



**NEWAYGO COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Newaygo County Welcome Center – Conference Room
May 5, 2026**

PRESENT: John Clark, Mark Guzniczak, Doug Harmon, Steve Hatting, Jim Maike, Mark Pitzer, Chuck Trapp, Dale Twing

ABSENT: April Storms, Janet Westfield

STAFF PRESENT: Chris Wren, Asa Vermeulen, Connie Parks

PUBLIC PRESENT: Bryan Kolk

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Board Chair **Harmon**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Maike, supported by Pitzer, to approve the agenda as presented.
AYES – All. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Trapp, supported by Guzniczak, to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2026, meeting.
AYES – All. MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Motion by Guzniczak, supported by Maike, to approve the Revenue and Expenditure Report totaling \$106,444.24 for the period April 1, 2026 – April 30, 2026.

AYES – All. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Pitzer, supported by Hatting, to approve the Budget Performance Report totaling (\$24,995.57).

AYES – All. MOTION CARRIED.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR / BOARD CHAIR REPORT – None. Hatting asked Administrator Wren about the flood clean-up. Wren stated 250 homes along the river were affected, and the railroad bridge clean-up was happening this morning from all the debris that floated down river. Harmon stated the Road Commission had over \$300,000 in damages also. Wren stated that 300k number was important, as FEMA to declare a public disaster, each county must have a minimum of \$250,000 in public damage.

PARKS DIRECTOR / ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Director **Asa Vermeulen** provided updates on:

- **All parks**
 - WE'RE OPEN!
 - TODD Filling in at SB
 - General beautification of parks in progress
 - Fresh paint ongoing
 - Todd working on task List as able
 - Summer positions still needed:
 - 1 PA needed for SB
 - 1 maintenance for all
 - 1 Manager for SB once again
 - NCRESA & FACF Intern approved for 6 weeks this summer.
 - Interviewed applicants 4/28-29.
 - Submitted an applicant to help out at Ed Henning.
 - Seasonal Site Availability as of 1/26
 - DL – 0!
 - EH – 1(48)
 - HM – 1
 - SB – 1E (78), 11 rustic
 - WC – 25(3 cancellations)
 - Rejuvenation of park host program
 - WC Host Couple backed out. Diamond Lake Singular Host is on-site!

- Going through old program documents and updating.
 - Still looking for 1 set for Ed Henning & White Cloud.
 - **Ed Henning-**
 - Pond management: Contract for Savin Lake treatments submitted!
 - Beach work is needed.
 - Tractor raking, sand delivery (\$1,500), tables, depth buoy.
 - Cabin foundation & Electrical beginning soon.
 - NCRESA expects to finish 1 cabin mid-may.
 - **Muskegon River Bluffs-**
 - Needing further widening of fairways.
 - Mulching quotes needed for NCRA.
 - Install of individual hole signs on preinstalled posts
 - Reviewing signs before getting quotes(laminated temp?)
 - Road sign search ongoing.
 - A Local player is interested in a league/club. Will garner huge attention to course. Disc shop wanting to donate some swag for small tournaments.
 - **White Cloud-**
 - Fence repair when time permits.
 - **Sandy Beach-**
 - Signs- Boat ramp, yield, exit, and beach access ongoing.
 - Trees-DONE!
 - Todd repaired dock retaining wall.
 - **Diamond Lake-**
 - Firewood collection was slow. Moved trees by barn so they can continue through summer.
 - **Hardy Marina-Nothing to report. Opening May 20.**
 - **Welcome Center**
 - Connie cleaned out the gardens. Requesting some mulching.
 - **Dragon-**
 - New maps are with Martin.
 - Dragon committee meeting after Parks commission meeting 5/5/2026
 - Major volunteer projects to repair trail issues after rain events. Evaluations ongoing.
 - **Collaboration**
 - NCTC- Planning on hosting more influencers this summer!
 - Tourism kiosk/map partnering with bird trail-NCTC paying 1st years fee for birding trail.
 - Newaygo County Bird City
 - Resolution to be submitted for the 5/27 BOC Meeting.
 - West Michigan Mountain Bike Association
 - In process of purchasing new bike repair stations.
 - **FACF Centennial event for June- 250 free vehicle passes for Fathers Day weekend!**
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OLD BUSINESS – Maike is requesting By-Laws Meeting requested at the Clerk's office on May 9, 2026 at 9am.

New Marina: After multiple discussions and the unknown of the CE sale, the New Marina project is placed on pause currently.

Motion by Storms, supported by Hatting, to approve to “**pause**” the New Marina project on Hardy Pond.

AYES – All. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS – None

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Maike:** Attended a Legislative meeting; and inquired about ADA accessible websites Also reminded everyone to vote as Newaygo County has two renewals for COA and NC Sheriff road patrol
 - **Trapp:** Inquired if there were donation boxes along the Dragon Trail
 - **Clark:** Diamond dust is on the fields, and they look good
 - **Kolk:** Always happy to see the innovation in the Parks
 - **Hatting:** Inquired about what date the finance committee was going to meet
 - **Twing:** Reminded everyone that the hazardous waste day is coming up, and volunteers were still needed
 - **Parks:** Stated she had received a phone call about vandalism at Operators Park, so she reported it to Brooke McTaggart at Consumers Energy
 - **Harmon:** Appreciates all the support they receive for the dive team training.
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ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Maike, supported by Pitzer to adjourn the meeting at **9:44 a.m.**

AYES – All. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Parks

Newaygo County Parks & Recreation

Assistant to the Director