Members Present: President Joe Krapohl, V.P. Jim Washington, Commissioners: Cloyce Dickerson, Mike Keeler, Joe Madore, Gloria Nealy, Bryant Nolden, Mike Lynch

Members Absent: Secretary Bill Lucas and Jeff Wright are absent.

Staff Present: Amy McMillan, Director; Barry June, Deputy Director, Matt Armentrout, Director of Facilities Management; Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer; Danielle Fulcher, Marketing Specialist; Nancy Edwards, Program Specialist/Grants, Deborah Wilkes, Secretary; Patrick Linihan, Administrative Intern, Angelique Waiwaiole-Tyler, Park Office Aide

Others Present: Tom Kehoe 4304 E Stanley Road, Genesee, Billy Bradshaw, Former Genesee County Parks Commission member

1) Call to Order. President Krapohl presided and called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

President Krapohl asked Deb Wilkes to introduce Angelique Waiwaiole-Tyler, she will be filling in at the next commission meeting while Deb is on vacation.

2) Opportunity for members of the public to address the commission.

Tom Kehoe, 4304 E Stanley Road, Genesee said the oil spill has not been cleaned up, still no action, still no contact from the parks, their story changes several times.

He said Ms. McMillan stated that she is ‘unresponsible’ for the railroad crossing. He’d like to see documentation that proves her to be ‘unresponsibility’. Common sense this facility would be responsible for the pedestrian railroad crossing.

He wants a show of hands of the board to know who are adjacent property owners.

President Krapohl clarified to Mr. Kehoe that this time is for comments only to the Board, there is no interaction, if we can answer questions later, we will.

Kehoe: He is looking for that information if it can be provided to know if anyone serves on this board as an adjacent property owner.

He is going through the park rules and he wants the rule changed that says people cannot take out edibles, like a raspberry, a strawberry, etc. He’d like that changed so that, for private personal use, wild edible items can be taken out, except at ForMar.

President Krapohl welcomed Billy Bradshaw back.

Mr. Bradshaw said it is good to be back, he loves Michigan, even rain, sleet and snow. He loved serving on this committee; he congratulates the parks for having no bad publicity. All he hears about the Parks is good under Amy’s leadership. He keeps up on what is going on. He also congratulated Commissioner Nolden for his leadership in the water issue. Keep up the good work everybody.

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 Washington

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

Roll Call
Yeas: Dickerson, Keeler, Washington, Madore, Nolden, Lynch, Nealy, Krapohl
Nays: None
Absent: Secretary Lucas and Commissioner Wright are absent.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0

4. Director’s Report
A. We have no action items today but we have some updates for you. Our grant for the Summer Youth Initiative was approved. Staff attended the Teen Quest interviews and we are in the process of hiring 45 young people from the community to work in summer programs. They will work at ForMar, in maintenance, the main office, and Crossroads Village. Nancy did a great job writing that grant.

B. We’ve been longtime members of NRPA and they contacted us to ask that we apply for a grant. We received a grant from NRPA in the amount of $35,000 which will provide summer lunches for children in the City of Flint. We had two City playground sites (Max Brandon and McKinley) that we provided lunches, but these funds will allow us to have lunch programs at 10 additional city parks this summer. These are parks that are affiliated with the Keep Genesee County Beautiful program, which is now part of the Genesee County Parks. The Food Bank of Eastern MI will be providing the lunch. The volunteers that are in the Adopt A Park programs will be serving lunches for a minimum of 49 days this summer. At the end of the program the grant funds will be distributed to these groups for re-investment in the parks.

C. There are several other proposals that are out and we will be providing you with updates during the coming weeks. We are wrangling the process of moving the Flint Riverfront Restoration Project forward.

5) New Business
Normally under new business we try to answer any questions from the public but President Krapohl stated that the questions that have been asked have been more than adequately answered and responded to in past meetings. If members of the public are not satisfied with our answers they can use the Michigan Freedom of Information Act to request specific documents.

6) Opportunity for Commissioners to address the Commission.
Madore: He attended the hiring fair at Baker College as well to hire summer help.

Commissioner Washington stated that he trains the students in Teen Quest before they get to the hiring fair.

Madore: Richfield Township is taking action regarding the Right of Way going through the Hogbacks were Coldwater Road was abandoned about 15 years ago. It is basically the same route the KWA water line is going. Jim Jacques had started that process on our side (of the County line) to abandon the road, people were getting stuck on that road. Mr. Madore talked to the Road Commission office staff a year or two ago to see how and why that all happened. We’d
like to see that road right-of-way re-established so we, maybe in the future, can get that roadway fired up and working. He is working with the Road Commission and eventually the County Commission, and he is sure that it will come to this board as well for some support on that. He talked to Jeff (Wright) about it and Jeff liked the idea. They have already established the right of way for the water lines, this would basically be the same one. It was inadvertently given up because his predecessor assumed that Lapeer County had already abandoned their side when in fact they had just closed it for maintenance issues. Once it was abandoned on our side, then Lapeer County abandoned it on their side because the Genesee County side was closed. That is the documents he has to show about it. Hopefully after his board (Richfield Township) has taken action he will come here for support for that.

Nealy: She has been passing out some of the flyers for the Vintage in the Village and everybody seems excited and is looking forward to that event.

Nolden: Berston Field House was contacted by a foundation out of North Carolina regarding assisting with a $30,000-40,000 playground at Berston before the 4th of July. That is another added benefit for city parks all around, even though Berston is not part of the partnership yet. It went before the City Council on Monday and they approved it. The foundation is moving forward with the project. When they do the build they will be looking for organizations or groups to help.

McMillan: We met with them earlier in the year and provided some demographics for them.

Krapohl: He could check with his union Local 598 and they may be interested, they have helped with playground construction in the past for the community.

Lynch: He added that his builder trades group could possibly provide some workers too.

Dickerson: Congratulations Commissioner Nolden and the job that he does. He is glad to see Billy Bradshaw here today. Billy and Commissioner Dickerson go way back and he has been a mentor and they talk often.

Keeler: The Flint River Clean-up is this Saturday. Last year they pulled hot tubs from the area.

McMillan: We are actually sponsors of that event. The Watershed Coalition has a prize for the most interesting item pulled from the river. Go to their website to vote.

Krapohl: We recently ran into some people who used to work for the parks. A young man that started in the Blacksmith shop and his mother worked in the Village. They are no longer involved but they still have a lot of pride in what the staff is doing and what the whole parks system means to the community. They are still very proud about what they have done and pleased that the parks are maintaining and improving what they have.

7) Opportunity for the public to address the commission
Tom Kehoe commented that the silt fence needs attention, it is not truly failing, but it needs some attention, it needs to be fluffed up.

8) Adjournment. Hearing no objections to adjournment, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 am.

Recorded and transcribed by D. Wilkes