

**BARRY COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

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**Barry County Parks and Recreation Board
Tyden Center Community Room
Thursday, December 20, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.**

Minutes:

1. Call to Order: Chair Catherine Getty called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call: Present: Jim Cary, Catherine Getty, Don Hutchens, Doug Klein, Rick Moore, Sarah Nelson, Dan Parker, Joe Sancimino, Joyce Snow, and Ron Welton. Absent: Frank Jesensek, Cindi Vujea. Guest, Corey Lucas, Stewardship Manager, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute.
3. Approval of Agenda: Getty requested resignation letter from Frank Jesensek be added to agenda. Motion that the agenda be approved with addition by Klein, seconded by Sancimino. Ayes all. Motion passed.
4. Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2018 meeting. Motion that the minutes be approved by Nelson, seconded by Parker. Ayes all. Motion passed.
5. Public Comment: None
6. Old Business:
 - a) Recreation Plan – Second public workshop was held on December 5 at 5:30 in the Tyden Center Community Room. Received rough draft of plan from MC Smith Associates that contained a substantial number of errors. Patton and Welton suggested numerous corrections that were forwarded to MCSA for action and have not yet received corrected copy. Interviews with Banner and WBCH radio concerning progress. Several board members discussed their dissatisfaction with quality of work and professionalism of MCSA Group.
 - b) Web Site – Nelson and Klein met with IT Department concerning various site changes. Nelson highlighted changes made, they are modeled after web site of Ottawa County Parks. Site can now be reached directly by typing barrycounty.org/parks. Round table discussion on additional site needs and additions.

7. New Business:

- a) Butler Road Natural Area – Forty Five acres for sale at corner of Butler Road and M-66. Site contains entirety of 8 acre Ellis Lake and surrounding wetlands plus several acres of upland woods with a 1200 square foot cottage. Current asking price is \$425,000. Site has potential as wildlife/bird viewing area. Lake contains a good fish population. One of the top desires of residents in our recreation survey was for preservation of natural areas, wildlife/bird viewing, additional water and fishing access, and walking trail opportunities. Klein, Nelson, and Welton met with owner and his realtor at site and they are agreeable to working with us on acquisition process. Nelson presented Barry County Natural Features Inventory copies to board. Klein offered vision of property to become Ellis Lake Natural Area with fishing pier, boardwalk and walking trails. Roundtable discussion about project with Motion by Cary, Second by Snow to move forward with acquisition process. Ayes All. Motion Passed.
- b) 2019 Stakeholder Board Seats - All stakeholders were invited to meeting to select board representation of 2019. Stakeholders in attendance are Jim Cary/City of Hastings, Catherine Getty/Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation, Rick Moore/Paul Henry Thornapple Trail Association, and Sarah Nelson/Barry County Soil Conservation District. Motion by Nelson, Second by Moore to nominate Cindi Vujea for three year Barry County Economic Development term beginning January 1, 2019. Ayes all stakeholders present. Motion Passed. One stakeholder board seat remains vacant.
- c) MParks Membership and Conference – 2019 membership is now due. Motion by Parker, Second by Nelson to renew basic membership for \$340. Annual Conference will be held 1/29 – 2/1/19 in Kalamazoo at Radisson Plaza Hotel. MNRTF grant workshop will be held at conference on Thursday morning. Motion by Parker, Second by Nelson to cover expenses up to a maximum total of \$750 for members wishing to attend various sessions. Ayes All. Motion Passed.
- d) Frank Jesensek Letter of Resignation – Accepted with regret. Ayes All.

8. Limited Public Comment: Corey Lucas of Pierce Cedar Creek Institute commended board on their willingness to help in preservation of Barry County's natural places with possible Ellis Lake Natural Area acquisition and offered Institutes assistance with site development if desired.

9. Board Member/Administrator Comments:

Administrator – Road Commission is again snow plowing McKeown Bridge parking areas. Map signs are up in trail head kiosks. Offered comments on moving forward with merging county parks into single department.

Sarah shared preliminary information on Barry County Outdoor Recreation Guide she is compiling for Conservation District.

Rick reported that he is last remaining member of original Barry County Parks and Recreation Board.

Members thanked one another for their contributions to Christmas trees.

10. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned by chair at 8:35pm.