Emmet County Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes  
Equestrian Building at the Fairgrounds  
March 22, 2016 Amended

Members Present:  
Dan Plasencia  
Shawn Wonnacott  
Jim Rummer  
Paul Fairbairn  
Jack Jones  
Wendy Armstrong

Members absent:  
Marty Krupa  
Danna Marvin

Staff:  
Gary Appold  
Nancy Salar  
Laurie Gaetano  
Linda Lorusso

Visitors:  none

Call to Order:  Dan Plasencia called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes:  Jim Rummer made a motion to approve the February 2016 minutes. Motion was seconded by Wendy Armstrong. Motion to approve minutes was passed.

Public Comment:  No public comment was offered.

New Business:  Forestry Project – presented by Nancy Salar. Bids were taken for a logging operation. The winning bid was given to Hincha Logging for $315,888.00 (revenue to be paid to Emmet County Parks and Rec Dept). Contract terms 3/30/16 through 4/18/18. A draft of the contract was also presented. A discussion ensued recommending that the revenue this project generates stay in the Parks and Rec Capital fund. Shawn W. motioned to accept the funds being kept in P&R Capital and Jack Jones seconded the motion. All voted in favor of this recommendation. Final contract needs to be presented to the Board of Commissioners. Final approval is pending. Other discussion included whether to place trails, parking lots and staging areas. It was decided to let MetCalf decide on where to place the staging areas and a decision on what to do with those areas to be made later. In relation, an ORV policy should be written as no regulations exist at this time. Discussion tabled until May.

Headlands:  A discussion regarding the current Guesthouse rental rates was had. Shelly sent to the board a spreadsheet comparing rates and occupancy from 2014 to 2015. Discussion included raising the rental rates for non-residential customers beginning in 2018. It was suggested that the daily rate be raised to $500 per day for non-residential seasonal (July and August) customers; And $300 for non-residential off-season customers. The daily rental rate of $250 will remain for all in-county customers. Jack Jones motioned to accept this proposal and Paul Fairburn seconded the motion. All voted in favor with one dissention. Wendy Armstrong opposed.

Observatory Building at the Headlands:  Rental rates for the new building to be discussed at the April meeting. Construction on the building is on schedule. The floor is being poured this week.

The Locks:  will re-open on April 23, 2016. Passes have been ordered. Gary Appold created day stickers. Hopefully the same staff will return for the season.
Cecil Bay: Marty Krupa is checking into having a survey done to mark the park’s boundaries.

McGulpin Lighthouse: Nothing to report.

Camp Petosega: will be opening in late April/early May. Willcome was hired to remove all the trees we lost in the December storm. Dave finished the Rec hall project (painting and wainscoting). The YMCA will no longer hold the day camp at Petosega. This will open the Rec hall to rentals throughout the week. Reservations for the camp have been steady with over $71,000 in revenue collected to date. The new dock will be installed early summer.

There is going to be a Kayak Race on June 11 & 12. The race will begin at Camp Petosega, go thru the locks to Burt Lake and return, ending at Crooked River Lodge.

Community Center: Brother Dan recently held their “Have a Heart” fundraiser which was very successful. The BMW rally has cancelled their plans for a 2017 festival. They waited too long and decided on a different date which is no longer available. However, we are still in discussion to find a new date. We did confirm a reservation with the Tip of the Mitt Fiber Association to hold a Fiber Festival in May, 2017. There will be many vendors, animal shearing demonstrations, craft demos and food trucks. This should attract a large number of people to Petoskey. Also, the Bay View Winery Board is considering holding a Wine Festival in the spring of 2017. Dates are still being reviewed. Sandy Hansen will be looking into improving the acoustics at the EQ Center. We need to look at “sound baffling” the ceiling.

Other Business: Emmet County Parks and Rec is partnering with Blue Cross/Blue Shield to promote a program aimed at getting the elderly and young people more active. We are receiving a $29,000 grant. Mackinaw City recreation center has been chosen to host the events.

April Meeting will be 19th at the Guest House at the Headlands.

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Dan Plasencia. Seconded by Jack Jones

Meeting adjourned at 1:31pm