Emmet County
Parks & Recreation Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 – 12:30 p.m.
via ZOOM

Call to Order:
The Parks & Recreation Board meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Chairman Bill Shorter.

Present: Commissioner Bill Shorter, Commissioner Toni Drier, Commissioner Neil Ahrens, Jim Rummer, Justin Blohm, Paul Fairbairn, Randy McCune

Absent: None.

Also in Attendance: Mike Reaves, Administrator; Ryan Bauman, Parks & Recreation Director; Priscilla Meyer, Recording Secretary

Approval of Agenda:
Motion made by Rummer and seconded by Ahrens to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried in a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment:
None.

Approval of Minutes:
Motion made by Ahrens and seconded by Drier to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2020 meeting. Motion carried in a unanimous voice vote.

Communications:
None.

New Business:

Camp Petosega Project Dollars to Take Care of Capital Needs at Camp Petosega:
Administrator Mike Reaves reported on some additional capital needs at Camp Petosega that were not in the original 2020 CIP Plan. Last year when the revised plan for the new campground was submitted there were changes made in the plan to facilitate some savings. $55,000 was earmarked for burying of electrical service lines in a small area of the park. Instead of burying lines, the poles that were there were used and service was added where needed to support the new campground loop. As a result, a $35,637.71 refund was received from Great Lakes Energy from their original quote. Reaves suggested that these funds be put back into Camp Petosega.
The following are issues that have been identified as capital needs at Camp Petosega.

#1. Reaves: Two cabins (Cabin D and Cabin F) have a number of rotted logs. In order for the cabins to be utilized, they need to be repaired. Bauman said that one cabin has about a dozen logs and around a half dozen log ends that need to be replaced. The other has less, but significant rot. They would cut out the old rot and replace it with half a log. This would include staining, chinking and filling in all the cracks. Reaves said that they have received multiple estimates with a round number of $12,000.

#2. Reaves: There is a stone archway at the entrance of the park by the office. The centerpiece of the arch is gone but the two stone pillars are still present. There is a number of stones that are falling out of the two pillars. Bauman said that when water gets in, freezes, and expands, it is significantly cracking and damaging some of the stones. He is concerned that stones could fall out and possibly hit a car or a person. The repair would include a cap that would go on top to eliminate any water getting in it. Reaves said the price for this work is in the neighborhood of $12,000 to $13,000.

#3. Reaves: Past the stone pillars as you go towards the rec hall there is a stretch of roadway (50 yards by 10 yards) where the road in the center has risen over a foot to such an extent that when cars, trucks and trailers go through they drag the bottom of the vehicle on the roadway. This could be a liability problem. They have received two bids with one from Rieth-Riley for $8,944 and one from Gibson Excavating for $3,500.

Reaves said these are items that need to be repaired soon and he suggested that they use the $35,637.71 for these capital repairs at Camp Petosega.

Reaves said the last issue is erosion in the kayak area. Wade Trim is already studying the Headlands issue and Reaves has asked them to look at Camp Petosega and give a recommendation.

Reaves said he intends to bring these items to the Committee of the Whole. He would like to get these jobs in line as soon as possible.

Drier asked, since the archway is deteriorating and will continue to deteriorate, would it be better to remove it and put in a landscaped garden at the entryway? She asked if they had checked into the possibility of removal verses maintaining the archway.

Bauman said he has not looked into tearing it down. He said that the reason they are seeing deterioration is that they do not have a top cap on it. He said this is a historical stone wall and that it is in photos back when Camp Petosega was a youth camp. Shorter stated that because it is a historical feature, that he would like to repair it instead of replacing it.
Ahrens asked if they should have all options on the table, including the cost of removal, maybe replace it with a log structure or something easier to maintain or materials that will last longer and would be more practical moving forward. He suggested they look at other options before spending money on it. They also need to look at the safety part. Rummer said that if they are talking about replacing it with new materials it would be very costly. Reaves said it would probably cost more than $12,000 to remove it.

**Motion** made by Fairbairn and seconded by Ahrens to recommend to the Administrator to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to utilize the $35,637.71 for capital improvements and emergency maintenance at Camp Petosega.

Motion carried by roll call vote. 7 yes, 0 No

**Park Director's Report: (Financial Report and Staff Update)**

Bauman gave an update on each park’s status and cancellations.

**Headlands:** Lost revenue is $26,925. An additional $11,875 of rentals at the Headlands have been rescheduled to later on in the year or into next year.

**Camp Petosega:** Rentals that have been cancelled/refunded are $1,760. Nothing has been rescheduled at Camp Petosega yet.

**Fairgrounds:** $24,900 has been lost on rentals. $10,350 in rentals have been rescheduled.

Total lost revenue for all the parks is $54,925. $22,225 in rentals have been rescheduled.

Reaves said they are making plans to open a couple of the parks on May 16, 2020 if the stay at home order is lifted by the Governor as of May 15. They are working towards Memorial Day weekend for Camp Petosega. If the Order is extended to the 28th then they will not be able to open the park.

Reaves said that currently no short-term leasing is allowed. This prevents the rental of the Stargazing House, the Lodge, and cabins. There is also the issue of when they do open how they are going to handle a continual maintenance schedule for disinfectants and socially distancing people from using certain facilities.

Bauman said they hope to have Camp Petosega open before Memorial Day weekend and the Alanson lock the weekend of May 16, 2020.

Reaves said they are hiring people in hopes of opening the parks and several employees have been reassigned to other duties to keep them working.
Unfinished Business:

Shorter reported on the water levels in the lakes and rivers. With the rain that started on April 29 the lake level came up 10.56" in 72 hours. Now it is coming down at about a ½ inch a day.

Shorter congratulated the Parks & Recreation staff for winning the Best of the Northwest Award. They were runners up at Camp Petosega for an outdoor park and the Dark Sky Park won second place for the best park.

Bauman said the Army Corps of Engineers is coming out to the lock on May 6, 2020 for maintenance checks.

Public Comment:
None.

Announcements:
The next regular meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

Adjournment:
Meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Approved: 06/02/2020

Date: 06/02/2020

William Shorter, Chairman