

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the September 19, 2019 Personnel and Human Services Committee Meeting.

Meeting held in Conference Room 4B. Attendance was as follows:

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	ALSO PRESENT
William Chickering	X		Mac Elliott, Bill Wolf, Brian Bailey,
Teri Sue Freehling		X	Dan Fette
Dave Vollrath	X		
			Shelley Jasper

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

- Meeting called to order at 9:24 a.m.
- Motion by Commissioner Vollrath, supported by Commissioner Chickering to approve the minutes of September 12, 2019 as presented. 2 yeas, 0 nays, motion carried.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Parks & Recreation Director Brian Bailey presented his monthly update. Highlights included:

Report of Collections: Fee income for the period ending August 31st, 2019, \$676,332 which represents a year over year decrease of \$43,547.

Environmental & Recycling Programs: Event this Saturday at Silver Beach County Park. Community Recycling Event. Last year we have 458 vehicles attend from 9am-1pm.

Love Creek County Park Report:

- Continuing the Berrien Springs Parent Partnership program for homeschool students (attendance is full at 18) and had first class on September 6th. A group of students happened to be on the trails for a program when they discovered a baby snapping turtle nest with turtles hatching!
- Preparations continue for the October 6th Biketoberfest event.
- Fall Newsletter is completed and sent out. Copy provided.
- Enrolled in PAMF (phragmites adaptive management framework) to collaborate and get advice with other organizations and land owners working on phragmites control. We received guidance from PAMF and have performed treatment on the Phragmites at Paw Paw River County Park on September 13th.
- Application approved for the DMAP hunt. Hunts will most likely take place Nov. 15, 16, and 17 all day and 29th and 30th till 10am.
- The habitat restoration grant deadline for the Indian Bowl has been extended to Dec. 1st. Contractor, Blue Heron will conduct one of two types of management before that deadline. (Burn or cut and treat).

Madeline Bertrand County Park Report:

- On August 16th, Niles High School hosted the Viking Stampede Cross Country Run at Madeline Bertrand; approximately 250-300 spectators/participants attended this event.
- Upcoming Events:
 - September 21: 35th Annual Fall Disc Golf Tournament, hosted by Berrien County Parks
 - October 12: Professional Disc Golf Association Tournament, hosted by Sand Ridge Disc Golf Club Professional, Dave Brunsting. There are already 25 participants registered for this event.
- Generous Park Donation: On September 6, the park received a generous gift of \$4800 to cover the entire cost to build new steps along a trail near the River Shelter. Marilyn of Niles, a park patron for over 30 years, continues to use the park trails several days a week and wanted to show her appreciation for the park by funding the entire cost. Construction to begin in September, 2019.

Silver Beach County Park

- Snow-fence will be installed starting September 26. Brian thanked the Sheriff for providing inmate crew to assist with this task.
- Restrooms will remain open into October. Port-a-Johns will be available for fishing public that arrive early mornings and when the restrooms close.
- Power washing and painting the inside of restrooms this fall.
- King Fisher bird nest found in a dead tree.

Galien River County Park

Park is open daily.

Rocky Gap County Park:

Park is open daily.

Paw Paw River County Park:

New galvanized gates were installed about 1 week ago. Brian thanked Watervliet Chief of Police for assistance in opening and closing the gates.

1839 Courthouse: New director has started and has some new ideas and ambitious goals.

2020-2024 Five Year Plan: Draft will be presented to Parks Commission at October meeting. Final document is due to DNR February 1, 2020.

CHAIRMAN/COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Dan Fette, Community Development Director, discussed broadband expansion and the County's proposed plan of action. The Committee concurred with the letter of support for ACD to conduct the study.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Adjourned 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Jasper
Human Resources Director