



**Meeting of the  
BOYNE CITY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Thursday, March 10 2016  
6:00 p.m. at the  
**DPW Facility-Robinson St.****



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agenda packets & minutes  
for each board*

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL (excuse absence of Jerry Swift)
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. Approval of the February 4, 2016 meeting minutes
4. CITIZENS COMMENTS (non-agenda items – limit to 5 minutes)
5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
6. CORRESPONDENCE
7. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES
  - A. Park Inspection Reports
  - B. Disc Golf Update
  - C. Trail(s) update (Boyne City/Charlevoix and Boyne Valley)
8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - A. FY 2016/17 Budget Discussion
9. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. DNR – Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant (MNRTF) Proposed Projects
    - Acquisition – Open Space Property (475 N. Lake St.)
    - Pavilion Renovation
    - Boyne Valley Trail – Phase 1
10. GOOD OF THE ORDER
11. ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - A. Next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2016 @ 6 p.m.
12. ADJOURNMENT

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Boyne City Hall for assistance:  
Cindy Grice, City Clerk, 319 North Lake Street, Boyne City, Michigan 49712 (231) 582-0334*

ATTENDANCE RECORD  
Parks & Recreation Commission  
FY 2015- 2016

<b>Member</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>
Bowman, Jo	P	P	X	P	P	P	X	E	P	P		
Meeder, Heath	P	P	X	P	P	P	X	P	P	E		
Parish, Darryl	P	P	X	P	P	P	X	P	E	E		
Patoka, Patrick	P	P	X	P	P	P	X	E	P	P		
Sheean, Mike	P	P	X	P	P	P	X	P	E	P		
Sheets, Marie	P	P	X	P	X	E	X	P	P	P		
Swift, Jerry	P	P	X	P	P	P	X	E	P	P		
	P	P	X	X	P	E	X	P	-	-	-	-

P=Present  
A=Absent  
E=Excused

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Approved:

**MEETING OF  
FEBRUARY 4, 2016**

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR BOYNE CITY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING HELD AT  
6:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Sheean at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mike Sheean, Jerry Swift, Jo Bowman, Patrick Patoka and Marie Sheets

Absent: Darryl Parish and Heath Meeder

**MEETING  
ATTENDANCE**

City Staff: Streets/Parks & Recreation Superintendent Andy Kovolski and Recording Secretary Barb Brooks

Public Present: Twelve

**\*\*MOTION**

Swift moved, Bowman seconded, **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** to excuse the absences of Meeder and Parish.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES \*\*MOTION**

**Sheets moved, Patoka seconded, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**, a motion approving the January 7, 2016 meeting minutes as presented.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS  
(on non-agenda items)**

None

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Kovolski reported the warming house is open at Avalanche and there is enough snow for sledding but ice rink is struggling due to the lack of consistently cold temperature. Staff will continue working on it.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**REPORTS OF  
OFFICERS, BOARDS  
AND STANDING  
COMMITTEES**

**Park Inspection Reports -**

- **Disc Golf Update** - The course is being used throughout the winter. The projects that had been discussed earlier are being put on hold until spring.
- **Trail(s) Update** (Board Chair Sheean) - bid for Phase I of Boyne City Charlevoix Trail came back slightly higher than hoped but within a range that the project will continue to move forward. Phase II plans are being prepared for bidding.

**UNFINIHSED  
BUSINESS**

**Avalanche Mountain  
Bike Trail Proposal**

Steve Schnell representing the Top of Michigan Mountain Bike Association (TOMMBA) presented a new sustainable trail option plan as proposed by the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA). Schnell explained that a sustainable trail has three aspects; Physical that

looks at erosion and other deteriorating characteristics, Social which includes how busy the park is and proximity to town, restaurants, etc. and Managerial which addresses access and maintenance issues. Professionals from IMBA came and surveyed the conditions at Avalanche to come up with a plan to build additional trails in a sustainable way that protects the integrity of Avalanche's natural resources, controls erosion and low maintenance; all while making the it a premier destination for riders. IMBA representatives were not only impressed with Avalanche but overwhelmed at everything Avalanche has to offer. The trails will include beginner, intermediate and advanced (black diamond) levels. They will also be clearly identified with signage. The trails will be built by qualified professionals and will utilize volunteers. The project will be at no cost to the City, however TOMMBA may seek grant opportunities that may require the City to be the applicant. Steve added that Avalanche has the potential to be known on more than a local basis; he believes that it will become a popular Midwest destination.

