

**BARRY COUNTY  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

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**Unapproved Minutes of the Stakeholders Meeting for the  
Barry County Parks and Recreation Board  
Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 6 p.m.  
Tyden Center  
Barry County Community Room  
121 South Church Street, Hastings MI 49058**

1. Call to Order: Chair Jim Cary called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call: Present: Jim Cary, Patricia Johns, Dan Parker, Catherine Getty, Don Hutchins, Joyce Snow and Rick Moore. Guests were Sharon Zebrosky from the Charlton Park Board, Lauren Cibor from the Barry Eaton Health Department. Also attending for interviews were administrator applicants Frank Jesenek and Ron Welton.
3. Approval of Agenda: Parker moved the agenda be approved and was seconded by Snow. Motion passed.
4. Approval of Minutes of January 18, 2018 regular meeting and the February 13, 2018 special meeting. Hutchins moved and Snow seconded that the minutes of be approved. Johns noted that the February 13 minutes had been corrected. Motion passed.
5. Public Comment: None
6. Interview No 1 Frank Jesenek.
  - a) Snow asked a series of 5 questions which touched on the requirements of the position. The answers were graded and scored by board members.
7. Presentation by Lauren Cibor of the Barry Eaton Health Department. She provided board members with information about activities planned by the department. They will have a new program to get people out doors this summer and told the board she would like to include McKeown Bridge Park and the county's section of the Paul Henry Thornapple Trail. In addition the health department and the Spectrum Pennock Foundation will participate in the June 9 event in Nashville. She can be reached at LCibor@bedhd.org.
8. Interview No. 2 Ron Welton  
Snow asked the same 5 questions with the board grading and scoring the answers.
9. Administrator selection:
  - a. Under Snow's guidance the board members compared the scores of both candidates. The consensus of the board was to offer the position to Welton. Board members were impressed by his experience in public and private recreation and his willingness to work within the time limits and has no problems with the basic duties of the job. There was also a discussion about perhaps getting a computer and perhaps an office for him. Parker will be

looking into this. Cary told the board that it was great that the decision was between two such good candidates.

- b. Cary and Johns will contact the candidates about the selection. Cary will get in touch with Michael Brown about the next steps in the process.
- c. It was suggested that someone speak with Mr. Jesensek to see if it would be interested in working with the board as a volunteer sharing his experience in fundraising and promotion.

10. Old Business;

- a. No Family Left Indoors: The program at Mckeown Bridge Park is on July 24 at 6:30 p.m. Right now it will listed as "Exploring Mckeown Bridge Park in the Pierce Cedar Creek newsletter. The board has time to add details for other promotions.
- b. Five year plan; Johns reported that following a meeting with representatives from the Charlton Park board and Michael Brown, he will publish the RFP. A second meeting will be scheduled for the last week in March.
- c. Bills:
  1. Johns moved, seconded by Moore that the board reimburse the Village of Middleville \$1000 for work on the skate park. This project was approved for a grant from the 2017 grant program. Voting yes were Snow, Johns, Moore, Parker, Cary and Hutchins. Motion passed.
  2. Johns moved seconded by Parker that the board pay the \$385 owed for publishing the ad in the 2018 trails magazine. It will be on the Paul Henry Thornapple Trail page and is an 1/8<sup>th</sup> page ad, the same as in 2017. Voting yes were Johns, Moore, Parker, Cary, Snow and Hutchins. Motion passed.
  3. Johns moved, seconded by Moore that the board approve the cost of mailing grant applications to those municipalities which do not have emails up to \$25. Voting yes were Moore, Parker, Johns, Snow, Hutchins and Cary.

11. New business:

- a. Johns asked if anyone was able to attend the Quiet Water Symposium on March 3 in East Lansing. The board had paid for a spot. Unfortunately, no one is able to attend this year. Johns will notify the QWS organization.
- b. Johns attended the DNR grant workshop on January 30 in Holland. Any member the board can see the presentation at [www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants). Changes this year include fewer funds available in the Trust Fund and a firm 50% match in the LWCF. Johns noted that there is a long time between the filing of an application on April 1, 2018 until funds are available.

12. Committee reports:

- a. Executive committee: no report
- b. Barry County Trails Committee: Moore told the board that Winchell Landscaping would like to mow Mckeown Bridge Park more frequently during the summer at the approved \$250 per mow. This may mean adjusting the budget.
- c. Marketing/Special Projects Committee: Johns reported that all the municipalities have been sent either via email or the postal service applications for the 2018 grant program. She also attended a committee meeting to plan the

Nashville event on June 9. The next committee meeting is on March 29 at 8 a.m. at Mooville.

13. Public comment: none

14. Board member comments: Johns asked board members whether it was necessary to change the date of the regular board meetings now that there were new members. After checking schedules, board decided to go back to holding regular board meetings on the third Thursday of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. with the special project committee meeting at 6 p.m. and the trails committee meeting at 6:15 p.m. before the regular meeting. Johns will send the changes to Luella for posting. Johns reminded everyone that a wedding is scheduled on the bridge at Mckeown Bridge Park on June 16.

15. Cary moved and Moore seconded to adjourn a 7:55 p.m. Motion passed.