people do this? What are the numbers, swim, bike, run?

McMillan Just shy of 300. It requires some coordination with the municipalities of Linden and Fenton for the biking part and they have a tremendous amount of spectators.

Nancy: About half, just to get people interested in trying a triathlon.

Madore: Is it a fundraiser for a charity?

AMM No, it is put on by a race group.

Action Taken:
Motion by Commissioner Dickerson
Supported by Commissioner Lynch

Motion and support to approve the request of the 2016 First Try Triathlon application for special event permit, subject to the final site approval by the director.

Yeas: All Ayes
Nays: None
Absent: Secretary Lucas, VP Washington and Commissioner Wright are absent.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

Request for Quote
We expected to have an award for a quote today for some work on the Huckleberry Railroad track work. These quotes went through the County’s Purchasing Department, and they are quotes rather than a bid because we may increase the amount of materials we need. The quotes were opened yesterday. The quote from L B Foster Company was chosen in the amount of $76,865.00.

Madore: Have we ever worked with this company before on the railroad?

McMillan: Truthfully, Ms. McMillan is not sure. Mr. June is not here today to attend a family funeral.

Krapohl: They were the lowest qualified bidder?
McMillan: Yes, and we have confidence in their ability to do the work, we thoroughly evaluate all the proposals when we receive them so we have done our due diligence.

**Action Taken:**
Motion by Commissioner Lynch
Supported by Commissioner Keeler

**Motion and support for the quote for approval of a Request for Quotes for the cross and switch ties to LB Foster Company in the amount of $76,865.00**

**Yea:** Nolden, Krapohl, Dickerson, Lynch, Nealy, Madore, Keeler
**Nays:** None
**Absent:** Secretary Lucas (via phone agreed to support), VP Washington and Commissioner Wright are absent.

**MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

**Treehouse Masters.** If you follow Treehouse Master on Instagram you’ll see Emily, Pete’s daughter, who handles the business side of their company, in a picture wearing a Genesee County Parks ball cap with Pete in the background signaling thumbs up on our project. We have received the contract for design, which means they will be building. Yesterday we had a Skype interview with one of the producers. They will determine if we are going to be an episode. Sometime by the end of the summer we’ll be asking you to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony. They spent a tremendous amount of time on site and they agreed that the spot we chose was a good location for the tree house. It isn’t possible to explain how cool, and how excited we are about this project.

**Universally Accessible Playground.** Last week Matt and Patrick wrangled a meeting with several parents and service providers that have been working with us for the last year to design a universally accessible playground at Bluebell Beach. Those funds were part of the transfer that we did at the last meeting. Everybody is pretty excited about that project as well. The Disability Network, the playground company we are working with on the project, many parents, and a representative of the hard of hearing and deaf in Genesee County attended.

**Updates:** The County, including the Parks office is closed tomorrow in observance of Good Friday. The Parks will be open. We are low on staff this time of year, but now that the weather is warming and people are out beginning to use the parks we are working on getting the parks ready. Vault toilets and ports-Johns will begin to be serviced.

We have received our Level II accreditation for ForMar’s Arboretum. We’ll have that award framed for display. If you are at ForMar, stop and shake the hands of Brian Van Patten and his staff to congratulate them on that effort. This is a huge accomplishment.

**5) New Business -** There is no new business.

**6) Opportunity for Commissioners to address the Commission.**
Krapohl: Just to touch on the Treehouse Master’s visit. They were about 2 hours late and they apologized profusely, he felt bad that he was late. We told him that anybody that wants to build us a treehouse isn’t late, we were just early! Pete is just the same as he is on television, a nice, friendly, down-to-earth person.
Regarding the member of the public’s request for documentation about hazardous waste disposal; we have a memo from Barry June that said that there was a small amount of oil that spilled from a backhoe hydraulics line bursting, east of Bridge 3, during construction. He estimated approximately three gallons spilled, not sure if that is accurate because it is hard to gauge when it is on the ground. The contaminated soil was cleaned up and disposed of following the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality guidelines for such spills. No record retention was required for this size spill. We did not track the labor costs to clean it up. For spills on public property we learned that we are supposed to have a specific disposal container. We did purchase some of those containers for the parks. No record retention was required by the federal agencies. Cost to clean it was minimal, there was no environmental damage or danger to the reservoir. It was 150 feet back from the reservoir. It was taken care of in a timely manner and taken care of properly.

Madore: On the first try triathlon, do you help them promote that? If they ask, would you promote an event? Congratulations on the treehouse.

AMM: No, that is a privately run event. Our job is to make sure the application is complete, and we have all the support services in place to make the event safe.

We can’t advertise for every event, so no, we do not promote private events.

Keeler: About a week ago Saturday he rode the trails. There were a lot of people out on the new trail from the Farmer’s Market all the way out here. Most all of the pit toilets were on their sides. It might have been the windy weather.

Did the treehouse people come in with a camera crew? This is exciting stuff and if it makes tv, there will be lots of people who may see that and want to come to ForMar to see the treehouse.

Do we know what types of trees were selected? There are some beech trees that are getting some mold.

AMM: It might have been the wind, it might have been students, who think that is the coolest thing to knock over a pit toilet. Most of them should be righted, or are in the process of being righted and cleaned. We’ve had to make some repairs made to the pumping truck so over the course of the next few days work on all toilets and porta-johns will begin. That wind was strong and we think we’ve gotten the trees off the trails. As seasonal staff comes on within the next couple weeks the wood will either be chipped or cut for firewood.

No, Treehouse Masters did not bring cameras. Pete just came in with one of the producers. His wife and daughter came in after they had been to a house and garden show in Mt Pleasant. After our site visit they had two more potential private builds in Michigan to visit. So we may be one of three projects, but the only public project. When we talked with them yesterday, they were going to put together the photos that Nancy and Danielle provided.

They were not all oak trees, there are some beech trees and black cherry trees. Some trees are anchor trees, others are built around.

When we skyped, they asked some questions about Flint and we told them there are many people who are working to solve problems associated with the water crisis. Part of our job is to work on projects to help our community to move forward, to continue to be a great, and even better to live, visit and that is part of our responsibility. The producer we spoke to really appreciated that there are plans to move forward, that this is just not the end of the story.
Lynch: The treehouse is going to bring some good publicity to Flint after all the poor publicity we’ve had across the nation. My daughters and grandchildren are very excited about a treehouse.

Krapohl: We hope we have a strong possibility of being taped. They built a treehouse in a day camp for cancer kids and that fits with their philosophy.

Lucas: He just got back out of the hospital, his sugar was way out of whack. With the holidays coming, eat safely. He hopes to be back soon.

7) Opportunity for the public to address the commission
Public: Tom Kehoe stated that the oil spill has not been cleaned up. He’s been taking pictures every week or two. He doesn’t believe it was hydraulics because of the color of the spill, and he believes the volume of oil was more. It is within 200 feet of the lake and has been contaminating the lake all this time.

Keeler: Do we think the spill is the same one?

Kehoe: It should be the same, I provided a picture.

Krapohl: When Barry gets back we’ll talk to him.

8) Adjournment. Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.