**Board Discussion** – The board inquired if there were any trails in the area that are comparable and how visible the trails would be. Schnell stated that there really aren't any trails that would be comparable...Avalanche is pretty unique with its terrain, topography and proximity to downtown. He added that the trails are proposed to be fairly narrow with some vegetation coverage. The path will be visible to the rider but not so much to other users. Users may see the cyclist on the path but the path itself will be pretty inconspicuous. On the map the lines look fairly close but with the topography the paths could actually be on opposite sides of a ridge. Board members also asked if the proposed trails crossed any existing trails and what is the estimated timeline. Schnell said the timeline is really based on fund-raising efforts and the proposed trails would add three additional crossings or the other paths. City Commissioner Conklin asked if the use of horses at Avalanche had been discussed as part of this plan. Schnell expressed concerns over this use and stated that horse traffic can cause a lot of damage to a trail. The general consensus of the board was there isn't a lot of people riding up there but maybe the subject needs to be revisited. Lastly the board asked Schnell what was going to happen to the current path. Schnell stated that originally there were plans to cease use of the trail after the new ones were installed; however, a lot of the past and regular users would like to see it stay. The plan for now is address the problem areas of the current trail and then monitor how much use it actually gets once the new trails are installed. Kovolski expressed concerns about taking a vote on this with two board members absent. Schnell offered to contact the board members, go over the plan and see if they had any concerns. **Swift moved, Sheets seconded, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend City Commission review the plan and consider approval as presented.

**\*\*MOTION**

**Avalanche Inventory and Management Plan**

The board discussed the Avalanche Resource Inventory and Management Plan that was presented at the January meeting by Richard Deuelle. The plan identifies the natural resources that can be found and discusses options to preserve, care for and improve those resources. The general consensus of the plan was that it is was very well done and will make a great reference tool when discussing and making decisions about Avalanche in the future. **Bowman moved, Swift seconded PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend review and adoption by the City Commission.

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**\*\*MOTION**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FY 2016/17 Budget**

Kovolski distributed an overview of the proposed budget for board discussion. Swift inquired as to budgeted funds for Riverside Park. Kovolski indicated that funds are budgeted and listed under Capital Outlay which is the line item for projects. Citizens Comments – The question was raised as to if the board was going to see a more detailed budget of projects and have input on where the money is allocated. Several board members concurred that they would like to see that. Kovolski stated he could provide more detail at the March meeting.

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**NEXT MEETING**

Chair Sheean asked Kovolski if he would like to host the March meeting at the new DPW facility. The general consensus of the board was that it was a good idea. The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 6 pm at the DPW facility on Robinson St.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The February 4, 2016 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

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Barb Brooks, Recording Secretary



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To: Chair Sheehan and Parks & Recreation Board  
From: Barb Brooks, Executive Assistant / Harbormaster  
Date: March 9, 2016  
Re: MParks Conference

Some of you may not be aware but I attended the MParks (formerly known as the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association "MPRA") conference in February. The following is a brief overview of the conference.

City Commissioner Hugh Conklin attended the Trails Summit sessions that took place on Tuesday. My sessions started Tuesday late afternoon and lasted through Thursday. As part of the "Building Healthy Communities" grant program, my entire participation was sponsored by MParks so there was no cost to the City.

Many of the sessions I attended focused on the connection between parks & recreation and community health and parks & recreation and economic benefits. Most of my sessions were spent with Mark Fenton - Mark's emphasis is on building communities that support a healthier, more physically active population, and more sustainable and enjoyable lifestyles. He believes that done well, active community designs lead to economically, environmentally, and socially thriving cities, towns, and rural settings where people of all ages, abilities, and incomes lead long, vibrant lives. Mark was very knowledgeable and energizing, yet very down to earth and reasonable with his ideas. Session discussion topics with Mark were program funding, planning and zoning, health and lifestyle trends and statistics and how the smallest changes and improvements can make a difference toward the big picture. I'm sure by Thursday Mark was tired of seeing me in his sessions sitting in the front row constantly raising my hand.

I attended a session on Dog Parks. They are cropping up a lot in the southern portion of Michigan and include programming and events as well as the physical park. Most all of the people that I spoke with that had dog parks in their community were much more stringent than Boyne City; many rules, residency restrictions, fees, etc.

