



**NEWAYGO COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Newaygo County Welcome Center – Conference Room
June 2, 2026**

PRESENT: John Clark, Doug Harmon, Steve Hatting, Jim Maike, April Storms, Chuck Trapp, Dale Twing, Janet Westfield
ABSENT: Mark Guzniczak, Mark Pitzer
STAFF PRESENT: Chris Wren, Asa Vermeulen, Connie Parks
PUBLIC PRESENT: None

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 Hatting, to approve the agenda as presented.
AYES – All. MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion by Trapp, supported by Clark, to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2026, meeting with correction.
AYES – All. MOTION CARRIED.**

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Motion by Maike, supported by Hatting, to approve the Revenue and Expenditure Report totaling (\$190,090.38) for the period May 1, 2026 – May 31, 2026.
AYES – All. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Pitzer, supported by Hatting, to approve the Budget Performance Report totaling (\$39,302.83).
AYES – All. MOTION CARRIED.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR / BOARD CHAIR REPORT – County Administrator – none. Board Chair- Harmon stated he and his grandson attended the bass fishing tournament out at Sandy Beach the week prior, and he stated the Park looked great, and everything went very well.

PARKS DIRECTOR / ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Director **Asa Vermeulen** provided updates on:

- **All parks**
- **Memorial Day Weekend 2026**
 - Quiet overall and the rains caused quite a few no-shows or cancellations.
 - As of 5/28/2026

Park	2025 Rev. to Date comparison	2026 Rev. to Date comparison	YTD % Change
Hardy Marina	\$ 40,554.50	\$ 40,331.50	-0.5%
Sandy Beach	\$ 323,002.50	\$ 295,938.50	-8.4%
Ed Henning	\$ 102,041.00	\$ 100,566.00	-1.4%
White Cloud	\$ 32,697.00	\$ 35,807.00	9.5%
Diamond Lake	\$ 72,039.00	\$ 62,614.00	-13.1%
Monthly Total	\$ 570,334.00	\$ 535,257.00	-2.8%

- No call-outs for issues.
- **All parks**
 - TODD Filling in at SB
 - General beautification of parks in progress
 - Each park has paint for tables, posts, etc
 - Todd working on task list as able
 - Summer positions still needed:
 - Manager for SB
 - NCRESA & FACF Intern approved for 6 weeks this summer.
 - Intern starts June 6 and will be based out of Ed Henning & Welcome Center
 - Seasonal Site Availability as of 1/26
 - DL – 0!

- EH – 0(48 switched to transient camping)
 - HM – 0!
 - SB – 1E (78), 11 rustic- releasing to transient tomorrow
 - WC – 19! Lots of inquiries so we aren't releasing to transient just yet.
- Rejuvenation of park host program
 - Diamond Lake host has been a huge help and covers office and field duties on managers day off.
 - 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.
 - John Clark did an amazing job getting some of the grass torn out of the old swim beach and raking it.
 - sand delivery (\$750-1,500), tables, depth buoy are some of the improvements I would like to see down the road.
 - 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.
 - Terry is convincing lots of folks to come as seasonals!
- **Sandy Beach-**
 - Signs- Seasonal Docks & Day Docks sign ordered, Boat ramp, yield, exit, and beach access need installed.
- **Diamond Lake-** Signage project for the trails by park host
- **Hardy Marina-** Opened May 20.
- **Welcome Center**
- **Dragon-**
 - New maps are up
 - Signs guiding guests from Sandy Beach office to new trailhead installed.
 - Major volunteer projects to repair trail issues after rain event.
 - 15 volunteers fixed multiple issues on Section 7 and Martin was able to cancel the second work day.
- **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 being adjusted and will be on 6/10 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 Father's Day weekend!**

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS – Bylaw amendments first ready V5.28.2026 – Maike stated discussion was made, and the biggest items were:

- Cleaning up language
- Dates were changed
- It was changed from sub-committee to Executive Committee
- NC Parks Master Plan was changed to Parks and Recreation Plan

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Twing:** Stated they still are unsure when Tire Day will be. They were waiting to hear back from EGLE, and it should be sometime in the coming week. EGLE also okay 'ed the permits to repair the spillway.
- **Vermeulen:** Per the Bird Resolution, they need to host an advent, so it was May 30that Kropscott Farm
- **Harmon:** The Dragon Trail Executive Committee met recently and it was a good productive meeting.
- **Parks:** Reminded everyone there isn't a July meeting, so the next meeting is August 4th.
- **Wren:** Attended a Connecting Entrepreneurs meeting, and the history of the Dragon Trail was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Maike, supported by Clark to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m.
AYES – All. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Parks

Newaygo County Parks & Recreation
Assistant to the Director