

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MSU Extension Meeting Room 210  
Cassopolis, MI, MI 49031  
March 8, 2018**

**9:00 a.m. – CALL MEETING TO ORDER –** President Campbell

**INVOCATION –** Commissioner Rodebush

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –** Commissioner Stafne

**ROLL CALL –** President Campbell

Director Wyman – P

Kevin Claire – P

David Kring – P

Bruce Campbell –P

Annie File – P

Linda Pruett – P

Korine Blyveis –P

Kevin Hershberger – P

Johnie Rodebush - P

Jamie Stafne – P

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Commissioner Rodebush

**Second:** Commissioner File

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** Commissioner File

**Second:** Commissioner Rodebush

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS –** Erez Brandvain, MAEAP Technician, Diane and Vicki Rodebush, Robert Parrish, Dark Skies Advocate

**PUBLIC COMMENT –** None

**PRESENTATION – ROBERT PARRISH (DARK SKIES INITIATIVE UPDATE)** Dark Skies application has been turned in – Mr. Parrish has become a member of the International Dark Sky Organization – Mr. Parrish has purchased an instrument to measure the levels of darkness – The lighting at Lawless Park needs to be shaded or replaced with LED 3000K or less lights – Mr. Parrish said the park must be open to the public at night to qualify for dark skies but was unsure how many nights open to the public it meant – The parks department must provide, at the least, two educational events each year discussing dark skies and the value of proper lighting – Mr. Parrish requested a support letter from the board among others – Long term goal to have a small observatory and to have internet service.

**Motion:** To allow Mr. Parrish to do media outreach and craft a press release on behalf of the Dark Skies Initiative.

**Motion: Commissioner Rodebush**

**Support: Commissioner Blyveis**

**Motion Passed**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS –**

1. Market Committee

a. Word of mouth so important – putting out flyers so helpful

b. Need for a sign on the M-60

c. Broadway Café table top advertisement for two years – ½ price \$347.00 for a business card sized ad

**Motion: To proceed with placing a two year ad with Broadway Café not to exceed \$400.00 in cost.**

**Motion: Commissioner Blyveis**

**Support: Commissioner Hershberger**

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director Wyman**

1. Was presented.
  - a. Word of mouth is positive and advocates of your parks will sell your parks for you.
  - b. Social media important – make visitors feel you care – get back to folks as soon as possible
  - c. Trying to recruit a millennial for the parks board for a fresh perspective

**BUDGET – Director Wyman**

1. Was presented.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Entrance Envelope
  - a. Completed and look great
  - b. Might need to add a return address line for season pass information
2. Star Gazers Event (Update)
  - a. Organizers did get insurance for event
3. Lawless Timber
  - a. Will cruise the timber this fall for a sale during the winter
4. Spring Egg-stravaganza
  - a. March 24, 2018 – Looking for volunteers

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Dodd Park Flooding
  - a. Entire lower area of Dodd flooded because it is in a flood plain and the 500 yr. rain event
  - b. Cabins not affected
  - c. Very little overall damage considering the regional devastation that occurred throughout
2. Strategic Planning Session
  - a. Positive discussion about parks and the role they play within the community
  - b. Many grandiose ideas but no money to do anything with those ideas
  - c. Board Discussion followed on a possible millage levy proposal
  - d. Commissioner Pruett will be providing millage numbers for the April meeting

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

1. Cass County Conservation District has many events going on and would like the parks to have a booth at the pollinator workshop April 24 - Hike with a naturalist is back at Lawless Park the last Wednesday of each month – Porter / Newberg Fire Department will burn phragmites next year at Lawless Park.

**Adjournment**

**Motion: Commissioner Claire**

**Second: Commissioner Pruett**

**Next regular meeting April 12, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. Please call 445-4456 if you cannot attend.**