

Members Present: President Joe Krapohl Commissioners: Gloria Nealy, Mike Keeler, Joe Madore, Mike Lynch, Jeff Wright

Members Absent: Vice President Jim Washington, Secretary Bill Lucas, Commissioners Cloyce Dickerson, Bryant Nolden

Staff Present: Amy McMillan, Director; Matt Armentrout, Director of Facilities Management; Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer; Nancy Edwards, Program Specialist/Grants, Deborah Wilkes, Administrative Secretary; Patrick Linihan, Administrative Intern; Janet Van De Winkle, Consultant

Others Present: Rachel Bunton, 12221 Oak Road; Paul Gibbs, 5314 E. Mt. Morris Rd.

1) Call to Order. President Krapohl presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

Rachel Bunton, 12221 Oak Road, Otisville commented about the clearing of trees for the path to Bluegill Boat Launch. She also commented about the poor condition of the unpaved parking area at Bluegill Boat Launch, and any other unpaved lots that may need attention.

Paul Gibbs, 5514 E Mt Morris Rd is concerned about the construction at the Fair Grounds, for some horse stalls. He thinks that area was as a dump site and pig farm. The City of Flint used to dump a lot of stuff back there. He'd like to see something for kids rather than more horse stalls.

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 Lynch

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

Roll Call

Yeas: Keeler, Krapohl, Lynch, Madore, Nealy, Wright

Nays: None

Absent: Vice President Jim Washington, Secretary Bill Lucas, Commissioners Cloyce Dickerson, Bryant Nolden

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

4. Director's Report

A) **Guest Comments:** Ms. McMillan will get back with the commission regarding grading of the parking lots at the next meeting. We will be doing some additional grading in that parking lot area. We have to buy gravel and refill it. We've done a lot of gravel in a lot of places this year, including some major work on the Crossroads Village entrance road.

We are not building new horse stalls. We are building a new arena. It is a pretty impressive project. It is part of the overall development in the master plan for the E. A. Cummings Event Center. Our consultant was in town last week to make sure we have the correct footing for the

horses to compete on. If the footing isn't correct, you can't bring in competitive events. Last year we completed another of the priorities in the master plan, demolishing the Sawtooth Building. Each year we'd like to be able to pick off one of the items at the Event Center so we can realize our larger goals of generating revenues off that facility and increasing its role as a regional attraction.

B. Request for pony rides at Bunche Elementary School event. State Representative Sheldon Neeley has requested to use some space in Max Brandon Park for a commercial pony ride attraction for a community event taking place at Bunche Elementary. There is not enough room on the Bunche property to have that amenity so he has requested to use Max Brandon Park, which is adjacent to Bunche. The County Parks manage that city park under a partnership with the City of Flint, and they operate under County Park Rules. Park rules allow horses in only some areas of certain county parks. Staff recommendation is to approve the request, subject to compliance with insurance requirements and the ponies are used in the way presented; that they are not left to be ridden at will within the park; and that the event promoter, or provider (Party Animals), clean up after the horses.

Wright: He'd like to make sure the conditions are included in the motion. Is there a fee involved?

Madore: Since this is a public event in the parks, would that require a special event application like other events? Even if that is all they are doing, that it is on park property, a public area, with a vendor coming on our site, it seems like it would require a permit. Would it be the standard insurance?

McMillan: We will ask them to fill one out and go through the process. This is an amenity to an event that is not being held in our park, but a portion of it will infringe on park property. Whether a partnership or special event permit, insurance is always required for all public events held in the parks.

Ms. Edwards confirmed that Evergreen Development has filled out and submitted a special event permit application. It includes a site plan showing use of areas in Max Brandon Park. We will make sure it includes the pony ride activity.

Wright: For issues moving forward we should be consistent.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Wright
Supported by Commissioner Lynch

Motion and support to permit commercial pony rides in Max Brandon Park on August 20 as requested by State Representative Sheldon Neeley, as part of a community event held by Evergreen Development Corporation at Bunche Elementary subject to the conditions stated by the Parks Director.

Yeas: All ayes

Nays: None

Absent: Vice President Jim Washington, Secretary Bill Lucas, Commissioners Cloyce Dickerson, Bryant Nolden

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

C. Budget Draft. Today we will not ask you to take action on the proposed fiscal year 16-17 budget. We will discuss the budget today and propose the draft to the parks commission at our next meeting.

