

**BARRY COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

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**Barry County Parks and Recreation Board
Tyden Center Community Room
Thursday, August 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.**

Minutes:

1. Call to Order: Chair Catherine Getty called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call: Present: Jim Cary, Catherine Getty, Patricia Johns, Doug Klein, Rick Moore, Joyce Snow, and Ron Welton. Absent: Don Hutchens, Frank Jesenek, Dan Parker.
3. Approval of Agenda: Klein requested financial support of Barry County Outdoor Recreation Youth Day be added to Agenda. Motion that the agenda be approved as amended by Moore and seconded by Johns. Ayes all. Motion passed.
4. Approval of Minutes of July 19, 2018 meeting. Motion that the minutes be approved by Johns and seconded by Cary. Ayes all. Motion passed.
5. Public Comment: None.
6. Old Business:
 - a. Recreation Plan – Next meeting with MCSA Group September 20 at 5:30 pm in the Tyden Center. After roundtable discussion of the existing Recreation Plan, board members suggested the following adjustments for the next plan:
 - i. Mission Statement – Change to: PROMOTE BARRY COUNTY AS A RECREATION DESTINATION BY PROVIDING AND SUPPORTING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS. Under PRB Goals and Objectives make the following changes. Goal 3, bullet 2: Continue maintenance of the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail through regular mowing, vegetation control and as needed to improve and enhance its public usability. Goal 4, bullet 3: Work towards the development of a sports complex, including ballfields, soccer fields, and supporting facilities, if demand develops within the community. Goal 5, bullet 1: Create a Thornapple River Water Trail to encourage

- canoe/kayak use and maintain navigational passage from Nashville to 108th Street. Add a 5th bullet point: Develop a County wide Birding Trail to highlight the many birding opportunities available throughout the area. Goal 9, change to: Encourage adopting a unified administrative structure that recognizes each county owned park as part of a County Park System and develop the financial support needed for that systems operation and management.
- ii. Action Program – McKeown Bridge County Park: Use has increased substantially since improvements were made in 2010. Parking lots overflow on summer weekends, the launch is inadequate for the heavy use it receives, and fishers don't have the river access points they desire. These and other improvements identified in the master plan that include a picnic shelter, playground, expanded walking trail with overlook decks, and interpretive signage are now ready for development. Paul Henry – Thornapple Trail County Park: The development of 3 miles of paved trail from the county line in Nashville to Greggs Crossing Road and the Nashville trailhead is the top priority for this 5 year period.
 - iii. Capital Improvement Schedule – Priority development projects are: Thornapple Paul Henry Trail Development Nashville to Greggs Crossing (3 miles of paved trail and trailhead), McKeown Bridge County Park Phase 2 Development. Land acquisition/easement priorities are to continue seeking opportunities for additional trail corridor and parks as they come available. List to also include Thornapple River Water Trail, Barry County Birding Trail, and Refurbishing three bridges (Quimby, Morgan, and Greggs Crossing) on Thornapple Paul Henry Trail
- b. No Family Left Indoors Event – Heavy rainfall at the start reduced attendance, but did not cancel event, approximately 20 kids and another 8 adults attended. All activities worked out well. Participants enjoyed making pine cone bird feeders under the shelter as they waited for the rain to stop. Most embarked on the interpretive hike as the rain let up and everyone enjoyed roasting marshmallows and making S'mores while interacting with Smokey Bear. Thornapple Manor helped out by providing transportation for Smokey in their golf cart. Smokey was additionally a popular attraction as he greeted Thornapple Manor residents. Special thanks to Jim and Frank for their parts in the program.
- c. Financial Support for Barry County Outdoor Recreation Youth Day – Klein reported that Youth Day was short on financing for this years event and recommended that we contribute as there were numerous activities planned that we would want to encourage participation in. Johns reported that we had approx. \$500 to \$600 left in our Healthy Living

Grant that MParks had already given approval for us to use for other event funding. Motion by Klein, seconded by Johns that remaining Healthy Living Grant funds be allocated to Barry Conservation District for use at Barry County Outdoor Recreation Youth Day. Johns will check with Luella on exact amount remaining and notify Sarah Nelson at Barry Conservation District.

7. New Business:

- a. Charlton Park Barry County Outdoor Recreation Youth Day – Johns reported we would not have a booth this year, but will be supporting as just approved.
- b. Special Projects/Promotions Committee Chair – Johns is leaving and a new chair must be appointed. Roundtable discussion on possible replacements and replacement will be added to next months agenda.

8. Limited Public Comment – None

9. Board Member Comments – All members thanked Patricia Johns for her many years of contributions and wished her well on her upcoming move to Colorado. Patricia wished board future success in increasing Barry County Park and Recreation opportunities. Welton stated maintenance activities at McKeown Bridge included clearing overgrowth around bridge, removing graffiti from old and new bridges, repair broken fence rail, remove more bee nests, repair trash can top and enclosure by bathroom, litter pickup and bathroom checks.

10. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned by chair at 8:32pm.