I also participated in a session on how to integrate public transportation and recreation opportunities. Examples of this were regular public transportation routes to local ski resorts and incorporating bus stops along non-motorized trail routes. Buses have been retrofitted with interior bike racks and ski/snowboard racks for this purpose.

Lastly, I was 1 of 13 participants at the conference chosen to perform an audit for the community of Interlochen. We were bused there and driven around the community and then we were dropped off and walked around the core of the community. We were to review vehicle traffic flow, walkability, bikeability, signage and connections between town and main destinations such as parks, library, businesses, etc. Our panel rated the community on all of these issues, had some group discussion and then sat down with the community leaders and made recommendations for improvement, shared ideas on project implementations

and set short term and long term goals. Going through this process was very eye opening for me and I think that I learned as much or more than the advice that I gave.

Some basic observations:

- The majority of the people that attended the conference were from southern Michigan. I ran into very few people from our region and the ones that I did were generally DNR staff.
- Dog parks are gaining in popularity and people are wanting them in their communities.
- Many communities have a dedicated parks & rec. director/supervisor overseeing the day to day operations
- Funding is a challenge for most small and rural communities. Southern communities charge for many of their programs to offset the cost of staffing and residents are more than willing to pay the fees.
- Between the baby boomers and millennials, more and more people are seeking out recreational areas to live and certainly visit. They want parks and activity...quality of life
- If you want to see growth in your community, you need to grow and nurture your parks and recreation.

There is so much opportunity to learn new ideas through networking and the sessions. The consultants leading the sessions can help articulate the importance of parks & rec and quantify the investment. It also helps you see the big picture and that there is a lot more to recreation than just a physical park location and our role should be. Next year the conference will be in Grand Rapids instead of Acme/Grand Traverse Resort but I would highly recommend either a board member attend the conference or encourage a staff member from our parks department to go.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the conference at our April meeting.

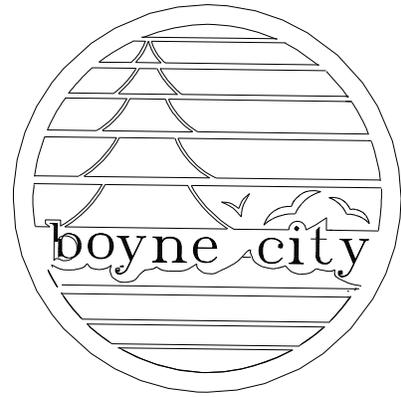
## CITY OF BOYNE CITY

To: Chair Michael Sheean, and fellow Parks and Recreation Commission Members

From: Patrick Kilkenny, Assistant Planner

Date: March 10, 2016

Subject: Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant Application Projects



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### Background

The current owners of the Boyne City Open Space property at 475 N. Lake St. offered to lease the property to the City for a period of two years with the intention of eventually selling the property to the City once funds have been secured for purchase. As you are aware, the property has been on the hearts and minds of Boyne City residents for many years, and the long awaited removal of the wooden fence that surrounded the property was celebrated with much enthusiasm this past summer. Since the fence has come down and the Open Space was made available for general public use, the property has been utilized often and the potential for recreation opportunities are exceptional.

### Discussion

The City Commission directed staff to research and apply for acquisition grant funding as opportunities become available. Staff is currently working on a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant application which allows for up to 75% of the property's value to be sourced through the State of Michigan. Although there is no guarantee that the project will be funded through the MNRTF, staff is confident in the City's application.

In addition to the Open Space acquisition project, the City is currently working on two other MNRTF applications for development projects. Both the Community Pavilion and Boyne City to Boyne Falls Trail will also be requesting the maximum allowable amount in grant funding (approximately \$300k) for each project through the MNRTF. Although funding for the development projects run through the same organization as the Open Space Acquisition project, the funds are allocated through two separate sources; acquisition and development. All projects are scored individually based on a number of categories, and ultimately funding is distributed based on the project's overall score.

As with the Open Space Acquisition request, staff is confident in the grant applications for funding for both the Community Pavilion and Boyne City to Boyne Falls Trail projects.

### Recommendation

Recommendation of support by the City of Boyne City Parks and Recreation Commission to the City Commission that the Open Space Acquisition, Community Pavilion, and Boyne City to Boyne Falls Trail projects be approved to submit applications for funding to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

### Other Options:

- Take no action
- Request additional information from staff
- Other options as determined by the Commission