Normally you get the more formalized version of a proposed budget in August. With a new software program at the County Controller's office we wanted to provide a draft overview of the budget to you sooner. The County is projecting a small decrease in millage revenue overall. We always use the county's projections in our budget and we try to be as conservative as possible when it comes to revenues. This year is the last year of three minimum wage increases that we are required to make. We applied it across the board to all seasonal positions. We have moved Crossroads Village into a single fund now. We look at revenues and expenses based on the current fiscal year. In the past we have balanced our budgets based on fund departments, and have not paid much attention to the line items within the funds, but now individual line items have become more important than in the past due to the new software. Our operations have had a lot of flexibility based on many conditions such as the weather, utilities, attendance, but now we must stay within a line item or action must be taken to transfer money from one line item to another. We've tried to be much more focused on line items as part of this process than we were in the past.

We have a line item in the budget that says 'use of fund balance'. To clarify, we are not dipping into our existing fund balance; we are expecting that at the end of the fiscal year we will have some revenues in excess of expenses. We may take in more revenue or spend less in expenses than we thought, and rather than park those dollars in fund balance as we have in the past and just making adjustments throughout the year as we spend out of it for special projects or emergencies, we are putting \$310,000 in the budget to accommodate that. We do not have scheduled expenses associated with that, but if something big breakdowns, we won't have to wait a couple of weeks to get it fixed while we transfer within the budget process. We could put it in contingencies, but it would be too tempting to spend that money.

Krapohl: As Amy said, this is a draft, it is a lot to digest in a few minutes, but if you have any questions or concerns, you can either email or call her before our next meeting and she can answer your questions.

He'd like to point out that Crossroads Village used to be subsidized to the tune of about a million dollars a year and you can see now that Crossroads Village is in the black now. Kudos for the change that has developed over the last 8-10 years. This does make a big difference on our bottom line with the way we have done business.

Madore: Regarding the \$310,000, it is there in case something breaks, you'd still have to move the funds into which fund that expense is going to occur? When they did the switchover, we gave permission to give line item transfers without having to come to the commission? He assumed the \$310,000 was extra carried over, and maybe we could backfill some emergency. But if it is pulled out of that '209 projects', it almost makes it appear as a general slush fund that anything could be paid from it versus transferring it to the fund that it would normally come from.

McMillan: No, we'll spend it out of this line item. We account for it, but we don't have to move it to another line item, otherwise we'd have to program contingencies into every budget and then, again, it gets too hard to keep track of contingencies.

No, we gave you a list of projects, and the expected costs, and then we transferred that money out of fund balance, into the budget, to be used for those expenses. So when we submit bills to

the controller's office we share with them the action that took place with the commission so they can be certain that we have the ability to spend that money for that reason.

Krapohl: If we have to adjust a line item, does it go to the Board of Commissioners after the Parks Commission approves it?

McMillan: No, it does not need to go to the Board at all. Unless the Chair of Public Works deems that we have not met our standard, then he can have us take it to the full Board of Commissioners. They have given us permission, and given broad authority to the parks commission.

She expects we may do some line item adjustments mid-year and near the end of the year. It is just too hard to predict. The way our budget is different from the County's general fund budgets is: departmental budgets in the county general fund are expenditure budgets, ours is really a revenue dependent budget. These numbers are a guideline, a structure by which we make expenditures and receipt revenue, but one cannot happen independently of the other. We look at ourselves as having two parts of a fiscal years; the first part of the fiscal year is Halloween and Christmas, which drives what we can spend during the remainder of the fiscal year.

We do not have to transfer money spent from the \$310,000 project fund to different budget line items. We can spend it directly from that line item.

You can call or email Amy and she will keep a list of the questions asked to answer them.

5) New Business There is no new business.

6) Opportunity for Commissioners to address the Commission.

Keeler: Two years ago the master plan for the Cummings Center was presented to the board. Is that available for the gentleman asking about the Cummings Center?

McMillan: We have parking passes available for you to get into the Warrior Dash if you would like to stop by and see any of the activity on Saturday (July 30).

You will also be receiving an invitation to our All Staff Summer Meeting and Picnic on August 9.

7) Opportunity for the public to address the commission No addressed the commission.

8) Adjournment. Hearing no objections to adjournment, the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 am.